



“SJHS@Home” To Offer Virtual Events in October

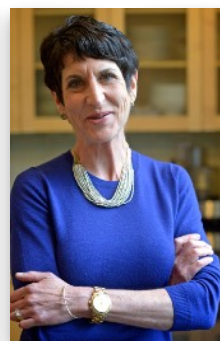
With the SJHS fall conference in Charleston postponed until next year, the Society has created a dynamic series of online events for the weeks leading up to the originally-scheduled weekend, all related to our conference theme, “Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History.” SJHS@Home will bring together scholars and museum professionals to present informative and interactive programs to Society members and a general audience.

While the series will not replace a full conference weekend, says SJHS president Phyllis Leffler, “We want to offer our membership some of the interesting content and community feeling that we experience at an in-person meeting. Thanks to the work of board members Shari Rabin (Oberlin College) and Josh Parshall (Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life)

we will now be able to do that.” At the same time, she notes, “the online platform allows us to reach new people—including potential new members—who might not have attended the Charleston conference.”

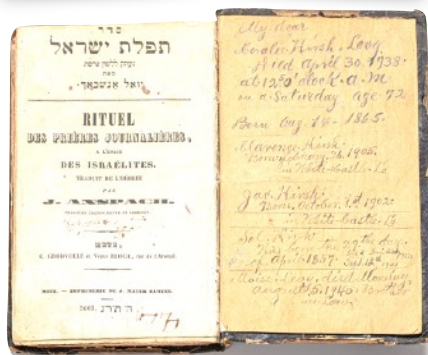
Following the three Monday-evening sessions, the series will conclude with an afternoon workshop for selected graduate students and early career historians. This online meeting will pair up-and-coming scholars with established scholars and bring them together to discuss works in progress. The workshop will fill an important function of the annual conference: welcoming new thinkers to the field and connecting them with resources and guidance.

All sessions will be conducted on Zoom. Registration information will be available through all SJHS outlets (email, website, and social media) in September.



Top left: Baltimore's Jewish immigrant neighborhood c. 1925. Jewish Museum of Maryland. Top right: Marcie Cohen Ferris.

Left: Hirsh-Levy prayer book in French and Hebrew. Donated by John Green III, whose family came to Louisiana from Alsace and Frankfurt. Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.



SJHS@Home: Mondays at 6 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom

October 12 – A Virtual Southern Jewish Museum with Anna Tucker (co-sponsored by the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience)

While historians typically use written texts to learn about the past, objects can also speak volumes about our communities and histories. You are encouraged to bring your own southern Jewish artifact to this interactive discussion. Together we'll share our stories and create a virtual, one-night-only Zoom museum! Led by Anna Tucker, curator of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.

October 19 – Distinctive or Typical? Baltimore and the Writing of Urban Jewish History, with Eric Goldstein and Deborah Weiner, winners of the 2019 SJHS Book Award

In recent years scholars interested in Jews and the urban environment have brought new attention to one of the oldest forms of southern—and American—Jewish history, the local community study. One exemplar is the winner of the 2019 SJHS Book Prize, *On Middle Ground: A History of the Jews of Baltimore*. This discussion will feature co-authors Eric Goldstein and Deborah Weiner in conversation with Joshua Furman, director of the Houston Jewish History Archive, about the challenges and possibilities of Jewish urban history in and beyond the South.

October 26 – SJHS in the Kitchen: A Southern Jewish Cooking Demo with Marcie Cohen Ferris

Join us for a live cooking demo with Marcie Cohen Ferris, author of the now-classic *Matzo Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South*. Ferris will prepare one of her favorite family recipes, jam cake. She writes, “I love to bake this rich, purple-hued cake for the High Holidays. It's a very southern recipe, made with homemade blackberry jam. This recipe came from one of my mother's closest non-Jewish friends in Blytheville, Arkansas. Served with a glass of sherry, Huddy Cohen's version of this luscious cake embodies the flavor and hope for a sweet New Year.” Ferris will be joined by UNC Chapel Hill grad student and SJHS member Margaret Weinberg Norman.



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Historical Society

President's Message By Phyllis Leffler



I hope you are all staying safe. I also hope you are finding ways to keep both your bodies and your minds healthy!

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the SJHS board made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 conference scheduled for late October. Our decision was based on the uncertainties about safety that we suspected would linger into the fall, and the myriad decisions that need to be made for conference planning. With the virus showing few signs of abating, that seems like the right decision. But it is also sad. We get together only once a year, so waiting until 2021 to meet in Charleston seems far too long to engage in face-to-face conversation.

I suppose with every challenge there is a silver lining. And we have found that in the form of our Summer Speaker Series, a partnership we've created with the Breman Museum in Atlanta. I do hope you've been able to join in and listen to the wonderful talks in June and July that we brought to our members via Zoom. Three of those talks took place before this issue went to press.

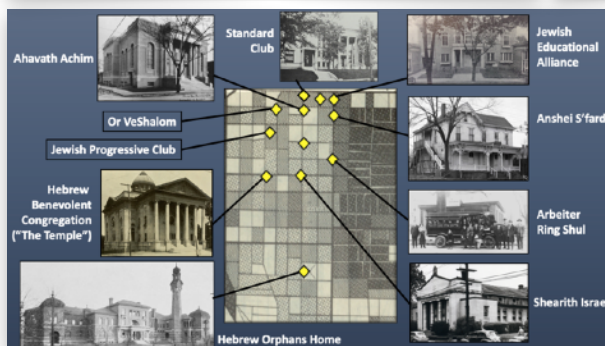
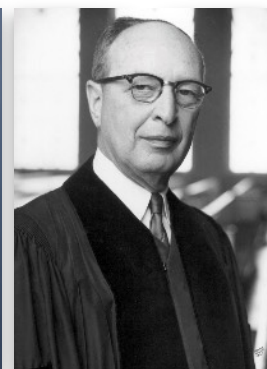
The first was a joint presentation by SJHS board member Jeremy Katz, director of the Cuba Family Archives at the Breman, and Eric Lidji, archivist of the Rauh Jewish Archives of Pittsburgh. They focused on the life story of Rabbi Jacob Rothschild from his childhood in Pittsburgh through his transformational work in Atlanta. Approximately 350 people registered! That event was followed by a talk by our own Mark Bauman, founding and current editor of *Southern Jewish History*, on the development of the Reform movement in the South and its spread throughout the U.S. As always, Mark had some broader themes to stress that challenged previous interpretations. Once again, an impressive crowd attended.

In July, Marni Davis, current SJHS secretary, spoke about Atlanta's predominantly Jewish neighborhood of Southside and the reasons, both internal and external, that the neighborhood declined and largely evaporated. Continuing our remarkable turnout, more than 400 people attended.

The Summer Speaker Series will bring more distinguished speakers through the summer. You can attend these free talks by registering at thebreman.org/Events.

But the SJHS board has not rested with this partnership, as the *Rambler's* front page attests. Though we will not meet in person in Charleston, we are delighted to present SJHS@Home, an exciting three-week series in October that builds on the 2020 conference theme, "Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History." With all these opportunities to meet virtually and continue to learn together, I hope to see you online during this summer and fall.

As ever, we rely heavily on your membership dollars to meet our basic expenses—**please renew today!** (See back page for info.) We are also working on fundraising opportunities so that we can continue to do more. So stay tuned, and tune in!



Top right: Rabbi Jacob Rothschild. *Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History.*

Left: Two slides from Marni Davis's talk on Atlanta's Southside neighborhood. *Courtesy of Marni Davis.*

Collecting in the Time of Coronavirus By Nora Katz

This moment, when the United States is facing the novel crisis of COVID-19 and the longstanding crisis of anti-Black racism, is clearly one for the history books. The question for archivists and public historians in the Jewish South is how to document this time with sensitivity, depth, and an eye to the future.

Three SJHS members are collecting archival materials, digital media, and stories from communities facing the pandemic and the political climate in myriad ways.

Joshua Furman, curator of the Houston Jewish History Archive at Rice University, began collecting materials from Jewish institutions across Houston in mid-March, including emails, bulletins, sermons, video content, Facebook posts, and screenshots of online programs. To capture COVID-19's effects on Houston's Jewish institutions and leaders, the Archive is also soliciting Jewish professionals for their personal narratives.

Jeremy Katz, director of the Cuba Family Archives at the Breman Museum in Atlanta, is also collecting oral histories and archival materials. In the *Atlanta Jewish Times*, Katz wrote, "Rabbis, preserve your sermons; Jewish professionals, document the work of your organizations; and lay leaders, keep a journal of your thoughts and actions. These are significant items with real historic value." The Breman is partnering with Repair the World and Agewell to collect stories of Atlanta Jews' pandemic experiences through the L'dor Vador: Oral Histories of Resilience project. The goal is to preserve the emotions and events of this time for future generations, as well as train young people to conduct oral history interviews via Zoom and phone calls.

Josh Parshall, director of history at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) in Jackson, Mississippi, and Nora Katz, the ISJL's director of heritage and interpretation, are leading region-wide efforts to document this moment through two national initiatives: a digital collection—American Jewish Life Under COVID-19—coordinated and hosted by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, and an oral history project spearheaded by the Council of American Jewish Museums.

The pandemic has led to reimagined Jewish experiences both despite and because of the need for virtual and socially

distanced programming. The Houston Jewish History Archive now houses digital images of a Galveston conversion class immersed in the Gulf of Mexico rather than in an indoor *mikveh* (ritual bath), as well as recordings of a Passover seder conducted over the intercom at a Jewish senior living center. The Breman accessioned signs carried at an Atlanta protest in support of Black Lives Matter with messages like "Jews for Black Lives" and "tzedek" (justice). The ISJL's COVID collection includes screenshots of virtual education programs and PDFs of

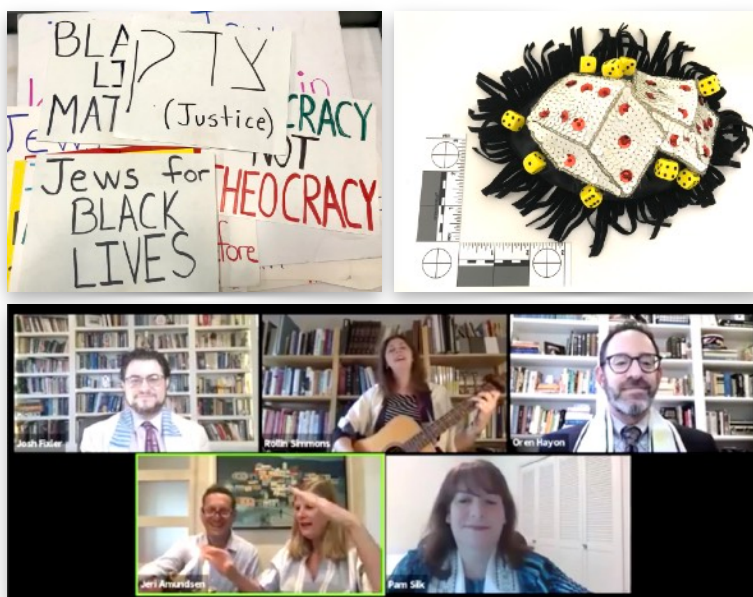
magazines and newsletters promoting the new initiatives of various organizations.

There are challenges in this work; most of what archivists are collecting is "born digital" (produced digitally rather than in physical or analog form). Archivists need to adapt their processing, storage, and cataloging systems to handle large file sizes and a huge volume of items. Also, Furman notes how many potentially relevant items are "eminently accessible." At a certain point, every email, Facebook post, video, and calendar event is a meaningful piece of documentation that could prove useful in the future. How do we decide what to collect? At what point do we say "enough is enough"?

Furman emphasizes the importance of local collecting to understand how the pandemic is reshaping America. "One of the things that this pandemic brings home is that regionalism really does matter. The fabric of daily life as we know it is going to vary greatly depending on which part of the country you live in, and what phase of 'reopening' your community is in." These realities will fundamentally impact all southern Jewish communities long into the future.

It is exciting—and daunting—to document what is happening. The current priority is collecting both broadly and deeply; future generations will work to interpret and make meaning of these collections.

All four project directors are eager to hear from community members who have materials relevant to this moment. If you are based in or near Houston, contact Joshua Furman at joshua.furman@rice.edu. Atlantans should contact Jeremy Katz at jrkatz@thebreman.org. Contact ISJL staff members Josh Parshall (jparshall@isjl.org) and Nora Katz (nkatz@isjl.org) for info about the American Jewish Life Under COVID-19 project and story collecting across the South, including in small towns.



Top left: Signs carried by Jewish Atlantans at a Black Lives Matter protest. *Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History.*

Top right: Eve Mannes of Atlanta created masks from her husband Harvey's yarmulke collection—for use or display. *Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History.*

Bottom: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at Houston Congregation Emanu El via Zoom and Facebook Live, May 8, 2020. *Houston Jewish History Archive.*

Kaddish for a Military Bride who Died in the 1918 Pandemic

By Hollace Ava Weiner

Pearl Brown's marriage under the chuppah to 1st Lt. Joseph M. Linett lasted less than three months. On July 16, 1918, four days after the soldier left a Texas military camp for the European front, his bride died—a victim of the first wave of the devastating 1918 influenza pandemic that killed more people than the Great War.

That pandemic a century ago took more than 50 million lives worldwide, nearly 700,000 in the United States. The deadliest outbreaks were at Army installations like Camp Bowie in Fort Worth, where Lt.

Linett was a physician in the medical corps and the Red Cross disinfected soldiers with chlorazene spray to combat the virus.

Pearl's obituary in the *Texas Jewish Herald* of July 25, 1918, described her passing as “one of the most tragic deaths” during the pandemic. “A bride of only a few months, grief and worry of the departure of her husband . . . contributed to her death.”

Pearl and Joe had met at Fort Worth's Hebrew Institute, a downtown recreation center that hosted Saturday-night socials for Jewish service personnel. The bride, 24, a native Texan whose relatives had launched several local Jewish institutions, was among the young women who poured punch and danced with doughboys at those weekend socials. The groom, 29, an immigrant from Ukraine, had settled in New York a decade before and gone to medical school at Columbia University.

The couple's courtship was a whirlwind. During wartime, romance flourishes. They married April 21, 1918, in a ceremony at her family's home on Broadway Avenue, a boulevard of elegant three-story residences. The social page of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported the following day that the house was decorated with “military suggestions” of red, white, and blue.

Officiating at the double-ring ceremony was Rabbi G. George Fox of Beth-El Congregation, where the bride's father David, an ice manufacturer, was a founder and past-president. Maid of honor was the bride's sister Ida, a kindergarten teacher.

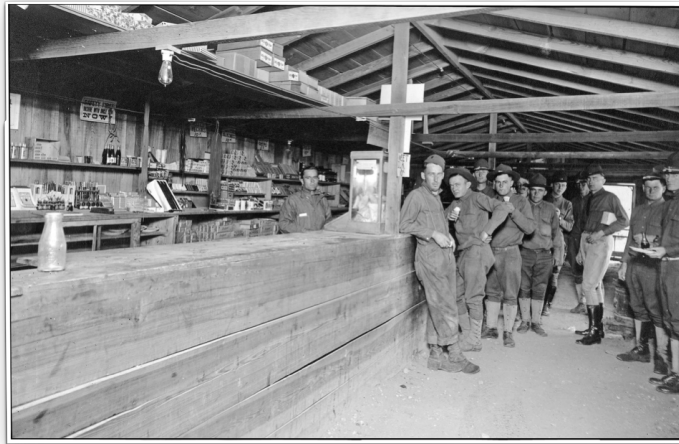
Following a reception, the newlyweds boarded a train for a three-day honeymoon. Then he moved in with his in-laws. Two months later, the first lieutenant's unit in the Army's 82nd Division received orders for the front in France.

The day he departed, Pearl wept and grew ill. Her family suspected that sadness, not sickness, was overtaking her. Chills and fever followed. As Pearl's condition deteriorated, she was hospitalized and died. The same rabbi who married her buried her.

Her tombstone at Emanuel Hebrew Rest, a tree-shaded cemetery on an acre of land in the heart of the city, gives no hint of her age, her 86-day marriage, or the poignancy of her death.

When the Great War ended on November 11, 1918, the lieutenant remained in Europe another nine months. Upon his stateside return, he visited his still-grieving in-laws. According to the *Texas Jewish Monitor* of August 18, 1919, “Dr. Linett expects to return to Fort Worth as soon as he has been demobilized and will take up the practice of medicine.”

Linett, Joseph Morris (Surname) (Christian name) White
Residence: 1251 Broadway Brooklyn New York
* Born in Russia June 12/1888
† Called into active service and Lt 40 Dec 15/17 fr ORG
Promotions: NONE
Organizations and staff assignments: 1st San Trps to Aug 26/18; 328 F H 307 San Tr to Sept 12/18; Unit 1 62 Div to disch
Principal stations: Ft Oglethorpe Ga; Op Bowie Tex; Op Merritt NJ; Op Dix NJ; AEF; Camp Travis Tex
Engagements: NONE
Wounds received in action: None
† Served overseas July 14/18 to July 26/19
† Hon. Disch. Aug 15/19 for convenience of the Government, services no longer required.
Was reported 0 per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.
Remarks: 2K
Form No. 54a-1
Rev. 11, 1921.



Top left: Joseph Linett's military service card. *Fort Worth Jewish Archives*.

Bottom left: Canteen at Camp Bowie, 1917. *U.S. Army Center of Military History*.

The expectation that the veteran would hang his shingle in Texas did not materialize. He returned to New York, married in 1920, raised two children, practiced medicine in Brooklyn, and died in 1960 at age 72. His New York marriage certificate describes him as “single,” rather than widowed.

But two of his grandsons had heard whispers about their grandfather's earlier marriage to a Texan who died during the pandemic. They dug into his past, located the marriage certificate at Fort Worth's Tarrant County Courthouse, and traced the officiating rabbi to the city's Reform congregation, Beth-El. In 2014, they contacted the synagogue and were referred to me at the Fort Worth Jewish Archives. Together, we pieced together the story of their grandfather's sweet but sad romance.

Hollace Ava Weiner is a past president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and volunteer director of the Fort Worth Jewish Archives. This article is adapted from her column in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Finding the Silver Lining: The Breman Adapts to the New Normal

By Jeremy Katz

The doors to Atlanta's William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum may be closed due to the health crisis, but our mission, "to connect people to Jewish history, culture, and arts," continues unabated. Through adaptation and insight, the museum's Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Archives for Southern Jewish History has found a silver lining and a path to success building new audiences and forging new partnerships.

Our first inkling of the success came in a program that had to be moved from onsite to virtual. Three speakers from the Shapell Manuscript Foundation were unable to travel to Atlanta to present their Civil War Roster project to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Georgia (JGSG). The subsequent virtual webinar attracted well over 100 people, and from all over the world. What would have attracted half the in-person audience was doubled overnight. Subsequent virtual JGSG meetings have garnered ever-growing attendance and fostered partnerships with genealogy societies throughout the region.

Recognizing potential in virtual programs and the strength in forging new partnerships, the Breman joined forces with the Southern Jewish Historical Society, Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, and Savannah Jewish Federation to present a Summer Speaker Series that consistently attracted more than 300 registrants per program (see page 2). We are planning more speakers and special events through such liaisons. (To view upcoming programs, please visit bit.ly/2O15IRD.)

With onsite activities curtailed, the Breman has seized the opportunity to advance our archival and exhibition programs through significant digital projects. In May, we soft-launched a Google Arts & Culture page. This advanced and interactive platform showcases 100 artifacts from our archives in high resolution. The site also displays an online exhibition using artifacts to tell the history of Jewish Atlanta. The full launch of our page, featuring hundreds more artifacts and additional online exhibitions (including a virtual tour of the museum), will come with an Atlanta rollout that will showcase the Breman

alongside prestigious local museums and arts institutions. (To explore our page, please visit bit.ly/3e4X5Aj.)

The emergency has also enabled us to focus on another important digital project: the migration of our collections to new catalog systems, ArchivesSpace and CollectionSpace. These cloud-based systems put the museum on par with Yale

University, Emory University, Georgia Tech, and countless leading institutions in the archives and museum field. The Breman's ArchivesSpace catalog launched earlier this year (and can be explored at bit.ly/31R4Pn2). This database catalogs all the finding aids to our manuscript collections in a user-friendly interface that meets industry best practices and standards. CollectionSpace will catalog all our artifacts, textiles, images, and small collections; the data is currently being mapped and we are on track to launch before the end of the year.

While doing this work, we discovered another platform, Aviary. This revolutionary cloud-based system allows for the audio/visual component of an oral history to be displayed alongside a timestamped transcript and index. Aviary's next iteration will allow for the creation of footnotes, which will add greater context to archaic terms mentioned during oral histories. Plus, the new system can be fully integrated with ArchivesSpace. (To explore our pilot, please visit bit.ly/3e3SfTG.)



Top left: Bottles and medicines from Jacobs' Pharmacy in Atlanta. *Featured on Google Arts & Culture.*

Top right: Kiddush cup given to Emilie Baer and Abraham Rosenfeld for their 1867 wedding, an event that inspired the founding of the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation (The Temple). *Featured on Google Arts & Culture.*

Bottom: Postcard from Jack Gordon to his family in Atlanta while being held as a POW during World War II. *Featured in digitized manuscript collection on the Breman's ArchivesSpace.*

We will be ready to welcome you with new and exciting exhibitions when it is safe to open our doors to the public again. *A Jazz Memoir: Photography of Herb Snitzer* is currently on display, and *History with Chutzpah*, honoring our 25th anniversary, will open in 2021. In the meantime, the archives are helping the Breman maintain our presence by offering virtual content to an ever-growing audience, creating new partnerships with like-minded institutions, and ushering in a new era of online collection cataloging. Visit us on the digital device of your choice. We have lots to offer.

Jeremy Katz is director of the Cuba Family Archives at the Breman.

MSJE Grand Opening Announcement

Due to pandemic-related delays and uncertainty, the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience has postponed its opening from this fall to the first quarter of 2021.

"This short delay will ensure our staff and design partners ample time to work safely through the coming months and give our out-of-town supporters the opportunity to visit the Museum when we open," stated Kenneth Hoffman, executive director. "When we set a date for our 2021 Grand Opening, we invite you to help us celebrate in New Orleans. In the meantime, we hope you are staying healthy and staying home with people you love if you can." To receive the MSJE newsletter, *The Southern Shmooze*, please sign up at msje.org/contact.

Florida Students Present their Research: “The Show Must Go On!” By Cat. Eskin

At 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, my nine advanced English students finally had their moment: a public presentation based on the oral history interviews they had collected with members of the Lakeland and Winter Haven Jewish communities for a senior-level course in Creative Non-fiction at Florida Southern College.

Scheduled for early April, the original event had been cancelled by COVID-19 safety measures even before the campus closed its doors. The service-learning class (students each performed 25 hours of service for the Temple Emanuel Archive) nevertheless persevered through the many challenges posed by COVID restrictions.

Initially despairing of having an event at all, quick-thinking Temple president Alan Shane suggested the Zoom solution. The very tool which I was using to hold virtual classes came to the rescue. In the end, “Polk County Jewry and Creative Biography” was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of the students and our service partner, Temple Emanuel.

The new platform allowed for a variety of unintended outcomes: parents and family of both the students and the narrators were able to hear (and see) the presentations. At its



Slide from “Marilyn Signer: A Living Legacy,” presentation by Kimberly Royce.

height, there were over 50 people on the Zoom call. The evening was particularly gratifying because—in spite of the odds—the students were able to share the results of their interviews not just with me as the professor, but with a supportive and attentive crowd. As I told the audience, “You helped make their work relevant by witnessing it.”

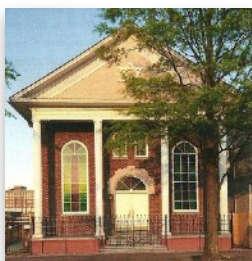
Each presentation took a unique perspective on the lives and experiences of the Jewish narrators. From Jews-by-choice to a Polish-born accountant to Temple Emanuel’s current rabbi, the stories looked at how each navigated the complex worlds of Jewish and southern identities. For example, one story recounted how attending a Jewish mixer for singles in Memphis in 1979 had changed the lives of two very different people.

For those who were making public presentations for the first time, there was some trepidation, but ultimately, as student presenter Alex Bittinger confessed, it was “much more enjoyable than I thought” it would be. The evening was dedicated in memory of Mr. Jerry Rabin, a founding Temple Emanuel Archive board member and ray of Florida sunshine.

Cat. Eskin is associate professor of English at Florida Southern College.

NEWS AND NOTES

Zoom Concerts Showcase Portsmouth’s Historic Synagogue



The Jewish Museum & Cultural Center of Portsmouth, Virginia, located in the beautifully restored Chevra T’helim synagogue, houses unusual artifacts as well as digitally-enhanced displays regarding Jewish immigration. The museum offers a lecture series, a concert series, and a cinema series regarding Jewish faith, history, and cultural contributions.

The COVID-19 restrictions have provided new opportunities for the museum’s presentations. Its popular summer music series featured two July concerts professionally produced live at the museum via Zoom. On July 15, concert pianist Lynne Mackey performed *International Miniatures*. On July 22, home audiences enjoyed *Duo Thalassa*, featuring Wayla Chambo, flute, and Todd Holcomb, guitar.

Along with the music, use of the Zoom platform enabled concert attendees to view the unique interior design of this important historic site.

For information regarding the museum’s upcoming online auction and other events, please visit jewishmuseumportsmouth.org.

JHSSC Goes Digital

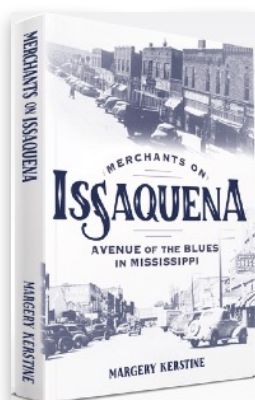
The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina recently introduced ***Sunday Conversations***, monthly online programs led by historians (and former JHSSC presidents) Richard Gergel and Robert Rosen. At their July 26 conversation, “Reaping the Benefits of a Tolerant Society: Jewish Public Service in South Carolina from the Colonial to the Modern Era,” they were joined in the Zoom room by Mayor Billy Keyserling (Beaufort) and former state legislators Joel Lourie and Beth Bernstein, who spoke from experience as elected leaders.

On Sunday, August 23, at 7 p.m., JHSSC, SCETV, and Historic Columbia will present ***Sisterhood: SC Suffragists—Moving Forward***. This live television and radio broadcast will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and look back at the South Carolina women who fought for women’s voting rights. A panel of historians, public officials, and other stakeholders will explore their legacy and tackle pressing issues of today, such as voter suppression and opposition to mail-in ballots, that threaten the principle of one person, one vote.

We invite you to watch or listen on SCETV and on our social media platforms, including Facebook. The panel will entertain questions via Facebook Live.

As we adapt to our new digital environment, the Society also has had a change in leadership. With Mark Swick moving to the executive director post at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Rachel Gordin Barnett, our former program director, has become JHSSC’s new executive director. She can be reached at rgbarnettsc@gmail.com.

Book Explores Clarksdale's Jewish Merchants and More



Author Margery Kerstine grew up in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and developed a passion to research and discover more about her hometown, especially the Jewish community in which she grew up. The result is *Merchants of Issaquena: Avenue of the Blues in Mississippi*.

This Mississippi Delta cultural history spans 1888 to 1980 and takes the reader on a 23-building tour that features not only Jewish immigrant merchants and their families, but also the town's "diverse and divergent cultures, ethnicities,

races, and religions living side by side," says Rabbi Micah D. Greenstein of Temple Israel, Memphis. Oral histories and illustrations tell the story of bustling Saturday night crowds, bluesy Issaquena musicians, and a sense of community preserved to this day.

The book is available from amazon. For more information, contact issaquena327@gmail.com.

Ron Bayor Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Ronald H. Bayor, former SJHS board member and longtime active participant, has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society.

A professor of history emeritus at Georgia Tech, Bayor has published numerous books on immigration, ethnicity, and race, including *Race and the Shaping of Twentieth-Century Atlanta* (1996) and *Encountering*

Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America (2014). As founding editor of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, which he shepherded from 1980 to 2004, he helped move the field from its focus on European ethnics to an inclusive scope encompassing the experiences of non-white peoples. He served as senior advisor and editor for "The New Americans" series published by Greenwood Press, 16 volumes on immigrant groups arriving after the 1965 changes to U.S. immigration law.

Bayor served as president of the IEHS from 2006–2009, a period that saw the organization win a legal battle against its former publisher and become financially independent for the first time in its history. "For all of these reasons, and for the civic consciousness and the personal integrity that he has demonstrated through his career, Ronald H. Bayor is a fitting and deserving recipient of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society's Lifetime Achievement Award," stated IEHS leader Barbara Posadas.

Pivoting to Online at the CSJC

When the College of Charleston closed its campus in March, the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture, along with everyone else, canceled its spring programs and started planning ahead for a digital-only fall. Among the painful postponements was the joint SJHS/JHSSC meeting scheduled for Charleston in October 2020. That has been pushed forward a year.

Our first fall Sunday brunch talk will be a "Bring Your Own Bagel" stay-at-home Sunday brunch, held live on Zoom. David E. Lowe, author of award-winning *Touched by Fire: Morris B. Abram and the Battle against Racial and Religious Discrimination*, will discuss his book and take questions from the audience in a session moderated by Center director Dale Rosengarten at 10 a.m. on September 13. Georgia-born Abram was a pioneer civil rights attorney and longtime leader of the American Jewish Committee.

On December 3 we will co-host a book talk organized by Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim. Sue Eisenfeld will give a virtual reading followed by conversation about *Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South*, the story of a journey she took across the region—including two weeks in South Carolina as a Charleston Research Fellow.

We also plan to support online programming for CofC classes taught by the Center's outgoing associate director Adam Domby and incoming Jewish Studies assistant professor Ashley Walters. For info on the Center, check out jewish-south.cofc.edu.

ISJL Encyclopedia To Revise Mississippi Section

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) is currently working on revisions to the Mississippi section of the online *Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities*. Improvements to the state's 28 entries will include up-to-date information, higher resolution images, and links to relevant outside resources.

Edited by Josh Parshall, ISJL director of history, the encyclopedia includes more than 300 entries on local Jewish history in 13 states (see isjl.org/encyclopedia-of-southern-jewish-communities.html). The newest section, Florida, was completed in 2019. The Mississippi Humanities Council is contributing funds to the current updates.

If you or your family have high quality images pertinent to Jewish history in Mississippi, please contact Josh Parshall at jparshall@isjl.org. You can view the current Mississippi section of the encyclopedia here: isjl.org/mississippi-encyclopedia.html.



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