

## USC Pulls Out All the Stops SJHS Joint Conference with the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina • October 27-30, 2011

By Dale Rosengarten



"The Horseshoe," on the USC campus

Music, McKissick Museum, and South Caroliniana Library, we have designed a three-day immersion in the sights, sounds, and stories of the Jewish South.

The conference will kick off on Friday, October 28th, with a bus tour to Sumter, one of South Carolina's earliest Jewish settlements. There we will see Temple Sinai's spectacular stained glass windows, tour the Sumter County Museum, and visit the Levi family's historic home and garden.

On Saturday, panel sessions will convene in USC's new Hollings Library. Researchers and writers from near and far will explore the challenging terrain trod by southern Jews. The afternoon will continue with a bus tour of the capital city led by noted Columbia historians Belinda and Richard Gergel. The

This fall the Southern Jewish Historical Society joins up with the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina to present a weekend of scholarship, photography, film, and music on the beautiful University of South Carolina campus in Columbia. With support from USC's Jewish Studies Program, Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, School of

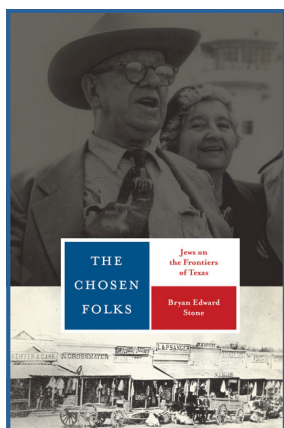
excursion will end at McKissick Museum, where Bill Aron's photo exhibition *Palmetto Jews* will be on view on the first and second floors. Shot in the fall of 2000, Aron's images document a world on the brink of a new millennium, deeply rooted yet moving fast into the future.

Saturday evening attendees are invited to return to the Hollings Library for a gala reception sponsored by the law firm Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough LLP. Guests can take behind-the-scenes tours led by the Hollings staff and browse on their own through exhibits of archival material selected from South Carolina Political Collections, the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, and the South Caroliniana Library at USC, and from Furman University's Special Collections. Video clips from *Carvalho's Journey*, a new PBS documentary about the great 19th-century painter and photographer, Solomon Nunes Carvalho, will also be on view.

Sunday the venue switches to USC's School of Music for the conference finale. Composer Meira Warshauer will perform original work, accompanied by cellist Robert Jesselson and mezzo-soprano Janet Hopkins. Historians Bryan Edward Stone and Jerrod Tanny will wrap up the morning by showing audio-visual evidence to answer the serious question, "What's so funny about southern Jews?"

The full conference schedule and registration form are in this issue of the *Rambler*. To register online, please visit [www.jhssc.org/events](http://www.jhssc.org/events).

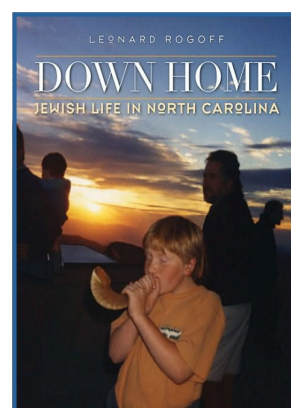
## SJHS Book Prize awarded



The Southern Jewish Historical Society is pleased to announce the recipient of its award for the best book published in the field of southern Jewish History during the previous four years. Bryan Edward Stone receives the 2011 award for *The Chosen Folks: Jews on the Frontiers of Texas* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2010). A revision of his University of Texas at Austin doctoral dissertation, Stone's book uses the concept of frontier to explicate interaction between Jews and non-Jews, and how that interaction and self-perceptions shaped the multiple and changing identities of his subjects. In so doing, he challenges the New York-centered paradigm so prevalent in American Jewish history. Stone also juxtaposes images with reality across a period of four centuries as

he debunks numerous myths. Dr. Stone serves as an Associate Professor of History at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dr. Leonard Rogoff, historian of the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina, receives honorary mention for his *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010). Like *The Chosen Folks*, *Down Home* is an iconoclastic study of an individual state's Jewish history. Rogoff shows how Jews were more tolerated than accepted and acquiesced less to southern mores as much as previous historians have suggested. North Carolina Jews were cosmopolitans who cultivated culture and brought national goods and styles as business people even in small towns. *Down Home* is also the story of constant in and out migrations; center and peripheral Jewish communal life and identity; and the rise, decline, and rebirth of town and city life.



## Columbia, S.C. — Reserve Your Hotel Room Now

Our visit to Columbia will be hosted at The Inn at USC, 1619 Pendleton Street, an elegant boutique hotel located on the historic campus of the University of South Carolina. A special conference rate is available **until September 27, 2011**. The special rate of \$115/night (plus tax) includes breakfast, parking, and free Internet. Hotel reservations are not included in your conference registration and must be made directly with the hotel. Call the Inn at USC at **803/779-7779**. Hotel information is also available at [www.innatusc.com](http://www.innatusc.com).

"Sights, Sounds, and Stories of the Jewish South" • See Conference Program, p. 3 • Registration Form, p. 6

# President's Message .....



*Stuart Rockoff*

After serving as president for almost a year, I have a newfound appreciation for the volunteers who make the Southern Jewish Historical Society function. Since our founding in 1976, we have had no paid staff and have relied on a host of people to keep the society going. Each year, we hold an annual conference that is organized and put together by volunteers. This year, Dale Rosengarten and Phyllis Leffler have put together the outstanding program for next month's conference in Columbia, South Carolina while Rachel Barnett has handled all of the local arrangements. We hope that you are able to join us for what promises to be an informative and entertaining conference.

No person has worked harder for the society than Barbara Tahsler. For years, she worked for our past president Beryl Weiner, who allowed Barbara to handle many of the administrative functions of the society. Since Beryl's recent illness and retirement, Barbara has remained dedicated to the society. She continues to be the "home address" of the SJHS, handling all of the society's correspondence and maintaining our membership roll and mailing lists. Quite simply, the society would grind to a halt without her help. Ellen Umansky has headed up our Membership Committee for the past few years, and she has done a tremendous job in sending out reminders to our members to renew their support for the society. Corresponding Secretary Jean Roseman has handled the official correspondence and has written numerous thank you notes to those who have made financial contributions to the society. Les Bergen, our outstanding treasurer, manages the society's money and offers sage advice whenever I seek it. In my day job at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, we have employees who handle all of these functions, but at the SJHS, all of these people are 100% volunteer. I'm sure all of the members of the society join with me in thanking them for their dedicated service to the society.

With all of their fine work, I have been free to focus on revamping the SJHS website, one of my top priorities. I am excited to report that within a few weeks of the time you read this, our new site will have been unveiled at [www.jewishsouth.org](http://www.jewishsouth.org). In addition to an attractive new look beautifully illustrated by historical images of Jewish life across the South, our site now includes a comprehensive bibliography of published work in the field of southern Jewish history. Drawn from the fine bibliography first put together by Eric Goldstein and Marni Davis ten years ago, and updated by our summer intern Garrett Wilkerson, the bibliography is categorized by geography and by subject. It will be an invaluable resource for the members of the society and anyone looking to learn about or do research on the southern Jewish experience.

Also, we have started to put back issues of our journal *Southern Jewish History* online. For now, articles from the first three volumes of the journal are freely accessible on our website. Articles from later volumes may be purchased for a nominal fee through our site as well. The new journal section of the website will help ensure that the outstanding articles published in the journal will be accessible and relevant to a new generation of scholars and students. I especially thank journal editor Mark Bauman and managing editor Rachel Heimovics Braun for supporting this online experiment.

The goal of the new website is to help us reach a wider audience. Indeed, another focus of my presidency is to increase the size of the society. I recently sent membership information to friends and colleagues, asking them to join the society. I even got my parents to join! (Hi Mom and Dad – I doubt anyone else has read this deep into my message!) I would like to urge each of you to think of someone you know who is interested in southern Jewish history and encourage them to join the society. This has never been easier as now they will be able to join via our website. So send them to [www.jewishsouth.org](http://www.jewishsouth.org) and let them read about all of the fine work the society does. I am confident that they will want to support this work by becoming a member.

## Mordecai Family Papers at UNC

By Leonard Rogoff

The Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill announces additions to the Mordecai Family Papers.

Mary Miley Theobald of Richmond, Virginia, has donated sixteen items, dating from 1816 to 1917. This collection includes eleven letters, eight of them between Rachel Mordecai Lazarus, her relatives, and Anglo-Irish novelist and educator Maria Edgeworth. Among the items is a pencil sketch of "Edgeworthtown house," dating to 1823, that Maria Edgeworth sent to Mr. Lazarus. Also included is a 67-page type transcription of correspondence between Rachel M. Lazarus and Maria Edgeworth from 1815 to 1838.

This addition supplements a 2007 donation of 50 items from Betty Blumquist Matthews of Hillsborough, North Carolina. This collection includes letters written to and by Mordecai family members, 1798-1896, as well as reminiscences, song lyrics, and fragments. Letters are chiefly to Ellen Mordecai of Raleigh, but there are also other family members represented in correspondence, including Emma Mordecai, Eliza Mordecai, Jacob Mordecai, and Rachel Mordecai Lazarus. Some letters were later annotated by Martha Mordecai. Of particular interest is Irish novelist Maria Edgeworth's 1816 response to Rachel Mordecai Lazarus and a letter from Maria's father, Richard Lovell Edgeworth, to Rachel. The Mordecais were interested both in the Edgeworths' approach to education and Maria Edgeworth's unflattering treatment of Jews in at least one of her novels.



Jacob Mordecai (1762, Philadelphia - 1838, Richmond)

The Mordecais, who settled in Warrenton, North Carolina, in 1792, were an influential family of Jewish origin. Jacob Mordecai, proprietor of a female academy, served as parnas of Beth Shalome in Richmond, and his daughter Emma Mordecai published in *The Occident and Jewish Advocate*. Alfred Mordecai graduated from West Point and had a distinguished military career. The correspondence between Rachel Lazarus and the Irish Edgeworths was published as *The Education of the Heart: The Correspondence of Rachel Mordecai Lazarus and Maria Edgeworth* (Chapel Hill, 1977). The family's history has also been documented by Emily Bingham at SJHS conferences and in her book *Mordecai, an Early American Family* (New York, 2003). The Mordecai correspondence has proved indispensable in tracing the religious history of early American Jewry.

The Southern Historical Collection, holding 15 million items, is the primary depository of documentary material on the American South. In addition to the Mordecai Family Papers which includes some 1,900 items, the SHC holds the Alfred Mordecai and George Washington Mordecai Papers. During the 2010 Conference, SJHS members visited UNC's Wilson Library where the SHC displayed samples from its extensive southern Jewish collections.

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to southern Jewry.

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# Sights, Sounds, and Stories of the Jewish South

Joint Conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and

the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Columbia, S.C. — October 27-31, 2011

With support from the University of South Carolina's Jewish Studies Program, Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, School of Music, South Caroliniana Library, and McKissick Museum, and Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

## THURSDAY, October 27

Arrivals/Registration, The Inn at USC

### 6:30 PM

SJHS Board dinner at the home of Richard and Belinda Gergel, followed by SJHS Board meeting at The Inn at USC

## FRIDAY, October 28

Arrivals/Registration

### 8:00 AM

Breakfast, The Inn at USC (included in room rate)

### 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

#### DAY TRIP TO SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

Buses depart 9:00 am, The Inn at USC

Temple Sinai: Tour of the sanctuary and its spectacular stained glass windows led by Elizabeth and Robert Moses • Sumter County Museum: Presentation of the museum's Jewish collections • Home and garden tour led by Dr. Wendell and Katie Levi

### 6:00 PM

Dinner and Shabbat Services at Tree of Life, Rabbi Daniel Sherman

## SATURDAY, October 29

### 8:00 AM

Breakfast, The Inn at USC (included in room rate)

#### PANEL SESSIONS

Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, USC Campus

### 9:00 AM

*Tolerance and Tensions*. Moderator: Ellen M. Umansky

Allen Krause, "The Hazan, the Minister, and the Merchant: A 177-Year-Old Lesson from Charleston, S.C."

Hyman Rubin III, "South Carolina's Jewish Republicans during Radical Reconstruction"

Marni Davis, "Allies or Adversaries? Jewish and Irish Immigrants in the New South"

Rachel R. Bergstein, "A Tale of Two Rabbis: How David Marx and Tobias Geffen Imagined Judaism in the South"

### 11:00 AM

*The Topography of Exclusion*. Moderator: Lauren L. Sklaroff

Robert Gillette, "The Virginia Plan: William B. Thalhimer and the Resettlement of German Refugees"

Edward S. Shapiro, "Fighting the War: Southern Jewish Chaplains and the Evolution of American Jewish Identity during World War II"

Catherine R. Eskin, "Jewish Sacred Space in a 'City of Churches': Temple Emanuel in Lakeland, Florida"

### 12:30 PM

Lunch

### 1:30 PM

*History and Memory*. Moderator: Dale Rosengarten

Joseph Butwin, "Old Countries: A Jewish Writer in the Southern Diaspora"

Ellen Solomon, "Creating Ruchel Solomon: The Imaginatively Constructed Individual"

### 3:00 PM

**CAPITAL CITY BUS TOUR** led by Richard and Belinda Gergel

Big Apple, Beth Shalom's first synagogue • Holocaust monument in Memorial Park • Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery

### 4:30 PM

**OPEN HOUSE** at McKissick Museum: Bill Aron's *Palmetto Jews*

### 6:00 PM

**RECEPTION**, Hollings Library, USC Campus

Guided behind-the-scenes tours on the half-hour, beginning at 5:30

#### EXHIBITS

Papers and campaign memorabilia of Isadore Lourie, Harriet Keyserling, and Sol Blatt from South Carolina Political Collections

Judaica and rare books from Hollings Special Collections and South Caroliniana Libraries

Max Heller papers from Furman University's Special Collections and Archives

Preview screening of selections from *Carvalho's Journey*, a new PBS documentary film, presented by producer/director Steve Rivo

### 7:30 PM

Dinner on your own

## SUNDAY, October 30

### 8:30 AM

Breakfast, The Inn at USC (included in room rate)

Concurrent: SJHS membership meeting and JHSSC board meeting

#### PANEL SESSIONS

Recital Hall, School of Music, USC Campus

### 10:00 AM

*Sounds of the Jewish South: The Music of Composer Meira Warshauer*.

Moderator: Phyllis Leffler

Performance and panel with Meira Warshauer, piano; Robert Jesselson, cello; and Janet Hopkins, mezzo-soprano

### 11:30 AM

*What's So Funny about Southern Jews? Performance Inside and Outside the Tradition*. Moderator: Eli N. Evans

Bryan E. Stone, "Havah Nagilah, Texas-Style: Christian Zionism and the Cornerstone Church"

Jarrod Tanny, "From the Borscht Belt to the B'nei Mississippi: Jewish Humor's Encounter with the South"

### 12:30 PM

Box Lunch and Adjourn

## ..... SJHS News .....

### ◆ *Southern Jewish History gets a new “Primary Sources” editor*

After three years as the initial editor of the “Primary Sources” section of Southern Jewish History, Sandra Berman has decided to step down because of other pressing commitments. Sandy will be sorely missed. Scott Langston has graciously agreed to assume her duties. Scott, a former president of the SJHS and long time former chair of the grants committee, is no stranger to the journal. His article, “Interaction and Identity: Jews and Christians in Nineteenth Century New Orleans,” won the first, best article published in the journal award. He followed that two years later with an article on James K. Guttheim. He wrote the primary section article for volume 14 (2011) and previously served on the editorial board. A scholar of ecumenicism and Biblical history and religion, and a person deeply interested in archives and archival sources, Scott brings a tremendous background to his new position. Anyone interested in contributing to the primary source section should contact Dr. Scott Langston at [slangston@charter.net](mailto:slangston@charter.net).

### ◆ *Teaching Southern Jewish History*

On behalf of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, Scott Langston and Bryan Stone are trying to compile a list of college faculty (full-time, adjunct, or visiting) who have taught courses in Southern Jewish History or closely related fields.

We’d like to know the title of each course, the name of the institution and instructor, the semesters it was offered, and if it is a continuing offering. We’re considering an article on the status of Southern Jewish History as a teaching field, but at this stage we just want to learn how often and where the subject has been taught. If you have information we can use, please contact either Scott Langston ([slangston@charter.net](mailto:slangston@charter.net)) or Bryan Stone ([bstone@delmar.edu](mailto:bstone@delmar.edu)).

## Remembering Bud Whitehill

by Janice Rothschild Blumberg

We mourn the recent death of Arthur (Bud) Whitehill, former treasurer of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and a dear friend to all who knew him. His good looks and welcoming smile will be long remembered, but even more will his dedicated service and unwavering integrity remain foremost with those of us who knew him well and worked alongside him on behalf of SJHS.

Bud was the consummate southern gentleman, both by temperament and by heredity. His interest in Jewish history grew out of genealogical curiosity, researching origins of his family, both sides of which settled in Georgia before the Civil War. A native of Atlanta, Bud earned a law degree from Emory University and a Purple Heart for heroic service in World War II. He and his beloved wife Helen planted new roots in Maitland, Florida, where they raised their three children, David, Ann, and Alice, and Bud pursued a successful career in the building industry, contributing to his community through his many interests, civic, environmental and historic.

Remembering Bud as a teenager camping in the mountains of North Georgia, it came as no surprise to this writer to learn that he remained an avid nature buff

throughout his life. He and Helen built their home beside a lake on which he delighted taking visitors to see the countryside by boat, maneuvering expertly through the narrow channels that separated the many scenic waterways of that area. He loved animals, most of all in his later years, his cherished Ladybug, a small white bichon frise with soulful eyes and worshipful personality.

Bud also loved baseball, sometimes finding it difficult to attend the annual conference of SJHS if it interfered with the World Series. This in no way deterred him from functioning faithfully as the society’s treasurer, however. Those who served with him on the board will remember especially his diligence in this regard, for he managed the society’s finances with the watchfulness of an Eagle Scout. Fearful that we could not afford to initiate publication of a scholarly journal in 1998, he argued against it, but later—true southern gentleman that he was—rejoiced in its success and formally commended its editors for having made it so.

SJHS extends its deepest sympathy to Bud’s family, especially to Helen, his wife of 64 years. He will be truly missed by all who knew him.

## Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities Parts of Texas added to online resource

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life is pleased to announce the addition of 39 histories from Texas to its Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities, an online historical guide to the Jewish South. To date, there are online histories for over 200 Jewish communities across the South. Researched and written by the staff of the ISJL History Department, these illustrated online histories trace the story of Jewish settlement, from its origins to the rise and sometimes decline of Jewish communities and congregations. These 39 histories, which cover the central and eastern part of the state, are based on original research into synagogue records, local newspapers, public documents, the Federal Census, oral histories, as well as numerous published works.

The Texas section of the Encyclopedia includes long histories of such large Jewish communities as Houston and Dallas, as well as smaller towns like Wharton and Brenham. According to the Director of the ISJL History Department, Dr. Stuart Rockoff, “large Jewish communities like Houston probably don’t need us to ensure that their history is preserved, but for many smaller communities, several of which have long been extinct, their encyclopedia history might be the only remaining vestige of what was once a flourishing community.” In the course of their research, the ISJL History Department has often uncovered previously unknown information. [local example] “Everyone knows about places like Dallas, Houston, and Austin, and

we have in-depth histories of these communities” Rockoff explained, “but it’s especially thrilling to be able to share the history of small, often overlooked places like Gainesville or Lockhart.”

The Texas section of the Encyclopedia has also incorporated original oral histories conducted by ISJL Oral Historian Josh Parshall. Many of the online Encyclopedia entries feature excerpts from the video interviews. According to Parshall, “first-hand accounts add texture to the histories. Instead of just reading that many Brenham Jews kept kosher, you can watch Leon Toubin describing how he hired a *shokhet* (kosher butcher) from Houston to slaughter steers in Brenham once a year.” All told, Parshall has conducted interviews with over 25 different Texans across the state. The Encyclopedia is designed to establish a dialogue between users and the ISJL: “We are not claiming this is the complete history; we hope that people send us additional stories and information so we can continue to update this work in progress.”

The ISJL History Department is currently working to add south and west Texas communities to the encyclopedia. Rockoff expects all of the Texas section, numbering 54 total histories, to complete by the end of the year. To experience the Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities, go to [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org). For more information, contact Dr. Stuart Rockoff at [rockoff@isjl.org](mailto:rockoff@isjl.org); (601) 362-6357.



# News and Notes

## Website offers Civil War-era Jewish newspaper



Journalist Don Canaan has created a website that memorializes the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S Civil War by providing digitized pages from the Cincinnati-based *Israelite* newspaper. The free site contains all weekly issues of the paper from July 1859 through July 1867. The *Israelite*, which has been published continuously since 1854 (now *The American Israelite*), was created by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder of Reform Judaism in America. Canaan is a retired U.S. Army photographer and prize-winning TV and newspaper journalist and editor. For a time, he reported for *The American Israelite*. The site is available at [www.IsraeliteOnline.com](http://www.IsraeliteOnline.com).

## World War II exhibit in Houston

The Holocaust Museum of Houston is exhibiting "Ours to Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War," which will run through December 31. "Ours to Fight For" examines and celebrates the role of Jewish servicemen and women who labored on and off the battlefield during World War II. The story is told almost exclusively in the first person, using quotations from the more than 400 oral histories of Jewish servicemen and women. It powerfully

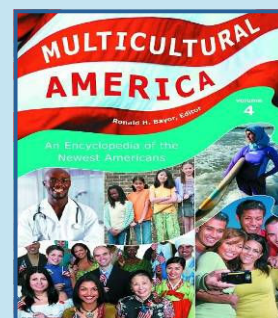
Passover greeting sent from India by Pfc. Stanley Meyerson to his parents in Biloxi, Miss.



illustrates what it was like to serve as an American and a Jew in this greatest of human conflicts. The voices of the soldiers and sailors, airmen and marines, WACs and WAVEs appear in seven videos, two audio programs, and dozens of written "labels" that narrate the exhibition and animate the artifacts, documents, military paraphernalia and images. Among the more than 200 artifacts is a Jewish prayerbook of Staff Sgt. Jacob Eines who was hit by shrapnel but not fatally wounded because of the prayerbook in his breast pocket; the accordion Hermann Goering gave to the Jewish GI who interrogated him after his surrender; and a Torah scroll used by Chaplain Rabbi David Max Eichhorn at the first Jewish service conducted at Dachau after the camp was liberated (together with the film taken at that service). Find information at [www.hmh.org](http://www.hmh.org).

## Publication on American Immigration

Ronald H. Bayor (Georgia Tech) just published the four-volume work *Multicultural America: An Encyclopedia of the Newest Americans* (Greenwood/ABC-CLIO). The volumes cover the large immigration to the U.S. since 1965, including the American South, from 50 countries, primarily in Africa, Latin American, and Asia, including Israel.



## "A Synagogue a Day" Tumblr

The Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston Special Collections recently launched the "A Synagogue a Day" Tumblr. Built using a popular blogging format, this website features prints, photographs, and postcards of synagogues around the world from the William A. Rosenthal Judaica collection. You can also follow "A Synagogue a Day" via Twitter.

- A Synagogue a Day- Tumblr: [asynagogueaday.tumblr.com](http://asynagogueaday.tumblr.com)
- A Synagogue a Day- Twitter: [twitter.com/#!/asynagogueaday](https://twitter.com/#!/asynagogueaday)

For more information on Rosenthal and his collection, please visit the William A. Rosenthal website: [rosenthal.library.cofc.edu](http://rosenthal.library.cofc.edu).

# Scholars' Conference: Jews, Slavery, and the Civil War

by Adam Mendelsohn



Editorial cartoon condemning Ulysses S. Grant for his General Order No. 11, which banned all Jews from his military district in 1862. The 1884 cartoon questions Grant's sincerity in condemning Russia's treatment of its Jews. Library of Congress.

As America begins to commemorate the most brutal and divisive conflict in its history, it is tempting to find dimensions of this bitter and bloody Civil War to celebrate. By focusing solely on the heroics and sacrifices of soldiers on both sides of the field of battle, it might be possible to persuade ourselves that the war was ennobling to all who fought in it and that both causes were equally just. American Jews, no less than our neighbors, are potential victims of this tendency to interpret the war in ways that are pleasing or affirm our own identities as patriots and Jews. While we need not wallow in memories of the brutality, injustices and troubled legacy of the war, it is important that we dip our toes into this darkened stream.

At the same time, the complexity of the conflict means that many of its dimensions still require additional investigation. Recently several scholars

have begun to reassess the impact of the war on ethnic and religious minorities – Irish, Germans, African-Americans, and Jews. Although historians began to write about the participation of Jews in the war less than two decades after the last shots were fired, much of this writing was driven by a polemical rather than a scholarly agenda. Even after more than a century of research on this topic, there are still large gaps in our knowledge and myths that need to be

punctured. With this in mind, the Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina organized a conference in May to explore *Jews, Slavery and the Civil War*.

Over the course of three days, a capacity audience heard more than 25 papers delivered by senior historians, including Gary Zola, Lee Shai Weissbach and Jonathan D. Sarna, and young scholars on a broad variety of topics. In several instances these challenged accepted orthodoxies (Judah P. Benjamin's embrace of secession, the mobility of southern and northern Jews during Reconstruction, the pro-Democratic politics of New York's Jews during the early months of the war); offered new perspectives (comparing Jewish involvement in the Civil War to that in the Anglo-Boer War); and added fine-grained analysis and revealing detail to the existing narrative. Amongst others, panels discussed Jewish slaveholders and abolitionists, the use of Judaism to justify the Union and Confederate causes, the biographies of prominent Jewish individuals in the North and the South, the experiences of Jews in Northern cities and states, Jewish life in the Confederacy, the dilemmas presented by Reconstruction, and the ways in which Jews mourned, remembered and memorialized the conflict. An undoubted highlight was the keynote lecture by Jonathan D. Sarna on General Grant's relationship with the Jews, spoken from a pulpit in the historic sanctuary of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim that had been the site of stentorian sermons in favor of the Confederate cause 150 years ago.

The Southern Jewish Historical Society was well represented by its stalwarts. Its president, Stuart Rockoff, spoke about the entanglement of Jews in a violent episode in a small Louisiana town during Reconstruction. Leonard Rogoff, his predecessor as president, described the conflicting ways in which Yankees, Confederates, Jews and African-Americans employed the imagery of chosenness to validate their positions. As the variety of papers and topics suggests, Jews and the Civil War is a fertile scholarly field. Nonetheless, there is ample room for additional research over the next four years and beyond.



## SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND STORIES OF THE JEWISH SOUTH

The Southern Jewish Historical Society • The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina  
 Joint Annual Conference • Columbia, South Carolina • October 27-30, 2011

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Friend \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

All meals will be Kosher-style. I request meals that are: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Strictly Kosher (Must be pre-ordered).

Name(s) on name tags \_\_\_\_\_

I WISH TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING (Fees are per person; advance reservations are mandatory):

Registration for **FULL program including all meals:** \$150.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration for Optional Tour to Sumter, SC: \$50.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Separate attendance at select events:

Saturday Events including Evening reception: \$100.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening Program only: \$50.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Program plus meals: \$50.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Sub-total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*You must be a member of either JHSSC OR SJHS to attend.*

JHSSC Dues		SJHS Dues	
_____ Individual / Family Membership	\$36	_____ General Member	\$36
_____ Individual-Family or General Joint Membership to both JHSSC and SJHS			\$70
_____ Friend	\$200	_____ Patron / Institutional	\$50
_____ Sponsor	\$350	_____ Century Club	\$100
_____ Founding Patron	\$1,000	_____ Cedar	\$500
_____ Pillar (\$1,000/yearly / 5 years)	\$1,000	_____ Sycamore	\$1,000
_____ Foundational Pillar (\$2,000 yearly / 5 years)	\$2,000	_____ Magnolia	\$2,500
		_____ Student (Individual)	\$15
		<b>Dues Sub-total:</b>	\$ _____

Information about this Conference is  
 available online at [www.jhssc.org/events](http://www.jhssc.org/events) and  
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### QUESTIONS?

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 843-953-5682  
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**Conference and Dues Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_