



Together Again! SJHS To Meet in Charleston This Fall

The Southern Jewish Historical Society and its local partner, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, are moving full-steam ahead in planning our in-person 2021 conference. We will gather October 22–24 at the historic Francis Marion Hotel, across the street from the College of Charleston in the heart of downtown Charleston.

The conference theme, “Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History,” was chosen to honor the College of Charleston’s Jewish Heritage Collection and its founding curator, Dale Rosengarten, on its 25th anniversary (which occurred in 2020). Though the program will feature a diverse array of papers and activities, all will be situated within a broader consideration of the kinds of evidence—textual and material, public and private—that we use to learn about the southern Jewish past.

After our Friday morning membership meeting, the program will begin at lunchtime with the Janice Rothschild Blumberg Lecture, given by Laura Leibman of Reed College. She will bring the South into conversation with her book, *The Art of the Jewish Family: A History of Women in Early New York in Five Objects*, which recently won three National Jewish Book Awards. Her talk will help us think about connections between Jewish settlement in the South and elsewhere in early America, while pondering what constitutes “the archive.”

At our first Friday afternoon panel, two scholars—graduates of the College’s 2019 NEH summer institute—will discuss representations of 19th-century Jews (including Confederate

official Judah P. Benjamin) in theatre and literature. The second panel will feature three southern Jewish stories that intersect with global events: the rise of Nazism, World War II, and the Soviet Jewry movement. In the evening we will gather at the historic Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim synagogue to eat dinner, hear

Stephen Whitfield of Brandeis University deliver the inaugural Kanter Lecture, and enjoy services in the refurbished 1840 sanctuary.

Saturday will begin with a panel on the challenges of narrating individual life histories, biographically and autobiographically. Next up, a “who’s who” of Kentucky historians and archivists will describe their efforts to document the Jewish history of their state. After lunch, participants have the option to take two walking tours, one surveying the 18th-century Coming Street cemetery and one exploring the city’s 20th-century Jewish merchants. The tours will be offered twice so you don’t have to choose between them—you can do both! In the evening, with support from the Helen Stern Fund, we will celebrate the Jewish Heritage Collection with music and libations.

We end on Sunday morning with a roundtable of archivists, oral historians, and public historians reflecting on the possibilities of collecting and expanding the primary sources of southern Jewish history. We anticipate a weekend of great conversations about Charleston, the Jewish South, and how historians and the public approach the past. More than anything, though, after two long years apart, we look forward to being together again!

—Shari Rabin, conference co-chair



Top left: ZBT fraternity, University of Kentucky yearbook, 1969. *University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center.*

Top right: Working in the archives at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, 2019. (Left to right) Rose Steptoe (intern), Nora Katz (director of heritage and interpretation), and Mimi Brown (intern). *Institute of Southern Jewish Life.*

Bottom left: Program from a Houston community protest on behalf of Soviet Jewry, 1969. *Houston Jewish History Archive, Rice University.*

Bottom right: Leb’s Restaurant, Atlanta, 1963. *Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History, Breman Museum.*



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Historical Society

President's Message By Jay Silverberg



Our Charleston conference will present two lectures on Friday, October 22: the Janice Rothschild Blumberg keynote at noon and the inaugural Kanter Lecture at historic KKBE synagogue before Shabbat services. This will be a “first” for SJHS—two lectures made possible through sustaining donor gifts.

You may remember the inaugural lecture honoring Janice last December. She and her lifelong friend Alfred Uhry, native Atlantans both, held court for more than an hour while nearly 800 people listened enraptured via Zoom.

The annual Blumberg lecture is a partnership between the SJHS, the Breman Museum, and The Temple in Atlanta. It will rotate between the SJHS conference and Atlanta, made possible through \$7,000 in donations received in honor of Janice. Our goal, though, is a bit more ambitious than a lecture: we hope to grow these funds to support a yearly symposium about southern Jewish art, culture, and history.

The Kanter Lecture is possible thanks to a \$200,000 donation to be given over the next five years by Dr. Lawrence Kanter of Jacksonville, a longtime SJHS member (see page 6). His donation will also increase the annual research grants awarded by the Society and will support other activities, such as the ongoing publication of our journal, *Southern Jewish History*.

The journal has benefited as well from a \$4,000 gift from noted author, historian, and SJHS past-president Hollace Weiner and her husband Bruce, of Fort Worth. In addition, Hollace contributed to SJHS in memory of her cousin, Jackie Fox Neuberger.

In recent years we have benefited from the Helen Stern Fund, an annual \$10,000 gift that supports cultural presentations, conference speakers, and the journal. SJHS also is fortunate to have two other funds supporting Society goals: the Scott and Donna Langston Archival Grant underwrites the preservation of archival materials related to southern Jewish history, while the Bauman Family Fund endows the journal.

Generous donations supporting these funds and general SJHS activities have come this year from several longtime members: Bernie and Dolly Wax, Charles and Minette Cooper, Phil and Joan Steel, Adam Mendelsohn, Mark and Sandy Bauman, the Edward and Ruth Legum Family Fund, Phyllis Leffler, and an anonymous donor.

Our various funding initiatives—all part of our endowment under the management of the Richmond Jewish Foundation—underscore the importance of philanthropy to the Society. While member dues are certainly critical to the success of SJHS, financial gifts help to extend our reach. For example, grant applications usually exceed the amount of funding we have available, but the Kanter funds will provide additional dollars for research and the publication of manuscripts.

If you're considering a gift, please contact me or visit our website at: DonatetoSJHS.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Jay Silverberg can be reached at jbsilverberg@gmail.com. He maintains a website, meyerbrothersletters.com, with some of his research completed with the help of an SJHS grant five years ago.



Glimpses of Charleston. *Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau.*

Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History

Southern Jewish Historical Society 45th Annual Conference

Charleston, South Carolina, October 22–24, 2021

Program Committee: Shari Rabin, Dale Rosengarten, Marcie Cohen Ferris, and Ashley Walters

Friday, October 22

All events will take place at the Francis Marion Hotel unless otherwise noted.

9–10 am: SJHS Board Meeting

10:30–11:30 am: SJHS Membership Meeting

11:30 am–1 pm: Lunch and Speaker

- ▶ Laura Leibman (Reed College), “The Art of the (Southern) Jewish Family”
Janice Rothschild Blumberg Lecture on Culture, Arts and Southern Jewish History

1:30–2:30 pm: Facts and Fictions: Archives of Literature and Performance

Chair: Adam Meyer (Vanderbilt University)

- ▶ Heather Nathans (Tufts University), “Judaism in the Background: Silent Spectacles and ‘Missing’ Archives in 19th-Century American Theatre”
- ▶ Michael Hoberman (Fitchburg State University), “Did You Ever Hear of Judah Benjamin? Fictional Representations of the Jewish Confederate”

2:45–4 pm: Archives of Dislocation and Rescue

Chair: Eric Goldstein (Emory University)

- ▶ Marilyn Miller (Tulane University), “A Secret Program Revealed: Aid Organization Archives and ‘Enemy Alien’ Internment in the South during WWII”
- ▶ Andrew Sperling (American University), “Creative Power: A Jewish Refugee in the Jim Crow South”
- ▶ Joshua Furman (Rice University), “From Kiev to Kowboys: Houston’s Jewish Community and the Soviet Jewry Movement”

5:30 pm: Dinner and Speaker at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim

- ▶ Stephen Whitfield (Brandeis University), “Jewish Lawyers versus Jim Crow”
Kanter Lecture

7 pm: Shabbat Services at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim

Saturday, October 23

9:30–10:45 am: Archives and the Discoverable Life

Chair: Ellen Umansky (Fairfield University)

- ▶ Austin Coke (University of Kentucky), “Lost History: Uncovering Lexington’s Early Jewish Business Community, 1867–1924”
- ▶ Ray Arsenault (University of South Florida), “The Most Arrested Rabbi in America: Si Dresner’s Civil Rights Activism in the Jim Crow South, 1961–1965”
- ▶ R. Barbara Gitenstein (College of New Jersey), “Experience Is an Angled Road: My Journey from Florala, Alabama”

11:15 am–12:30 pm: Collecting Kentucky Jewish History

- ▶ Sarah Dorpinghaus (University of Kentucky Libraries)
- ▶ Janice W. Fernheimer (University of Kentucky)
- ▶ Heather Fox (University of Louisville)
- ▶ Abby Glogower (The Filson Historical Society)

12:30 pm: Grab-and-Go Lunch

1–2 pm and 2:30–3:30pm: Walking Tours

- ▶ Coming Street Cemetery Tour
- ▶ King Street Walking Tour

5:30 pm: Reception Celebrating 25 Years of the Jewish Heritage Collection

Sponsor: Nelson Mullins Law Firm. With support from the Helen Stern Fund.

Sunday, October 24

9–10:30 am: JHSSC Membership Meeting

10:45 am–12:15 pm: Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History

- ▶ Rachel G. Barnett and Lyssa Kligman Harvey (Kugels and Collards, South Carolina)
- ▶ Bonnie Eisenman (Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives, Richmond)
- ▶ Joshua Furman (Houston Jewish History Archive, Rice University)
- ▶ Deborah Gurt (Jewish Mobile Oral History Project, Mobile)
- ▶ Jeremy Katz (Bremen Museum, Atlanta)
- ▶ Nora Katz (Institute of Southern Jewish Life, Jackson)
- ▶ Dale Rosengarten (Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston)

Charleston Hotel Information / Please Book Early!

We have group rates at several Charleston hotels for October 21–24. You can make reservations by accessing them at the SJHS/JHSSC conference website, where you will find the group rate codes: jhssc.org/events/2021-sjhs-annual-conference/hotels

The prices below reflect the SJHS discount.

Downtown Hotels:

- Francis Marion Hotel (site of the conference), \$249/night
- Courtyard Marriott Historic District, \$259/night

Mt. Pleasant Hotels:

- Hampton Inn Patriots Point, Mt. Pleasant, \$149/night
- Indigo Inn, Mt. Pleasant, \$169/night
- SpringHill Suites, Mt. Pleasant, \$159/night

Public or personal transportation from Mt. Pleasant hotels will be required to attend conference events.

For more information, please contact Rachel Barnett, JHSSC, at rgbarnettsc@gmail.com.

An Interview with Laura Leibman



On June 2, 2021, Shari Rabin, co-chair of the SJHS conference program committee, spoke over Zoom with Reed College professor Laura Leibman (left), who will give the Janice Rothschild Blumberg Lecture on “The Art of the (Southern) Jewish Family.” The interview has been edited for clarity.

Shari Rabin: How did you come to study American Jewish history?

Laura Leibman: I began my career working on Indigenous communities on the eastern coast of what is now the United States, particularly in New England. And when I finished my first book, I had recently gotten married to my spouse, who belonged to a Sephardic congregation in Seattle. Everybody always asked me, “what about the Sephardic Jews in the colonies?” I started thinking about my next step in terms of communities to study, and I thought, what about Newport? It’s right near the people I have studied, it’s got this Jewish community, and, honestly, my Spanish is much better than my Wampanoag.

As I started working on Newport Jews, I would get to my list of community members and I would look at the next census, and they would disappear. And on the next census they came back again. And this would happen constantly. I realized that they were in these trading relationships with people around the Atlantic world. They would go to Amsterdam and come back or to Suriname or Barbados. That led me into the “Jewish Atlantic world” mode that most of my work has been in since then.

SR: Was material culture always part of your toolkit?

LL: That was a toolkit I brought from graduate school, in part because of my training in Native American studies. I was taught to think about how objects continue traditions and have spiritual associations.

Among my favorite objects are two little miniatures from the Levy family that Dale Rosengarten introduced me to. When you flip them over there are these little chopped hair portraits on the back. It really points to how differently we think about hair and emotions than did people during the 18th or 19th century. It is a great moment of disconnect between our aesthetic system and theirs.

SR: What is your favorite archive?

LL: The archive that has been the most influential for me has been the American Jewish Historical Society, quickly followed by the American Jewish Archives. Whoever collected very early on at the American Jewish Historical Society was really good about accepting non-textual objects into the collection. That has been tremendously helpful for me.

SR: How has the South figured in your previous work?

LL: I found synagogue leaders who would come from the Caribbean or South America to Savannah or Charleston and then end up going further north. Also, one of the things that was interesting when I was in Barbados was seeing how many southern carvers are represented in the cemeteries. They will say on the stones that they are from Charleston and other places. That was an important moment for me in terms of remembering my biases as someone who started off working in the northern colonies. The South is a place where, now that I am more interested in discussions about slavery, I definitely feel like I need to be paying more attention.

SR: Your most recent book, *The Art of the Jewish Family*, won three National Jewish Book Awards, and you already have a new book! Can you tell us about it?

LL: The new book is called *Once We Were Slaves* (Oxford, 2021), and it is about a multiracial Jewish family and their travels around the Atlantic world. It features a pair of siblings, Sarah and Isaac Brandon, who begin their lives enslaved and poor and Christian in Barbados and end up some of the wealthiest Jews in New York. I am interested in them as a personal entry point into thinking about Jews of multiracial ancestry who are part of Jewish communities. Two of Sarah Brandon’s children fought

for the Union in the Civil War and one of them sent letters home, which describe his interactions wandering around places in the South and things that surprised him. After the Civil War, a number of her children ended up in Texas, working in the border region.

SR: Have you been to Charleston before?

LL: I have not been to Charleston before, and I am super excited!



Top left: Anonymous, Sarah Moses Levy (Mrs. Samuel Levy), c. 1798. Watercolor on ivory, 2 ½ x 2 ¼ in. Top right: Reverse of Sarah Moses Levy, memento painted on ivory in sepia watercolor mixed with chopped hair. Bottom right: Anonymous, Chapman Levy as a youth, c. 1798. Watercolor on ivory, 3 x 2 ¼ in. Bottom left: Reverse of Chapman Levy, memento painted on ivory in sepia watercolor mixed with chopped hair.

Both miniatures gift of Lane Dinkins. Special Collections, College of Charleston Library. Photos by Rick Rhodes.

SJHS Co-Sponsors “Putting Violent Extremists on Trial” By Phyllis K. Leffler

On June 4, SJHS co-sponsored a Zoom program with Integrity First for America (IFA), the organization that has brought suit against two dozen defendants who orchestrated the Unite the Right rally (UTR) in Charlottesville in August 2017. The suit, *Sines v. Kessler*, takes on the leadership of the violent white nationalist movement, and is the only current legal effort of this scope. Scheduled to come to trial in October 2021, it is being carefully watched across the nation.

Several Atlanta organizations joined on as program co-sponsors: The Breman Museum, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta Jews of Color Council, JCRC of Atlanta, and historic Ebenezer Baptist Church (home of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sen. Raphael Warnock). I felt honored to moderate the program on behalf of SJHS.

The thread that stitched together these Black, Jewish, and civil rights groups was the issue of white supremacy. Panelists Amy Spitalnick, IFA executive director, and Charles Chavis, assistant professor of conflict resolution and history at George Mason University, addressed the intertwining of antisemitism and racism in white supremacist ideology. They discussed the relationship of the UTR rally and Nazism and how the Confederate monument issue is used to promote a neo-Nazi agenda.



Both panelists emphasized that America's historical failure to confront white supremacist violence has enabled it to periodically reemerge—what we're seeing now is simply “the current manifestation of that hate.” Spitalnick discussed how, absent a serious governmental response to the Charlottesville debacle, the IFA is attempting to hold white nationalists to account.

Bookending the discussion were remarks by Rev. John Vaughn, executive pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, and Rabbi Joe Prass, director of the Weinberg Center for Holocaust Education at the Breman. To begin, Rev. Vaughn spoke powerfully of the times in which we are living—the rise of Black Lives Matter as a movement embraced by a diverse cross-section of Americans, but also the

efforts to undermine its legitimacy, which culminated in the January 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol. Rabbi Prass closed out the session by sharing reflections of Holocaust survivors in the Atlanta region who saw too many historical “rhymes” between Nazism and the events both in Charlottesville and the Capitol.

To learn more about IFA and support its work, visit integrityfirstforamerica.org. The very rich program can be watched in its entirety on the website.

Phyllis Leffler is past president of SJHS and professor emerita of history at the University of Virginia.

SJHS Partners with JewishGen on Genealogy Webinar By Ellen Shindelman Kowitz

SJHS partnered with JewishGen for a live webinar featuring southern Jewish resources on May 25. A recording can be accessed for free on the JewishGen YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/JewishGen613.

JewishGen is the world's leading internet resource providing tools to research Jewish family history. Founded in 1987, the nonprofit affiliated with New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in 2003.

Some 500 participants attended the webinar and asked substantive questions from a panel of experts featuring Jeremy Katz, director of the Cuba Family Archives at Atlanta's Breman Museum; Dale Rosengarten, founding director of the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston; Josh Parshall, director of history at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life; and Anna Tucker, curator of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.

Attendees learned that genealogists might start a search for family roots in the South by accessing the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities* created by the Institute of Southern Jewish Life or by visiting *Mapping Jewish Charleston*, an online exhibit sponsored by the Pearlstone/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture at the College of

Charleston. A highlight was the announcement that more than 1,000 oral testimonies housed at the Breman are now indexed by surname and searchable on JewishGen's database at jewishgen.org/databases/USA.



JewishGen has compiled a database from the “Gallery of Missing Husbands,” a regular feature in the *Forward* in the early 20th century. Jewishgen.org.

Anna Tucker provided tips for searching archival collections online. Notable repositories include Congregation Beth Ahabah in Richmond; the Goldsmith Schiffman Archival Collection at the University of Alabama-Huntsville; the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South; the Jewish Museum of Maryland; and the Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at the University of Pennsylvania.

The webinar received glowing feedback from attendees. It kicked off a JewishGen series titled “Researching Jewish Families in America,” which will present geographic panels highlighting major Jewish archives, museums, and historical society collections of interest to family historians around the country.

Launched during the webinar, the new JewishGen USA Research Division website is usa.jewishgen.org. JewishGen is at jewishgen.org.

Ellen Shindelman Kowitz is director of the JewishGen USA Research Division.

Museum of Southern Jewish Experience Opens

The long-awaited Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (MSJE) opened its doors on Thursday, May 27, in New Orleans. MSJE explores the many ways Jews in the American South influenced and were influenced by the distinct cultural heritage of their region, emphasizing the relationship between southern Jews and their neighbors across 13 states and 300 years. Through exhibitions, collections, and programs, MSJE's mission encourages new understanding and appreciation for identity, diversity, and acceptance.

The museum features three galleries with exhibitions ranging from "Immigration to the American South" and "Jews in Southern Culture" to "Foundations of Judaism," which offers visitors a multimedia introduction to the beliefs and traditions of Judaism and includes an art installation of nearly 50 stained-glass window replicas from synagogues across the American South.

In addition to its core exhibitions, MSJE hosts a special exhibition gallery with rotating shows. The opening exhibition, *Shalom Y'all: A Snapshot of Southern Jewish Life*, features the photography of Bill Aron, who documented southern Jewish life from the 1980s to 2000.

The museum continues to expand its 4,000-piece artifact collection, including religious, business, cultural, and family artifacts representing Jewish life in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Visitorship and membership are both critical to the museum's success. MSJE invites you to plan a trip to visit and join its museum family by becoming a member. For more information, visit msje.org or call 504.384.2480.

— Society News —

Major Gift to Benefit SJHS, MSJE, and Tulane Jewish Studies

A longtime donor to Jewish causes has granted \$600,000 to the SJHS, Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (MSJE), and Tulane University Jewish Studies Department. The gift underpins a unique approach to supporting southern Jewish historical interests through partnership.

Each organization will receive \$200,000 from Lawrence J. Kanter, M.D., a retired cardiologist known for decades of giving to synagogues and Jewish organizations regionally and nationally.

"Tulane, the museum, and the Historical Society each has a proven commitment to exploring the Jewish experience in the American South, and a mission to shape the field of southern Jewish history," said Dr. Kanter, a 1967 Tulane graduate. "I am pleased to help advance the preservation and continued interpretation of Jewish contributions to southern and American culture."

Dr. Kanter's gift will support:

- Annual research and archival preservation grants awarded through SJHS.
- An annual lecture under the direction of SJHS, rotating between the Society's conference and Tulane. (The first lecture will take place at our Charleston conference.)
- An endowed fund at Tulane supporting research initiatives in American Jewish history.
- MSJE's capital fundraising campaign, which has raised more than \$8 million toward its \$10 million goal.

"Dr. Kanter's gift will have a long-term impact in continuing the important work of the Society, and southern Jewish studies in general, as well standing as a benchmark for other donors who wish to support us," said Jay Silverberg, SJHS president.

Southern Jewish History Launches Autobiography/Memoir Section

After extensive discussion, the editorial board of *Southern Jewish History* has authorized a new section on autobiographies and memoirs. The board has established the following parameters for the section:

- Submissions will be carefully reviewed for accuracy, and historical context will be included.
- Accepted works will be between 15 and 25 pages in length, including contextual material.
- The journal will consider works submitted directly by individuals as well as works that are already housed in archives. The new section will thus support the Society's mission of making information more readily available and encouraging the development and dissemination of historical knowledge.

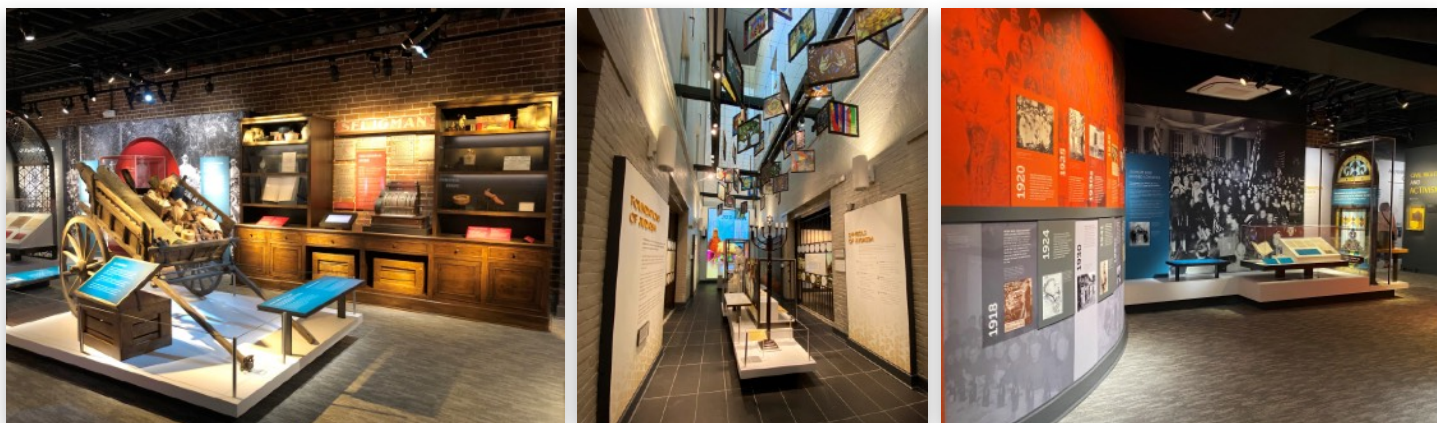
Karen Franklin and Lance Sussman will step off the editorial board to become co-editors of the new section. Franklin serves as director of family history at the Leo Baeck Institute and as a consultant to the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living

Memorial to the Holocaust. She has been president of the International Jewish Genealogical Societies (from which she received a Lifetime Achievement Award) and co-chair of the board of JewishGen.org. Currently an SJHS board member, she earned her M.A. in religion from Temple University.

Sussman is the senior rabbi of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA. He was an associate professor of American Jewish history and chair of Jewish studies at Binghamton University (SUNY) and has also taught at Princeton, Hunter, and Rutgers. Author of *Isaac Leiser and the Making of American Judaism* (1995), he earned his Ph.D from Hebrew Union College.

If you are interested in submitting an autobiography or memoir for consideration, please contact Karen Franklin at karenfranklin@gmail.com and/or Lance Sussman at rabbiljs@kenesethisrael.org.

—Mark K. Bauman, editor, *Southern Jewish History*



Stunning displays at the new Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience tell the story of southern Jewish life. MSJE.

NEWS AND NOTES

Monroe, Louisiana's Temple Posts History Videos

Temple B'nai Israel of Monroe, Louisiana, continues to expand its online offerings about the history of the town's Jewish community, which dates to 1844. In addition to its Precious Memories Virtual Museum, it recently posted two videos to the temple's youtube channel.



The Temple B'nai Israel ark is featured in the congregation's online video tour. *Temple B'nai Israel.*

Israel Tour, highlights the temple's sanctuary and also shows the religious school, Hall of Past Presidents, and Herman Masur Social Hall. Narration discusses elements of Jewish worship.

B'nai Israel, founded in 1868, is the center of Jewish life in northeast Louisiana. The virtual museum and videos can be accessed at its website, bayoujews.org, or at its youtube channel. For more information, contact the temple at 1868temple@gmail.com.

The first video, the Precious Legacy Museum and Archives Tour, shows the temple's library, museum, military room, and archives. Narration covers Jewish contributions to Monroe as well as the military service of past temple members. The second video, the Temple B'nai

Former Augusta Synagogue Becomes a Museum



Augusta Jewish Museum.

Georgia's oldest standing synagogue, formerly home to the Children of Israel Congregation, will get a new lease on life in July when the building's ownership is

transferred to Augusta Jewish Museum, Inc. Once threatened with destruction, the synagogue is being restored and will open as a learning center and museum of regional Jewish history.

The city-owned property was poised to become a municipal parking lot in 2015 when Jewish community members, the community at large, and the preservation group Historic Augusta, Inc., rallied to save the 1869 Greek Revival synagogue building and adjacent Court of Ordinary, an early fireproof building which housed county records. The City of Augusta agreed to give Historic Augusta and the newly created Augusta Jewish Museum several years to raise money, restore the buildings, and open them to the public.

On July 22, a public preview will take place and the property title will be turned over to the museum, thus assuring the buildings' preservation for future generations. The Court building will open with programming and, in 2022, with displays. The old synagogue continues to undergo renovation, with a \$3 million fundraising effort ongoing. When complete, the synagogue will house a rental assembly hall where the sanctuary stood, a community theatre, and space for exhibits, collections management, and offices.

To learn more about the Augusta Jewish Museum, take a virtual tour, or donate to the restoration, visit augustajewishmuseum.org.



Register Now for the 2021 SJHS Conference!

Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History

Southern Jewish Historical Society 45th Annual Conference
Charleston, South Carolina, October 22-24, 2021



Register for the conference online at jhssc.org/events/2021-sjhs-annual-conference

The conference fee is \$195 (includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch).

Two optional tours are available at \$25 each. See page 3 for conference program details.

Attendees should be members in good standing of the SJHS. You may renew your membership when you register for the conference, *OR* go to jewishsouth.org/store/annual-membership.

To check your membership status, contact Barbara Tahsler at barbarasjhs@gmail.com.

Registration deadline is October 15. Late registration fee is \$25.

All food will be kosher style. Please indicate if you require a vegan or vegetarian option.

If you have serious food allergies, email jbsilverberg@gmail.com.

For more information (including how to register by mail), contact Rachel Barnett at rgbarnettsc@gmail.com.

Hotel must be booked separately. See page 3 for info.