



SJHS 2021 Conference Offers Virtual Feast of Knowledge

The role of southern Jewish cuisine as a source of historical evidence was just one of the many topics touched on at our annual conference, “Expanding the Archive(s) of Southern Jewish History,” held October 21–24. Though the online event could not offer culinary samples, some 300 attendees found much food for thought with presentations ranging from 19th-century American theatre to 20th-century “enemy aliens.”

The first session jumped immediately into the conference theme, as panelists discussed how archives shape our understanding of history in general and southern Jewish history in particular. Why are archives important and how can their collections be expanded to capture the lived experience of a people? How can archives be more responsive to community needs, and how can they be made more accessible? These were some of the critical questions addressed.

Panelists brought a variety of perspectives to the table. Joshua Furman of the Houston Jewish Archive at Rice University noted that his archive was “born out of a natural disaster.” After Hurricane Harvey devastated the Jewish neighborhood of Meyerland, people realized that without a robust collecting initiative, their community’s history would be lost. Similarly, Nora Katz of the Institute of Southern Jewish Life stated that the disappearance of small-town southern Jewish communities spurred an effort to capture evidence of the Jewish past before it was too late. She also discussed the key role of digitization in making archives accessible to the public.

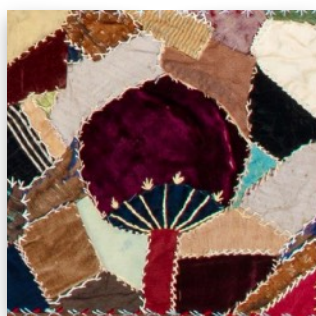
As for what and how to collect, Rachel Barnett and Lyssa Kligman Harvey related how Kugels and Collards, their project

to collect South Carolina Jewish food traditions and recipes, ended up revealing aspects of Jewish community and culture in unanticipated ways. Sandy Berman, founding archivist of Atlanta’s Breman Museum, pointed out that to make archives a “living history,” not only the objects but also the stories behind them must be collected. William Obrochta of Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives emphasized the need to respond to

changing times. The Black Lives Matter movement “led us to reexamine the historic relationship between Richmond’s Jewish and African American communities,” influencing decisions about what to collect. Commenting that “We all fall into the trap of being ‘celebratory’ in telling our story,” Dale Rosengarten of the College of Charleston’s Jewish Heritage Collection asserted that archives must commit to capturing the “full story.”

On Friday, Laura Leibman presented the second annual Janice Rothschild Blumberg lecture. Her intriguing analysis of quilts made by southern Jewish women showed how non-traditional sources can help reconstruct the lives of people often left out of the historical record, resulting in a more complete picture of the past. The designs and symbols of three

quilts made from the 1840s to 1880s in Maryland, South Carolina, and Mississippi revealed the preoccupations and views of their creators on a range of issues, from Jewish identity and race to epidemics and war. Quilt-making enabled Jewish women to “fashion community and identity through art,” she concluded. By bolstering her interpretation of the quilts with other sources, she demonstrated how a multifaceted approach to historical evidence can result in a deeper understanding of the southern (and American) Jewish experience.



Top: Jewish Ladies’ Sewing Circle quilt, Mississippi, 1885 (cotton boll detail at left).

Bottom left: Quilt made for Eleanor Solomons, South Carolina, 1854. *Quilts courtesy of Laura Leibman.*

Bottom right: The Breman’s *History with Chutzpah* exhibit uses this mechanical horse, c. 1960, to tell the story of Atlanta’s Montag Bros. Paper Co. *Breman Museum.*

continued on page 3...



Officers and Board 2022

PRESIDENT

Jay Silverberg

VICE PRESIDENT

Josh Parshall

SECRETARY

Marni Davis

TREASURER

David Meola

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Phyllis Leffler

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rachel Barnett

Catherine Eskin

Karen Franklin

Joshua Furman

Eric Goldstein

Stephen Krause

Anna Tucker

Ellen Umansky

Ashley Walters

Stephen Whitfield

Bernie Wax (emeritus)

JOURNAL EDITOR

Mark Bauman

678.828.7484

markkbaum@aol.com

JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Bryan Edward Stone

bstone@delmar.edu

JOURNAL FOUNDING MANAGING EDITOR

Rachel Heimovics Braun

RAMBLER EDITOR

Deborah R. Weiner

Send editorial inquiries to
dweiner70@hotmail.com.

Send address changes to:

Barbara Tahsler

SJHS

PO Box 71601

Marietta, GA 30007-1601

barbarasjhs@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

Karen Franklin

917.969.9014

karenfranklin@gmail.com

Bruce Beeber

770.399.4222

drbbeeber@msn.com

© 2022 Southern Jewish
Historical Society

President's Message By Jay Silverberg



In 1979, three years after the Society's first conference was held in Richmond, the essay collection *Turn to the South* was published, based on papers presented there. In the foreword, Brandeis University professor Lawrence H. Fuchs called the conference "a milestone in American Jewish history" leading to "the re-creation of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and a commitment to future research, publications, exhibits, and meetings."

Melvin I. Urofsky, then professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and co-editor of the book, noted in his preface that nearly every speaker at the conference "prefaced his or her remarks with comments on the large amount of work that remains to be done and the vast areas of Southern Jewish life about which we know virtually nothing."

He went on to comment about the "great diversity of the Southern-Jewish experience" and how "it will take many more conferences and studies before we can limn the portrait of Southern Jewry that it so richly deserves."

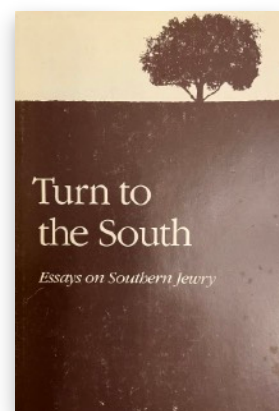
In his *Turn to the South* essay, Eli Evans pushed the newly formed organization to be "not just for academics, not just for amateur historians and rabbis who have an interest, but for all who live in the South." Wrote Evans, "We know a great deal about the external history of the major Jewish communities in the South ... but what of their internal histories? What of the psychological experiences of being Jewish in the South, the emotional experiences?" He concluded, "We must ask not only what Jews in the South did—who they married, how much property they had, what kind of wills they left, and did they own slaves or not—but also *how did they feel?*"

How far we've come. The conference 46 years ago "re-created" the SJHS, which had floundered after its initial founding in the 1950s. Since then, we have established the respected journal *Southern Jewish History*; held annual conferences in 30 cities in 13 states and Washington, DC; distributed thousands of grant dollars for research and archival preservation; while bringing together academic and non-academic members to promote and preserve the history we all share.

On our website, peruse Fall issues of the *Rambler* going back to 2011 to gain an additional perspective about how the Society's conferences have built upon the hopes of those who met back in Richmond with support from the American Jewish Historical Society, the Richmond Jewish Community Council, and VCU's history department and Judaic Culture Committee.

We will mark our 50th anniversary in four years, and I think it important to begin planning now to ensure that when we reach 2026, we recognize this achievement as appropriately as possible. I intend to work with some of our colleagues this year in a committee specifically focused on our Golden Anniversary.

I am confident that members have stories to share from our beginnings, or perhaps materials that were part of our early history. Please share them, and any ideas you might have. My email is jbsilverberg@gmail.com. And mark your calendar for October 2026!



Atlanta to Host Third Annual Blumberg Lecture on April 6



Photographer and author Andrew Feiler, whose books have examined the Rosenwald schools, historically black colleges, and the role of education as the onramp to the American middle class, will give the third annual Janice Rothschild Blumberg Lecture in Southern Jewish History, Art, and Culture on Wednesday, April 6, at The Temple in Atlanta. Details of the evening event will be announced in the coming weeks.

Feiler, a Savannah native and resident of Atlanta for 26 years, has successfully merged his photographic, writing, and research talents to publish *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America* and *Without Regard to Sex, Race, or Color: The Past, Present and Future of One Historically Black College*. His books have garnered numerous awards, and his photographs have been featured in exhibits across the South. More information about him can be accessed at andrewfeiler.com.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Southern Jews and the Atlantic World

47th Annual Conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society

Hosted by the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

October 21-23, 2022 Charleston, South Carolina

The Southern Jewish Historical Society will present its 47th annual conference on October 21-23, 2022, in Charleston, South Carolina. The conference theme is “Southern Jews and the Atlantic World.”

Following current historiographical trends, the conference aims to expand upon the traditional regional framework that has characterized the study of Jews in the American South and, instead, considers southern Jewish life through a global lens.

Charleston was a major port in the Atlantic mercantile system and has remained at the heart of southern Jewish economic, cultural, and religious life for more than three centuries. Representing the cosmopolitan world we seek to illuminate, the Holy City is an ideal place to explore the trans-Atlantic history of southern Jewry. We invite proposals for individual papers, traditional panels, roundtables,

graduate student workshops, as well as alternative formats that highlight the texture of Jewish life, culture, and business around the Atlantic and their convergence in the American South.

Presentations might consider the varied origins of Jews from around the Atlantic, Jewish economic history and global connections, Jewish involvement in the slave trade and in the institutions of domestic slavery, the experience of Jews in southern port cities, as well as the formation of local, regional, and diasporic Jewish identities and cultures.

We also encourage contributions that explore the confluence of foodways from around the Atlantic, as well as examples of musical, literary, and artistic cross-pollination.

The deadline for panel and paper proposals is March 15, 2022. Please send a proposal and a curriculum vitae, as well as any inquiries, to program co-chair Ashley Walters, waltersa1@cofc.edu.



"An Exact Prospect of Charles Town, June 9, 1739." Painted by Bishop Roberts, engraved by William Henri Toms. *London Magazine*, 1762. Courtesy of Robert N. Rosen.

SJHS 2021 Conference Offers Virtual Feast of Knowledge continued from page 1...

The inaugural Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Lecture, held Sunday, featured Stephen Whitfield speaking on “Jewish Lawyers versus Jim Crow.” Whitfield examined the critical role of attorneys, predominantly Jewish, who came South to assist the civil rights movement. Because southern lawyers faced severe consequences for opposing segregation, northern attorneys, Black and white, provided the legal support vital to the movement’s success—often behind-the-scenes. “Without out-of-state legal assistance,” the fate of Black defendants who challenged Jim Crow laws was “too grim to contemplate,” he observed. Focusing on the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee, Whitfield related fascinating stories of the attorneys’ work. Facing extreme opposition from local authorities, they had to use creative and sometimes extra-legal means to achieve their hard-earned victories. The Blumberg and Kanter lectures can be viewed on



A panel on “Facts and Fictions” analyzed 19th-century portrayals of Jews, both fictitious and real. Left: Actor Edwin Forrest as Shylock, c. 1860. *University of Illinois Theatrical Print Collection*. Right: Judah Benjamin is second from left in this 1866 depiction of the Confederate cabinet. *Wikimedia Commons*.

our website, jewishsouth.org.

The “Collecting Kentucky Jewish History” panel described how archival materials are being used to integrate Jews into the state’s narrative, such as inspiring an art project on “Bourbon Backstories” that reclaims the Jewish role in Kentucky’s storied distillery business. In “Archives and the Discoverable Life,” panelists showed how everything from nitty-gritty archival research to a stash of love letters helped reconstruct the lives of a 19th-century Jewish civic leader, a rabbi in the civil rights movement, and a New Yorker-turned-Alabamian (who happened to be the researcher’s mother). In “Archives of Dislocation and Rescue,” panelists recounted the little-known stories of Jews interned as enemy aliens in New Orleans, activists for Soviet Jewry in Houston, and a German-Jewish refugee art educator who left an indelible impact on his students at a Black college in Virginia.

Annual SJHS Grant Awards Announced

The SJHS grants committee awarded five grants in 2021, totaling \$7,900.

Filmmaker Gerald Peary received a **Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Project Completion Grant** for his film *Why We Went: The St. Augustine 17*. The funds will support on-location filming for this documentary about the rabbis who traveled to St. Augustine, Florida, in 1964 to support civil rights, and were jailed after participating in a protest.

Two **Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Research and Travel Grants** were awarded. Georgetown University doctoral student Erica Lally received funding for a research trip to New Orleans for her study, “Coercive Reform: The American Protective League’s New Orleans Detention Home, 1918–1919.” She will research the history of the home, the women detained there, and the actions and motivations of APL leaders and members, many of whom were Jewish. Texas A&M graduate student Gabrielle Lyle received funding for a research trip to South Texas for her study, “B’nai Borderlands: The Development of Jewish Communities in the Rio Grande Valley.” She will visit sites and conduct oral history interviews.



Annette Levy Ratlin Jewish Community Archives, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Two **Scott and Donna Langston Archival Grants** were awarded. The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience received funds to rehouse and store archival materials from five collections related to Jewish life and businesses across the South. During the rehousing process, museum staff will digitize key items and make them available on the MSJE website. The Jewish Federation of Nashville, on behalf of the Ratkin Jewish Community Archives, received a grant to support the digitization of significant collections, including those of the Federation, the Gordon Jewish Community Center, and Jewish Family Service.

The committee also voted to award a provisional project completion grant to independent scholar Marlene Trestman to fund indexing costs for her book, *Most Fortunate Unfortunates: New Orleans's Jewish Orphans' Home, 1855-1946*, currently under review at LSU Press. Funds will be issued once the book

receives final approval for publication.

After several years as committee chair, Eric Goldstein is stepping down. Joshua Furman will take over as chair.

SJHS Awards for Scholarship Honor Phyllis Leffler and Hollace Weiner

The Society's Honors and Awards Committee conferred two awards in 2021 recognizing scholarly achievements in the field of southern Jewish history.

Phyllis K. Leffler's essay “Insiders or Outsiders: Charlottesville's Jews, White Supremacy, and Antisemitism” won the award for best article published in *Southern Jewish History* over the past four years. “Of the many worthy articles under consideration, Leffler's stood out for its insights and timeliness,” the committee noted. By looking at the “Unite the Right” rally of 2017 within the context of the larger history of Jewish life in Charlottesville, Leffler, professor emerita at the University of Virginia and longtime Charlottesville resident, “shows that an understanding of southern Jewish history can be central to untangling some of today's biggest controversies.”

The committee presented the Samuel Proctor Award for Outstanding Career Scholarship to **Hollace Ava Weiner** in honor of her significant body of work on the history of Jews in Texas. Texts such as *Jewish Stars in Texas: Rabbis and Their Work* and *Jewish Junior League: The Rise and Demise of the Fort Worth Council of Jewish Women* are “foundational to the field,” asserted



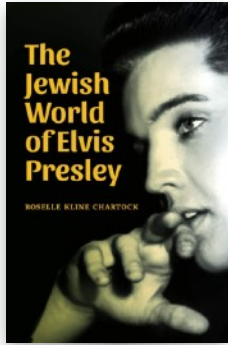
Phyllis Leffler, Hollace Weiner.

the committee. Her books and articles have explored topics ranging from the Industrial Removal Office to rabbis and civil rights. A valued SJHS member, Weiner has served as president, journal editorial board member, and in other important roles. She currently directs the Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

The committee includes Adam Meyer (chair), Dana Herman, Jeremy Katz, and Stephen Whitfield.

Editor's Note: Previous winners of the Proctor Award have been Mark Bauman (2008), Stephen Whitfield (2010), Janice Rothschild Blumberg (2013), and **Scott Langston** (2017). Langston was recognized for his work in southern Jewish religious history and Jewish-gentile relations. His pioneering essay on theological interchanges between 19th-century rabbis and Christian clergy in New Orleans appeared in an early volume of *Southern Jewish History*. He has since written on rabbinic sermons during the civil rights movement, the role of the southern rabbi as “ambassador to the gentiles,” and other topics. A former SJHS president and founding editor of the journal's primary source section, Langston teaches at Texas Christian University in the religion department.

Memphis Program Explores the Jewish World of Elvis Presley By Lynnir Mirvis



When Roselle Kline Chartock spoke about her new book, *The Jewish World of Elvis Presley*, for the Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South's Summer Levine Speakers Series in October, she had an unusually knowledgeable audience for the virtual program.

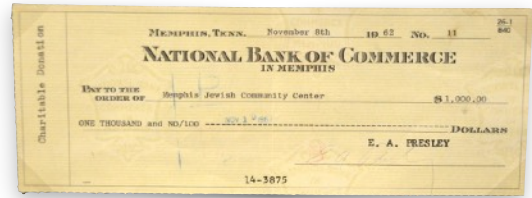
Hal Lansky, co-owner of Lansky Brothers, introduced Chartock. He wrote the book's introduction, and Chartock shared many of his Elvis stories in its pages. Lansky described how his father Bernard, son of

Eastern European Jewish immigrants, "first saw a shy young Elvis staring at the clothes in the window of Lansky Brothers, my father's clothing store on Beale Street—and invited him in." That began a lifelong friendship, as Bernard became Elvis's main tailor.

Chartock talked about the Fruchter family's special relationship with Elvis, as told to her by Harold Fruchter, a previous JHSM speaker. In the early 1950s, Rabbi Alfred Fruchter moved to Memphis to help start the Memphis Hebrew Academy (now the Margolin Hebrew Academy). He and his wife Jeannette lived upstairs in the same Alabama Street duplex as the Presleys, who had arrived from Tupelo, Mississippi. The Fruchters knew Elvis as a polite, considerate young man; when Harold was born, Elvis carried the new baby up the stairs.

The Fruchters invited the Presleys once a month for Sabbath dinner, Chartock recounted. Elvis especially loved the challah, with which he made his famous peanut butter and banana

sandwiches. When he needed a record player so he could listen to his first single, the Fruchters lent him theirs. Elvis later gave a large check to the Memphis Hebrew Academy and also donated to the Memphis Jewish Community Center, which had given him a free membership as a teen.



Courtesy of Adam Fagen, Creative Commons.

Chartock spoke of the many personal relationships Elvis had with Jews, including Memphis merchants, members of his inner circle (the "Memphis Mafia"), and people he met in the music and movie industries.

Elvis's mother Gladys told him he had "Jewish blood," Chartock related, but "not to say anything because people don't like Jews." Gladys's great-grandmother was from a Lithuanian Jewish family that immigrated to Mississippi in the early 19th century. Proud of his Jewish heritage, Elvis included a Star of David on his mother's tombstone after she died.

To view Chartock's talk or other JHSM programs, visit jhsmem.org and click on "program videos." The book is available on [amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

Lynnir Mirvis is the JHSM's co-vice president of programming

Tampa's Former Armory and Current JCC Turns 80 By Carl L. Zielonka

On December 8, 1941 the Florida National Guard dedicated its new Armory building on historic land, previously the site of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders camp and a World War I training airfield. After World War II, the Armory hosted major events, including President John F. Kennedy's last public speech before he went to Dallas.

The National Guard moved out in 2004 and turned the Armory over to the City of Tampa. The Art Deco building stood vacant for the next 10 years and became deteriorated even while being designated a local and national landmark.

When Tampa's Jewish community sought to build a second JCC to serve the growing South Tampa community in 2014, the Armory finally found a new purpose. After the Tampa Jewish Community Center and Federation entered into a 99-year lease with the state's Armory Board, a \$22 million transformation of the building into a

modern JCC began, financed as a public/private partnership with a lead gift from Tampa Bay Buccaneers owner Bryan Glazer. The JCC kept much of the original Art Deco design and added a modern angular entrance hall.



Then and now: The Armory in the 1950s and the same building after being transformed into the Brian Glazer JCC. *Courtesy of Carl Zielonka.*

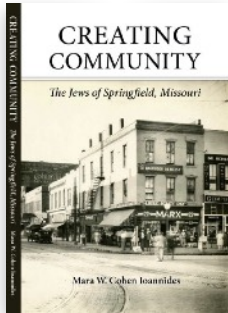
Dedicated on December 8, 2016, the Bryan Glazer Family JCC serves the entire South Tampa community in a 100,000-square foot facility. It features a fitness and aquatic center, a Visual Arts Center operated by the City of Tampa, and many other amenities and services.

This past December, the JCC celebrated its five-year anniversary along with the building's 80th anniversary. The Jewish community is proud that it could play a part in the restoration of a Tampa landmark. The Bryan Glazer Family JCC holds true to the original motto of the Armory: "*Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum*: Never a step backward."

Tampa native Carl Zielonka, DDS is a docent at the Tampa Bay History Center and archives chairman for Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

NEWS AND NOTES

New Book Spotlights the Jews of Springfield, Missouri



The Greene County Historical Society (GCHS) celebrated the release of *Creating Community: The Jews of Springfield, Missouri* at a book launch in October. Its author, Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, spoke on the history of antisemitism in the city. The foremost expert on Jews in the Ozarks, she teaches at Missouri State University and is president of the Ozarks Studies Association.

The book traces the Jewish community's history from its origins in the 1860s through the 20th century. It discusses how the Reform and Orthodox communities formed, the role played by Jews in the development of Springfield, antisemitism, and more.

The book is the first to be published by the GCHS in 20 years. Stated GCHS president John Schmalzbauer, "this is a good beginning to a new examination of our city. We need to grow beyond just Civil War history and make our publications and the Society more relevant." It is available through the [Greene County Historical Society](#) and on [amazon](#).

Levys of Monticello Film Debuts

The documentary *The Levys of Monticello* is being released in early 2022. The film tells the story of the Jewish family that owned and preserved Thomas Jefferson's home from the 1830s to the early 1920s—a period of ownership longer than that of Jefferson and his descendants.

While telling the story of the Levys' role in saving Monticello from ruin, the film explores the persistence of antisemitism from the Levys' time to the present, as demonstrated by the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville. The film also addresses the bitter legacy of slavery at Monticello during Jefferson's time and in the early years of the Levys' presence there.

The film is produced and directed by Steve Pressman and distributed by Menemsha Films. For more information and to view the trailer, see menemshafilms.com/the-levys-of-monticello.



Uriah Phillips Levy as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. *PerlePress Productions.*

Jewish Oral History Collection Is Presented in Mobile

The Jewish Mobile Oral History Project collection was launched in November with a public event at the Marx Library of the University of South Alabama in Mobile. After an introduction by project director Deborah Gurt, Josh Parshall of the Institute of Southern Jewish Life spoke on the value of oral history as a tool for expanding and enriching the Jewish archive. Attendees then viewed exhibit panels organized around central themes derived from the interviews.

Honors College students acted as conversation facilitators, while visitors noshed on home-baked delicacies such as babka and schnecken. The event brought together members of the larger Mobile community with the campus community to explore their common and divergent experiences.

The collection of approximately 30 interviews is available online through the [Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library](#). Select interviews can be accessed directly through the USA institutional repository, [JagWorks](#).



Courtesy of the Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama.

New Biography of Judah Benjamin Published



Judah Benjamin has joined Irving Berlin, Emma Goldman, and other luminaries profiled in Yale University Press's "Jewish Lives" series. *Judah Benjamin: Counselor to the Confederacy*, a new biography by James Traub, explores the forces that shaped the New Orleans lawyer, slaveholder and plantation owner, U.S. senator, and Confederate cabinet member.

Published in Fall 2021, the biography "makes a serious moral argument both about Jews who assimilated to southern society by embracing slave culture and about Benjamin himself, a man of great resourcefulness and resilience who would not, or could not, question the practice on which his own success, and that of the South, was founded," according to the publisher. Author Traub teaches foreign policy and intellectual history at New York University. The book is available from [Yale University Press](#) and on [amazon](#).

CSJC Looks Forward to a Busy Spring

The College of Charleston's Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture explored the experiences of Jews of color last fall. This spring, the University of Richmond's Michelle Kahn will speak on the rise of neo-Nazism in the U.S. and Germany, with a focus on the American South.

The Center recently hired its first research assistant, CofC graduate Emilie Crossan, who will spearhead research on South Carolina's synagogues in conjunction with the JHSSC. Also, the exhibition *Synagogues of the South (SoS)* will launch this semester. *SoS* explores synagogues in the American South through postcard images from the Jewish Heritage Collection's William A. Rosenthal Judaica Collection. Architectural historian Sam Gruber is curator, with editorial support from Dale Rosengarten and Alyssa Neely and web design by Su Schaer of Nimble Design Team.

The undergraduate seminar on southern Jewish history has returned to CofC this semester. Its 30 students will work with archivists and scholars at Addlestone Library's Special Collections and use archival materials to complete a southern Jewish history "Wikipedia Edit-a-thon." For more information about Center events, visit jewish-south.cofc.edu.

JHSSC To Meet in Beaufort

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina elected new officers at its October membership meeting. Alex Cohen, M.D., of Darlington, South Carolina will serve as president.

The popular "Conversations with Judge Richard Gergel and Robert Rosen" continues monthly via Zoom. Program topics have run the gamut from South Carolina Jews and the Civil War to the state's Jewish Nobel Prize winners. For upcoming program titles and to register, visit jhssc.org.

Beaufort, South Carolina will host JHSSC's spring/summer meeting. It has been two years since an in-person gathering and plans are in place for a wonderful weekend in South Carolina's second oldest city. Jewish Beaufort will be the topic on Saturday, June 11, with discussions and panels with members of Beaufort's Jewish community. On Sunday, June 12, a lecture and tour of Reconstruction Era National Historic Park will be offered. Registration will open by March 1, 2022. See jhssc.org for the agenda and to register.



Confirmation at Beth Israel, Beaufort, South Carolina, 1926. From left: Lena Getz, Freda Lipsitz, Ethel Lipsitz, Samuel Leon Levin, Bethsheba Keyserling, Lena Schein, Rosalyn Keyserling. JHSSC.

MSJE Wins *USA Today* Readers' Choice Award

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience has been voted one of America's 10 Best New Attractions in *USA Today*'s Readers' Choice Awards. Not only did the recently opened New Orleans museum place fifth overall, but it received more votes than any other new museum.

An expert panel chose 20 nominees, and the public then voted for the attraction of their choice. The diverse nominees from across the country included everything from skate parks to adventure centers, museums to immersive experiences.

"This award is a huge accomplishment for the Museum to receive, especially given the high quality of the other nominees," said MSJE curator (and new SJHS board member) Anna Tucker. "We're over the moon about it."



Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.

Become an SJHS Member



The SJHS advances the study, preservation, and presentation of the Jewish experience in the American South. We award prizes and research grants, publish original scholarship, support exhibitions, hold a stimulating annual conference, and—in the age of COVID-19—sponsor creative virtual programming. Members receive the quarterly *Rambler* and our annual journal, *Southern Jewish History*.



Our major source of funding is membership dues. To join online or to send a check by mail, visit jewishsouth.org/store/annual-membership for details. Please join us today!

New Board Members Elected

The SJHS welcomes five new board members elected at the virtual SJHS annual membership meeting in October:

- ▶ Rachel Barnett, executive director, Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina
- ▶ Catherine Eskin, associate professor of English, Florida Southern College
- ▶ Anna Tucker, curator, Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience
- ▶ Ashley Walters, assistant professor in Jewish studies, director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture, College of Charleston
- ▶ Stephen Whitfield, Max Richter professor of American civilization, emeritus, Brandeis University

We extend our thanks to the board members whose terms have expired: Sharon Fahrer, Dana Herman, Jeremy Katz, Adam Meyer, and Shari Rabin.