



SJHS Fall Conference Goes Virtual

The SJHS planned to meet in Charleston this fall. The coronavirus had other plans. In August, the rapid spread of the delta variant led conference organizers to make the difficult decision to move our 45th annual conference online, from Thursday, October 21, through Sunday, October 24.

While it is disappointing that we won't be able to gather together in person, we are not singing the "delta blues." That's because, unlike last year—when the pandemic forced shut-downs of gatherings around the world—our conference will still take place. With many successful zoom programs under our belt, the SJHS is well prepared to pivot to an online conference. States Josh Parshall, SJHS vice president and a conference organizer, "We will miss the opportunity to see each other in person, but we remain excited about the conference program and the possibilities of using the virtual format to conduct an in-depth, multi-event exploration of our theme, 'Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History.'"

That theme will be front and center on Thursday as the conference kicks off with a panel of archivists from Jewish repositories across the South, who will discuss how archives can play an active role in illuminating lost histories and untold stories. As panel moderator Jason Lustig observes, "Expanding what we collect and study can mean expanding the boundaries of history."

The conference will take place over four days instead of the usual three, allowing for a more leisurely pace. Attendees can ask questions and make comments through the webinar format. Highlights will include the second annual Janice Rothschild Blumberg Lecture on Culture, Arts, and Southern Jewish History

on Friday, featuring author Laura Leibman on "The Art of the (Southern) Jewish Family." Conference goers will get to experience virtual services at historic KKBE synagogue on Friday night. Saturday morning services will be hosted by Charleston's Synagogue Emanu-El.

The conference will explore an eclectic mix of topics, with special attention to the sources behind the stories: Judah Benjamin and 19th-century American theatre, Jewish refugees and Soviet Jews in the South, Kentucky Jewish history, civil rights, and more. Two recent additions to the program include a Friday night talk by Marni Davis on the history to be gleaned from old city maps, and a Saturday morning commemoration of Charleston sculptor Willard Hirsch, whose six-branched menorah memorializes Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Closing out the conference on Sunday, Stephen Whitfield will give the inaugural Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Lecture on Southern Jewish History, speaking on "Jewish Lawyers versus

Jim Crow." See page 3 for a detailed conference schedule.

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina remains our close partner and conference host. Registration (required to access conference events) is through the JHSSC's website, at [ConferenceRegistration](#). There is no conference fee, but we urge all SJHS members to take this opportunity to renew their membership at [RenewSJHS](#).

It's been two years since we last gathered for an annual conference. With support from our presenters, moderators, and co-sponsor JHSSC, all of whom have stood with us since then, we are finally gathering again. See you online.



Top left: Sculptor Willard Hirsch's "Menorah for the Six Million." Photo by Alan Nussbaum

Top right: Archivist Sarah Dorpinghaus and intern Gillian Rogers sort postcards from the Rosenthal Judaica Collection in Special Collections, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 2011. Photo by Leslie McKellar/College of Charleston

Bottom left: Judah Benjamin, the subject of a Friday panel talk. Library of Congress

Bottom right: Quarantine station at Camp Algiers, in New Orleans, where some Jewish refugees from Nazism were interred as "enemy aliens." Our Sunday conference panel features a talk on life at the camp. The Historic New Orleans Collection, 1995.19



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Historical Society

President's Message By Jay Silverberg



We'll get to Charleston. We'll meet there in person and revel in what the city and its people have to offer. Unfortunately, this year was not meant to be.

Our best of intentions simply could not overcome the tenuous nature of the pandemic. As important as the in-person conference may be to all of us, we simply could not foresee any reasonable way to provide for the "conference experience"—the ability to spend meaningful time with those we have not seen in a while, unencumbered by the challenges COVID would present for all of us.

While we could have waited for the environment in and around Charleston, if not the rest of the country, to improve, we carefully considered the logistical and scientific details available to us in late August, and decided that an in-person conference could not be safely or comfortably managed. Zoom may be the forum in 2021, but it's with no less enthusiasm for the depth of discussions our virtual conference will offer.

Our cover article includes the details for registering and accessing the nine sessions and events planned for Oct. 21–24. A special word of thanks to our presenters and moderators; to our co-sponsor, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC); and our other partners: the College of Charleston Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, and Charleston congregations Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim and Emanu-El, which will live-stream services on Friday night and Saturday morning, respectively.

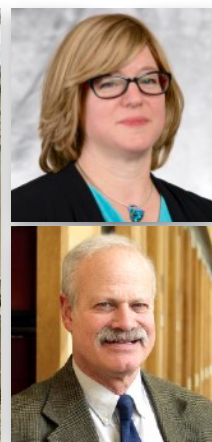
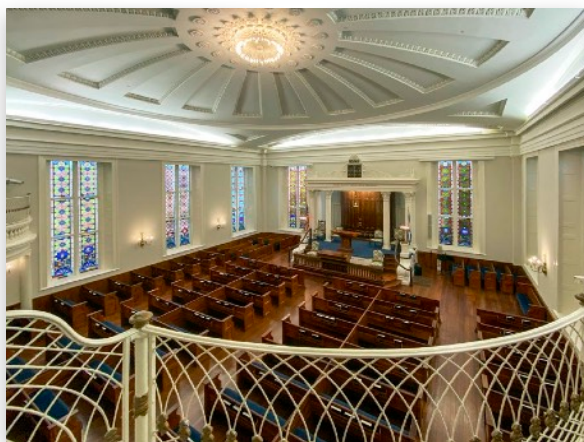
As we have learned during the past 18 months, our interest in southern Jewish history can be extended far beyond the South via the computer. We'll get to Charleston. We just have a wait a bit longer.

Many of us renew our SJHS membership as part of our conference registration, but like last year, that won't be part of the annual routine. Please be sure to visit our website, [RenewSJHS](#), to maintain your membership. Thank you for your continuing support.

The date for our annual membership meeting has not been scheduled. We will notify you via email, and plan to hold the meeting virtually as we did last year in late November or early December. During the meeting, as required by our bylaws, we will vote on new board members. This year, the nominations are: Rachel Barnett, executive director of the JHSSC; Catherine Eskin, associate professor of English at Florida Southern College; Anna Tucker, curator at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience; Ashley Walters, assistant professor in Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston; and Steve Whitfield, who holds the Max Richter Chair in American Civilization (Emeritus) at Brandeis University.

Officers nominated for a second year include myself as president, Josh Parshall as vice president, Marni Davis as secretary, David Meola as treasurer, and Phyllis Leffler as immediate past president. Our current board members to be considered for reelection are Karen Franklin, Joshua Furman, Eric Goldstein, Steven Krause, and Ellen Umansky.

We all have been well served by our board members whose terms have expired: Sharon Fahrer, Dana Herman, Jeremy Katz, Adam Meyer, and Shari Rabin.



Left: Friday night services will be live-streamed from the historic KKBK sanctuary. Photo by Jack Alterman, courtesy of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

Right top and bottom: Laura Leibman and Stephen Whitfield, principal speakers at the upcoming SJHS conference.

Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History

Southern Jewish Historical Society 45th Annual Conference

October 21-24, 2021

Virtual Program Hosted by the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

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

All sessions will be online, Eastern Time, and are free and open to the public.

To register, go to jhssc.org/events/2021-sjhs-virtual-conference.

Thursday, October 21

2-2:15 pm: Welcome

- ▶ JHSSC president Lilly Filler and SJHS program co-chair Shari Rabin

2:15-3:30 pm: Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History

Chair: Marcie Cohen Ferris (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Moderator: Jason Lustig (University of Texas-Austin)

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

3:45-5 pm: Collecting Kentucky Jewish History

Moderator: Sarah Dorpinghaus (University of Kentucky Libraries)

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

Friday, October 22

2-3:15 pm: Janice Rothschild Blumberg Lecture on Culture, Arts, and Southern Jewish History

- ▶ Laura Leibman (Reed College), "The Art of the (Southern) Jewish Family"

Introduction: Ashley Walters (College of Charleston)

3:30-4:30 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"

7 pm: Shabbat Service, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston (live stream)

- ▶ Includes guest presentation, 7:30 pm: Marni Davis (Georgia State University), "Listen to the Streets: How Old City Maps Can Enrich Our Historical Imagination"

Saturday, October 23

9:30 am: Shabbat Service, Synagogue Emanu-El, Charleston (live stream)

- ▶ Includes commemorative program, 10:45 am: "Willard Hirsch and The Menorah for The Six Million," honoring the renowned Charleston sculptor and the six-branched menorah he designed in 1972

1-2:30 pm: 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"

Sunday, October 24

11 am-12 pm: JHSSC Annual Meeting

3:30-4:30 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 World War II"
- ▶ 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"

4:45-6 pm: Inaugural Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Lecture on Southern Jewish History

- ▶ Stephen Whitfield (Brandeis University), "Jewish Lawyers versus Jim Crow"
- Introduction: Jay Silverberg, SJHS President

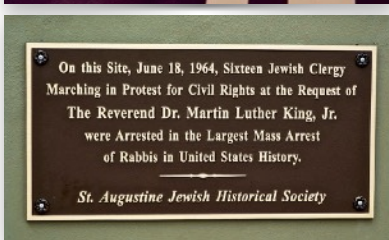
Three Rabbis Tell Story of 1964 St. Augustine Civil Rights Protest

In June, the SJHS co-sponsored “Why We Went,” a gripping discussion with three of the 16 rabbis arrested at a civil rights protest in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1964. Hosted by Atlanta’s Breman Museum, the Zoom program enabled attendees to listen in as Israel Dresner, Jerrold Goldstein, and Allen Secher relived a landmark moment in the civil rights struggle. The St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society also co-sponsored the event; Stephen Whitfield served as moderator.

Rabbi Dresner was already a veteran of the civil rights movement in June of 1964 when Martin Luther King sent him an urgent telegram from a jail cell in St. Augustine, asking him for support for the civil rights campaign underway there. Dresner happened to be at a meeting of Reform rabbis in Atlantic City, and he quickly rounded up 15 other rabbis and one lay person. Within 24 hours, the group arrived in St. Augustine and plunged into the protests taking place.

The Zoom began with a dramatic two-minute news video of several rabbis being arrested at an integrated prayer service held in a downtown lot. The tall figure of Jerrold Goldstein can be seen saying, “Take your hands off me, treat me like a human being,”

as officials push him toward a waiting car. The video shows Martin Luther King (who had been released on bail) watching from across the street as protesters recite the 23rd Psalm while police lead them away.



Top: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Israel Dresner. *Creative Commons*

Bottom: This plaque was erected in 2019 on a hotel building in St. Augustine, and dedicated in a public ceremony.

Unlike Dresner, Goldstein had been a neophyte to civil rights work. “It was outside of my mental framework” that he could be physically endangered, he reminisced on the Zoom. “I went naively, to be an observer. That cracked open when we lined up outside the church to go march downtown.” The sobering reality hit when organizers instructed, “You are pledged to nonviolence, you are going to hear things said to you that you can’t stand listening to, don’t shout back, don’t hit back, that’s what they’re waiting for.”

Allen Secher recalled being told that they might be beaten and would “certainly be arrested.” The moments before the arrests were “the scariest two hours of our lives,” he observed. “Even now, I’m taking a deep breath that we made it.” Enraged hecklers lined the streets and watched from vantage points high up in the trees. “We were not heroes,” Secher insisted. “We were just doing what was right.”

continued on page 6...

Reviving the Name and Flame of Jeannette Miriam Goldberg By Hollace Ava Weiner

Within months of Jeannette Miriam Goldberg’s fatal heart attack in 1935, four nonprofits bearing her name were raising money or touting causes the charismatic Texan championed during decades of public service. It was unthinkable that this “modern Miriam” would ever be forgotten. At her funeral in Jefferson, Texas, rabbis from Shreveport, Texarkana, and Philadelphia hailed her as a “high priestess” of Judaism.

Today, the lectures and money raising have lapsed. But one eponymous fund still exists: the Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Youth Fund of the Women of Reform Judaism’s Atlantic District. It helps teens attend conferences and camps sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism. In concert with the trend to resuscitate women lost to history, the District is bringing to light the remarkable Texan’s accomplishments.

Born in 1868 in East Texas, Jeannette Miriam Goldberg was the daughter of Russian immigrants, charter members of Hebrew Sinai Synagogue in Jefferson. She studied at Vassar and graduated from Rutgers Female Institute before returning south to teach. She jumped on board the emerging women’s club movement and gravitated to the newly chartered National Council of Jewish Women, organizing the Council’s first Texas chapter and chapters in states throughout the South, Midwest, and Far West.



Jeannette Miriam Goldberg.
Courtesy of Hollace Weiner

Noting her success, the Jewish Chautauqua Society hired her in 1905, first as field secretary, later as executive secretary. For 30 years, she organized study circles, assemblies, and correspondence courses in Judaism. She sent Jewish scholars to speak at college campuses, counseled young rabbis, and established synagogues at farm colonies in New Jersey and the Dakotas.

She never forgot her southern roots. In Jewish publications and “Who’s Who” compendiums, she listed her residence as Jefferson, Texas, even after moving to Philadelphia, the Society’s headquarters.

Described by contemporaries as engaging and intimidating, Goldberg fit the Progressive Era profile of a professional woman. Role models like Jane

Addams, Gertrude Weil, and Henrietta Szold demonstrated what a well-educated, single woman could accomplish in the new field of social service.

The WRJ Atlantic District, which includes Sisterhoods in West Virginia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, is accepting contributions to the Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Youth Fund at wrj.org/our-community/wrj-districts/atlantic.

Hollace Ava Weiner is a past president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and volunteer director of the Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

Augusta Jewish Museum Reaches Major Milestone

By Robyn Wittenberg Dudley

In 2015, with heavy construction equipment parked outside its back door, the former Children of Israel synagogue—the state of Georgia’s oldest standing synagogue building—was slated to be leveled to the ground within weeks. The City of Augusta owned the property and needed space for a parking lot. But members of Augusta’s Jewish community and preservation-minded citizens had other ideas.

The community rallied in protest, led by the late local historian and Jewish community leader Jack Steinberg, along with the board of trustees of Historic Augusta, Inc., the region’s long-established leader in preservation. The goal: to save the 1869 Greek Revival synagogue building at 525 Telfair Street and the even older building adjacent to it: the 1860 Court of Ordinary, an early fireproof structure that once housed irreplaceable wills, deeds, and other court records.

Preservation leaders and concerned citizens attended every City Council and committee meeting to protest the destruction. They proposed an alternative: a learning center and museum of regional Jewish history. Eventually, the City of Augusta changed its plans and agreed to give Historic Augusta and the newly formed Augusta Jewish Museum, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, five years to raise money, do restoration, and open to the public by July 2021.

Supporters and local officials celebrated the museum’s success in meeting that goal in a ceremony this past July 22. By completing Phase One of its renovation project—the rehabilitation of the smaller Court of Ordinary—the museum was able to open an education center for special programs and tours. At the ceremony, the mayor issued a proclamation, and the property titles of both buildings were turned over to the museum, assuring their preservation for future generations.

The museum has a Second Sunday program for the community each month, and tours of the buildings are available by appointment. Meanwhile, the old synagogue continues to undergo renovation as Phase Two, and the \$3 million fundraising effort continues under the oversight of the museum’s board, headed by civic leader Jack Weinstein, president. When complete, the synagogue will house a rental hall in the old

sanctuary space, a community multi-use area, offices, a collection management area, and display space. The court building will serve as the museum’s main exhibit area.

Augusta Jewish Museum’s mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret the rich evidence of the Jewish experience in Augusta and to educate and inspire audiences of all backgrounds and

ages. Inspired by the four stately pillars supporting the old synagogue’s entrance, its exhibits will center on four pillars or themes: Jewish heritage and traditions; contributions of the Jewish community to the Augusta, GA/ Aiken, SC region; remembering the Holocaust; and Israel, the land and its people. Professionally designed exhibits will feature an illustrated timeline of the region’s Jewish community, starting with Isaac Hendricks, the first Jewish settler to arrive in the area in 1802. As part of the Holocaust exhibit, the museum plans to present “Abe’s Story,” about the late Abram Korn, a local Holocaust survivor, and discuss other local survivors as well.

Perhaps now more than ever, cultural understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of diversity are called for from people

of all ages. As museum board member Nathan Jolles stated, “While saving historical buildings cannot heal all the wounds in our country, such a project can serve as a catalyst for bringing people of all faiths together and be a prominent venue for dialogue and education to promote common interests in our faith-based communities and to allow us to begin to overcome the scourge of hate and intolerance that all people of goodwill denounce.”

In advance of fully opening, the museum has created an online museum, partially funded by an SJHS grant, which previews the topics to be featured in its permanent and rotating displays. To take a virtual tour and learn more about the Augusta Jewish Museum and opportunities for support, visit augustajewishmuseum.org/virtual-museum.

Robyn Wittenberg Dudley (rdudley@augustajewishmuseum.org) is a board member and volunteer project administrator with the Augusta Jewish Museum in Augusta, GA.



Top left: Children of Israel synagogue, early 20th century (the Court of Ordinary is at left). In the 1960s, the congregation built a new synagogue a few miles away, where it thrives today. *Augusta Jewish Museum*

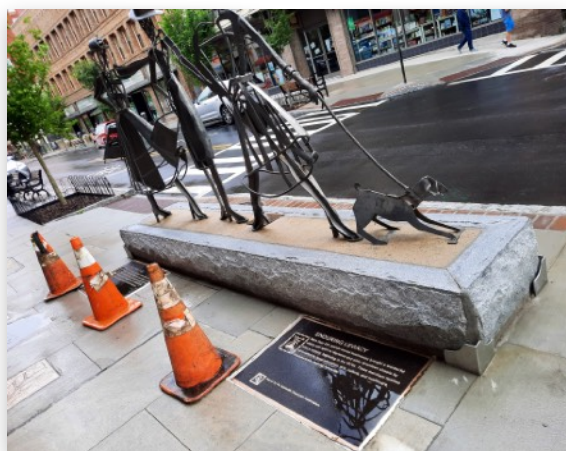
Top right: Rabbi Sylvan Schwartzman and teens at the bimah of Children of Israel, 1940s. *Augusta Jewish Museum*
Center: Rabbi David Sirull, Augusta Jewish Museum board member, speaks at the July ceremony. Other participants are (left to right): Jack Weinstein, the museum’s board chair; Erick Montgomery, executive director of Historic Augusta, Inc.; Augusta Mayor Hardie Davis; and Alex Gandler, of the Israeli consulate in Atlanta.

Bottom: An architectural rendering of the completed museum, showing the synagogue and court building beside it. *Studio 3 Design Group*

Asheville Plaque Honoring Jewish Businesses Unveiled

Asheville's celebrated Urban Trail, an art-and-history walking tour featuring a 30-piece series of art installations, now has a new addition: a plaque recognizing the contributions of the 450-plus Jewish-owned businesses that played a central role in the vitality of the North Carolina mountain town's central business district in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The plaque, titled "Enduring Legacy," was unveiled at the foot of a sculpture in the heart of downtown Asheville during the rededication of the Urban Trail on June 29. "Now the contributions of Jewish businesses

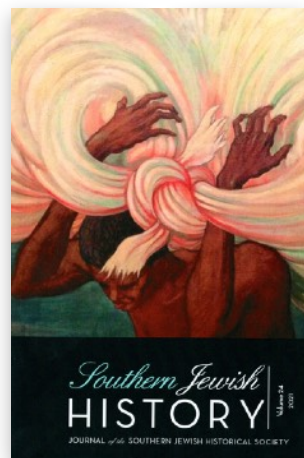


New plaque honoring Asheville's Jewish merchants. Courtesy of Sharon Fahrer

are permanently recognized in the pavement of Haywood Street through the generosity of the Asheville Downtown Association," notes Sharon Fahrer, who, along with Jan Schochet, brought attention to this history in *The Family Store: A History of Jewish Businesses in Downtown Asheville from 1880-1990*, a book, exhibit, and walking tour. The complete exhibit is on line at history-at-hand.com.

Says Sharon, an outgoing SJHS board member, "You are invited to come to Asheville, walk the Urban Trail, and experience this legacy for yourselves!"

Southern Jewish History Publishes 2021 Issue



The editors of *Southern Jewish History*, the annual peer-reviewed journal of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, proudly announce publication of Volume 24 (2021).

The new issue contains scholarship by a variety of authors representing the diversity and vitality of the field of southern Jewish history, including two by current graduate students. Yale University law student Eric Eisner provides a corrective as to when North Carolina granted Jews the right to hold office without a test

oath to signify if they were Protestants. Andrew Sperling, a doctoral student at American University, traces the teaching career, techniques, and rights advocacy of art educator Viktor Lowenfeld after his flight from Austria to Hampton Institute, a historically Black college in Virginia, during the Nazi era.

Two primary source articles appear in this issue. Augustine Meaher examines a set of letters to and from Lisa Stein, a

Florida resident in the 1940s, who corresponded with Senator Charles O. Andrews (D-FL) and other officials in attempts to rescue her family in Vichy France from the Holocaust. R. Barbara Gitenstein provides a series of documents on a Jew from New York who spent his adult life in a small Alabama town, where he managed his family's mill, supplied needed jobs for the community, and was active in local philanthropy.

As always, the volume includes a variety of book, website, and film reviews.

Members of SJHS receive copies of the journal as a benefit of membership. The first 22 volumes (1998–2019) are free to download on the Society's website and on the journal's page on Academia.edu. Please visit jewishsouth.org or academia.edu/SouthernJewishHistory. Print copies of all issues of the journal and individual articles from the latest two volumes can be purchased on the Society's website or by e-mailing journal@jewishsouth.org.

Southern Jewish History is always seeking scholarly articles for consideration for publication. To discuss or submit a potential article relating to the southern Jewish experience, please contact the editor, Mark K. Bauman, at MarkKBauman@aol.com, or by phone at 678-428-3622.

Rabbis Tell Story of St. Augustine Civil Rights Protest ...continued from page 4

Arrested on charges of trespassing, breaching the peace, and conspiracy, the men—the largest incarceration of rabbis in U.S. history—found themselves crowded into a single jail cell, where they stayed overnight. They were released on bail the next day, and the charges were eventually dismissed.

While in jail, the rabbis wrote "Why We Went: A Joint Letter from the Rabbis Arrested in St. Augustine," using the stub of a pencil. "We came because we realized that injustice in St. Augustine, as anywhere else, diminished the humanity of each of us," the letter stated.

On the Zoom, Israel Dresner spoke of the three reasons he became involved in the movement: "the teachings of the Jewish faith," the history of oppression "of my people, the Jewish people," and "the American ideal" of equality. All three rabbis read aloud from the "Why We Went" statement. The Zoom recording is available at vimeo.com/570322637.

Editor's Note: Rabbi Dresner is the focus of an SJHS conference talk. See page 3 for details.

NEWS AND NOTES

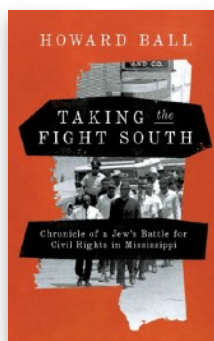
ISJL Receives Grant for “Virtual Vacation” and Other Programs

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) has received a \$15,000 grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will support its ongoing public history programs, including the ISJL Virtual Vacation, a monthly video series celebrating the history and culture of the Jewish South with conversational episodes that explore the people, places, and stories visitors might encounter on a trip to the South. To date, 16 episodes have been produced on topics such as Jewish restaurants, cemeteries, country music, and civil rights. The episodes feature scholars, public historians, and local experts telling nuanced, authentic, inclusive stories about Jewish life in the South that leave people wanting to learn more.

New Virtual Vacation episodes are slated for Fall 2021, with past episodes available at isjl.org/virtual-vacation.



Memoir of Northern Jewish Historian’s Southern Activism



In *Taking the Fight South: Chronicle of a Jew’s Battle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*, historian Howard Ball writes about becoming active in civil rights issues after moving from New York to Starkville, Mississippi, in 1976 to teach at Mississippi State University. Ball, who previously authored books on Thurgood Marshall and the 1964 murders of civil rights activists Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner, narrates his family’s experience as “Jewish outsiders in Mississippi, an unfamiliar and

dangerous landscape.” Published in 2021 by the University of Notre Dame Press, the book is available on amazon and at undpress.nd.edu.

Port of No Return Tells of Enemy Alien Internment in New Orleans

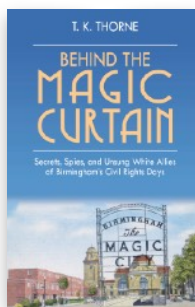


While most people know of the World War II internment of thousands of Japanese American citizens and residents, few know that German, Austrian, and Italian nationals were also apprehended and held in internment camps under the Enemy Alien Control Program—including some Jews. In *Port of No Return: Enemy Alien Internment in World War II New Orleans*, Marilyn Grace Miller tells the story of the city’s key role in this complex secret operation through the lens of Camp Algiers, located three miles from downtown New Orleans.

Deemed to be one of two principal ports through which enemy aliens might enter the U.S., New Orleans during the war years saw the arrival of thousands of detainees, many of whom first found refuge in Latin America. In 1943, a contingent of Jewish refugees, some of them survivors of Nazi concentration camps, were transferred to Camp Algiers in the wake of tensions at other internment sites that housed both refugees and Nazis. The presence of this group earned Camp Algiers the nickname “Camp of the Innocents.”

Despite the sinister overtones of the “enemy alien” classification, most internees possessed no criminal record and had escaped difficult economic or political situations in home countries. *Port of No Return* tells the varied, fascinating stories of the internees and their lives in Camp Algiers. Published in 2021 by LSU Press, the book is available on amazon and at lsupress.org.

Birmingham Jewish Police Captain Tells Civil Rights Story



Prolific author T. K. Thorne recently published *Behind the Magic Curtain: Secrets, Spies, and Unsung White Allies of Birmingham’s Civil Rights Days*. The book reveals untold and forgotten stories that go beyond the headlines, highlighting the complexity of race relations in Birmingham, Alabama, a city infamous for white resistance to Black civil rights in the 1960s.

In focusing on white allies (both Jewish and Christian), Thorne challenges the view that all southern Jews stayed aloof from the civil rights movement. In her introduction, she quotes *Southern Jewish Life* publisher Larry Brooks, who observed that, despite “shorthand notions that ‘Jews marched with Blacks in the South’ on one hand, or ‘Jews in the South didn’t do anything to help’ on the other, the reality is much more of a gray area.” Thorne, 69, who is Jewish and a retired Birmingham police captain, focuses on that gray area. Published by New South Books, her book is available on amazon and at newsouthbooks.com.

Register Now for the SJHS Fall Conference!



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Attendees should be members in good standing of the SJHS. To renew your membership, go to: jewishsouth.org/store/annual-membership. To check your membership status, please contact Barbara Tahsler at barbarasjhs@gmail.com.

If you booked a hotel in Charleston, don't forget to cancel your reservation!

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