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SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013 Volume 17, Issue 1

"Mountain Jews" SJHS Visits Asheville • October 19–21, 2012

By Bryan Edward Stone



UNC Asheville campus. Photo by Dale Rosengarten

"If you must find me," writes Asheville poet and author Rick Chess in "A Circle with No End," "look here: in the part of Asheville where Jerusalem, poetry, and strangers pass through." Chess read from this essay on Saturday morning during the Southern Jewish Historical Society's 37th Annual Conference, but the line could have been pasted over the

Sharon Fahrer, local historian,

organizer, leads the walking tour of

presenter, and conference

door of the conference room as a motto for the entire event. We were the strangers passing through, but our hosts opened their city and their stories to us. Few of our annual meetings have given us such an opportunity to learn so much about a single community or to explore so deeply its lewish history.

Much of what we found in Asheville is familiar from other parts of the South. Jews have been there since the late 19th century, drawn in as the expanding railroads attracted settlers who saw commercial opportunities in the developing mountain region. As elsewhere, Jewish businesses were conspicuous in downtown Asheville, and as newcomers arrived they built the usual institutions — cemeteries, congregations, synagogues.

But much about Asheville is unique. Few southern towns have undergone such dramatic change in recent years, as the area, which long inspired writers and artists, has

which long inspired writers and artists, has

Asheville. Photo by Dale Rosengarten blossomed into a vibrant cultural center. The downtown district once dominated by Jewish retail establishments is now dotted with art galleries, cafes, brew pubs, and fine restaurants. Jews, many of them recent arrivals from elsewhere in the United States, are part of this rapidly changing scene, and we saw first-hand what drew them to western North Carolina and why they have connected so readily with the region's Jewish history.

The meeting began on Friday, October 19, with a walking tour of Asheville led by Sharon Fahrer, local historian and conference organizer, who stopped along the way at sites with a Jewish past and pointed out the Thomas Wolfe House and Black Mountain College Museum, both open to



Marcia Rothschild and Phyllis Leffler at the Ramsey Library at UNC Asheville. *Photo by Dale Rosengarten*

visitors. Conferees gathered for lunch at a downtown restaurant called Olive or Twist, followed by a discussion with local rabbis about Jewish life in the region. Later, Sharon was our guide again on a trolley tour of "Asheville's Jewish Museum without Walls," which culminated at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, where we visited the Ramsey Library's Special Collections department and

learned about its significant lewish archives.

Friday evening we were welcomed into Asheville's new JCC building for a "camp-style" Kabbalat Shabbat service: we sat in a circle, and Rabbi Philip Bentley led us in prayer, reading, and song. A panel titled "Our Southern Catskills" provided the after-dinner entertainment, with stories of Jewish hotel resorts and summer camps in western North Carolina told by two eyewitnesses—Stuart Rubin, whose family operated Osceola Lake Inn in Hendersonville for 60 years, and Tom Rosenberg, Executive Director of Camp Judaea. A quick survey found a high percentage of former campers in the audience—not surprising in the South where summer camps were counted on to create a social network for youngsters living in far-flung places with little or no Jewish community life.

Saturday, a series of panels examined notable aspects of western North Carolina's Jewish past. Catherine Riley, who lives in Asheville, presented photographs taken by her father, Robert Haas, a Jewish photographer and printer who escaped from Europe in 1939 and became a professor at



Chicken Alley, where kosher and non-kosher chickens were butchered and sold and, along with eggs, butter, and honey, were offered for sale below in storefronts on Lexington Avenue. Photo by Dale Rosengarten



The Jewish Museum Without Walls trolley tour. Photo by Dale Rosengarten

— continued on bage 5

Thanks!

The Asheville conference was a wonderful success. Thanks to a great planning committee: Sharon Fahrer, Jay Jacoby, Charles Gershon, Rabbi Philip Bentley, Rebecca Gholson, Bruce Weitz, Rochelle Reich, Lana Walter, and Phyllis Bentley. We appreciate our sponsors: the Center for Jewish Studies, UNC Asheville; History@Hand Tours; Jewish Family Services of Western North Carolina; the Asheville Jewish Community Center; Asheville Jewish Business Forum; Agudas Israel Synagogue; Jill Zimerman; and Stuart Rubin.



President's Message By Dale Rosengarten



Has anyone ever noticed Stuart Rockoff's big shoes? I've noticed, because I have the task of filling them and succeeding Stuart as president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society. Fortunately, Stuart has left our house in good order. He oversaw the renovation of SIHS's website, led the push to revise our by-laws, set up venues for the next two annual meetings (2013 in Birmingham, Alabama; 2014 in Austin, Texas), and has volunteered to cochair, with Dan Puckett, the program committee for Birmingham. I am grateful for the imprint he has made on SJHS and will continue to make in the future.

Similarly, I am indebted to Treasurer Les Bergen and Secretary Phyllis Leffler, who have been the hidden hands behind the Society's success. Thank you both for agreeing to continue in these essential roles, and thanks to Ellen Umansky for accepting the draft as vice-president / president-elect.

Thinking ahead, I see several opportunities for growth. First, I'd like our regional society to collaborate more closely with local and state sister organizations. I can imagine sharing mailing lists, launching joint membership drives, planning conferences in tandem, soliciting ideas from our partners and supporting their programs in

tangible ways. I will know we have succeeded when we attract not just one or two but a van-load of members from each state in the region to our annual meetings—which will likely mean attending and presenting at state meetings in turn.

Second, our three outreach vehicles — The Rambler, the Southern Jewish History journal, and SJHS's website — should be re-designed, so a glance at their graphics makes it clear they all emanate from the same society. In modern advertising this is called "branding" — not my favorite word but one I have come to appreciate. Each of these portals to our activities and purposes reaches a different audience. The Rambler provides news for our membership on our collective passion for discovering, procuring, and preserving the southern Jewish legacy; SJH advances the cause of scholarship and features analyses of historical events and personalities; the website serves as an interface with the public and a forum for exchanging ideas. Giving them a common look, I believe, will enable each to achieve its distinct objectives more effectively within the framework of a shared larger goal.

I look forward to hearing from you all—your thoughts, criticism, and offers of help are always welcome.

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Celebrating Beth Israel's 100th in Florence, S.C.

By Dyan Cohen

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) met in Florence, S.C., on November 2-4, 2012, in a joint event with Beth Israel Congregation in celebration of its 100th anniversary. Beth Israel boasts fifty-three member families and belongs to the Union for Reform Judaism.

Some eighty-five participants took part in the conference, whose theme was "The Jews of the Pee Dee," referring to the northeast region of South Carolina, of which Florence is the hub. Saturday afternoon started with a slide lecture by Dr. Alex Cohen, followed by "Pee Dee Pioneers," a panel discussion on Jewish manufacturers and retailers. A second panel featured relatives of the late Alan Schafer, founder of the tourist complex "South of the Border" in Dillon, S.C., who shared the unique and fascinating story of Schafer's business acumen and creativity. The company got its start in beer distributing, utilizing Jewish connections in Baltimore to gain a foothold, and still employs 350 people in Dillon County.

Baltimore and New York City were also cited by other panelists as places where their forebears got their start or tapped Jewish connections to establish their businesses. Virtually all panelists

described their families' attitudes toward African Americans, as both employees and customers, as more progressive than the status quo, even before the civil rights era reached the Pee Dee.

Saturday evening's gala featured comedian Joel Chasnoff, author of The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah. Sunday morning the celebration wrapped up with "short takes" surprising stories about local events and characters including Dillon's most famous native son, Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke.



weekend's events, take a look at the JHSSC 's fall 2012 newsletter, available online www.ihssc.org.

more on

Visitors at Beth Israel Congregation, Florence, S.C.

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SJHS Grants

By Phyllis Leffler

The SJHS is happy to announce successful grant recipients for the 2012 cycle. We had many applications submitted and lots of excellent projects. How wonderful to be able to support these new initiatives and to further research and archival projects.

Travel Grants have been awarded to senior and junior scholars, and to students working on their advanced degrees. Among the recipients are Neil Cogan, senior scholar in both law and Jewish Studies and former Dean of Whittier Law School and Sarah Imhoff, Assistant Professor at Indiana University in the Jewish Studies program. Both Dr. Cogan and Dr. Imhoff will be carrying out research in Texas in the Rabbi Henry Cohen and Sam Perl papers to explore issues related to discourses of masculinity. Marni Davis, assistant professor at Georgia State, will begin research on a new book project focusing on immigrant entrepreneurship. She will use her travel grant to work in the Baker Library at Harvard. Another recipient, Jackie Rosensweig is a graduate student at Yeshiva University and will be going to New Orleans to fill out the research for a paper that will be published on the failed effort to build a statue of Judah Touro.

A Project Completion Grant was awarded to Professor Lee Shai Weissbach of the University of Louisville to help with the publication

costs of a forthcoming book, A Jewish Life on Three Continents: The Memoir of Menachem Mendel Frieden. The book will be published by Stanford University Press. Another Project Completion Grant went to Karin Shapiro, to help complete the work on an exhibit curated for Durham, North Carolina's Beth El Synagogue on the occasion of its 125 anniversary. The exhibit will move to Duke University for its graduation exercises this Spring, and then will seek a permanent home. Also in the public history realm, a Project Completion Grant was offered to Sharon Fahrer, the co-chair of the Asheville conference and the director of History@Hand. Her grant will be used to help fund panels for Asheville's lewish Museum Without Walls exhibit.

With the support of the Donna and Scott Langston Archival Fund, we offered grants to two applicants. One grant went to the Precious Legacy Archive in Monroe, Louisiana, to help fund archival and display materials so that the history of this small community can be documented and preserved. Sandra Blate will help bring this work to completion. The other grant was awarded to Congregation Beth Israel Archives in Houston, Texas. Judy Weidman, Temple Librarian, will oversee a project to digitize and preserve important deteriorating materials dating back to the mid-nineteenth century.

A hearty congratulations to our winners!

Grants are available for 2013 for individual new research, for archival projects, and for a variety of project completion goals. We seek innovative and thoughtfully developed proposals about all aspects of southern Jewish history and culture. Applications are due on August 1, 2013, and should be sent to the Chair of the Grants Committee, Dr. Phyllis Leffler, at pleffler@virginia.edu. For detailed guidelines on proposal submission, please see http://www.jewishsouth.org/sjhs-grants-applications.

Meet the SJHS Board

By Leonard Rogoff and Stuart Rockoff

At the 2012 SJHS Conference in Asheville, a new President, Vice President, and three new board members were installed at the annual Sunday business meeting. President Stuart Rockoff passed the gavel to Dale Rosengarten; Ellen Umansky will serve as Vice President; and Barbara Bernstein, Robert Gillette and Stephen Bodzin take board positions. Les Bergen will continue as our invaluable Treasurer, and Phyllis Leffer will continue her able work as Secretary.

Dr. Dale Rosengarten, our new President, serves as a historian and, since 1995, curator of the Jewish Heritage Collection at the Addleston Library at the College of Charleston, which houses the SJHS archives. She expanded her Harvard Ph.D. dissertation on the "Social Origins of the African-American Low Country Basket" into a widely acclaimed touring exhibit, "Row Upon Row: Sea Grass Baskets of the South Carolina Lowcountry,"and a book, *Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art.* Dale spearheaded the multimedia project "A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life," and she curated the traveling museum exhibition, created a virtual museum website, and co-edited the book with her husband, the distinguished historian Ted Rosengarten. Dale was the recipient of the first Governor's Archive Award in 2003. A native New Yorker, Dale and Ted raised their two sons in McClellanville, S.C.

Dr. Ellen Umansky, our new Vice President, is the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Professor of Judaic Studies at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Ellen is well known to SJHS members as a former board member and Membership Committee Chair. She has undertaken scholarly work on southern Jewish history since the early 1980s, when a book project led her to Mobile, Alabama, where the idea of "Jewish Science" was first promulgated by Reform Rabbi Alfred Geiger Moses. A fortuitous meeting in Atlanta led to a friendship with and research on Paula Ackerman, who served as spiritual leader of Reform congregation Beth Israel in Meridian, Mississippi, from 1951-1953. She holds a B.A. from Wellesley College; an M.A. from the Yale Divinity School; and an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in religion from Columbia University. Her books include Lily Montagu and the Advancement of Liberal Judaism:

From Vision to Vocation; Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality: A Sourcebook; and From Christian Science to Jewish Science: Spiritual Healing and American Jews.

Stephen Bodzin has retired after practicing law in Washington for 45 years. A native of Detroit, he is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. Among his Jewish affiliations, Steve was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center and has served as its president. His national board memberships include the Jewish Community Center Association and the Foundation for Jewish Studies, which hosts cross-movement adult education in the Washington area. A long time resident of Alexandria, Virginia, Steve's SJHS involvement began with a local SJHS conference. Steve and his wife, Tanya, have two children and three grandchildren.

Bob Gillette brings a wealth of experience as a teacher, scholar, and Jewish community activist to the board. He holds degrees from Wesleyan University and advanced study at Hebrew Union College and Sacred Heart University. After serving as Hillel director at the University of Cincinnati, Bob has spent 30 years as a teacher and lecturer. His Teacher of the Year awards fill several shelves, including the Emanuel Gamoran National Curriculum Award and The Harvard Teachers Prize. A popular presenter at SJHS meetings, Bob is the author of *The Virginia Plan: William B. Thalhimer and a Rescue from Nazi Germany.* Married for 53 years to Marsha B. Gillette, Bob claims three sons, four granddaughters, two grand dogs, and one grand cat.

Barbara Bernstein, the granddaughter of Knoxville's first resident rabbi, has been a longtime leader of the local community, having served as president of the Knoxville Jewish Federation and the board chairman of the Knoxville Museum of Art. Her family has long been "savers" of mementos, scrapbooks, diaries, and documents. As a way to deal with all that "stuff," Barbara created the Knoxville Jewish Archives, which in about 30 years has grown to be an official part of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance (formerly the Federation).

The Nominating Committee consists of Scott Langston, Sumner Levine, Janice Blumberg, and Leonard Rogoff, who, as immediate past president, served as chair.

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News and Notes

♦ Houston JCC Live Streaming

The Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston announces that they have begun a program to live stream some of their Jewish arts and education events. The live streaming is free and available to anyone on a computer or mobile device. Find the links and a schedule of events at http://www.erjcchouston.org (click on the link in the center of the page).



Jewish Music Forum at Tulane University



The Jewish Music Forum, a conference including a concert and three sessions dealing with Jewish music, will be held on March 3-4, 2013, at Tulane University. The focus of the conference is, "How did Jewish music get to New Orleans? The sacred and the secular." The conference is free and open to the public. A complete program can be

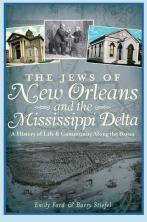
found at http://www.jewishmusic-asjm.org. For additional information, contact Professor John H. Baron, Music Department, Tulane University, caccini@tulane.edu.

♦ "Kentucky Jewry During the Civil War"

Lee Shai Weissbach announces the publication of a new article, "Kentucky Jewry During the Civil War." It appears in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, vol. 110, no. 2 (Spring, 2012).

♦ Bayou Jews

Emily Ford and Barry Stiefel have just published The Jews of New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta: A History of Life and Community Along the Bayou. The early days of Louisiana settlement brought with them a clandestine group of Jewish pioneers. Isaac Monsanto and other traders spited the rarely enforced Code Noir banning their occupancy, but it wasn't until the Louisiana Purchase that larger numbers colonized the area. Immigrants like the Sartorius brothers and Samuel Zemurray made their way from Central and Eastern Europe to settle the bayou country along the Mississippi. They made their homes in and around New Orleans and the



Mississippi River delta, establishing congregations like that of Tememe Derech and B'nai Israel, with the mighty river serving as a mode of transportation and communication, connecting the communities on both sides of the riverbank. The book is published by the History Press (www.historypress.net).

♦ Holocaust in Popular and Visual Culture

For her upcoming course at Drew College titled "Popular Culture and the Shaping of the Holocaust in American Memory," Sloane Drayson-Knigge is looking for "resources — newspapers, posters, books, film, etc. — that dealt with the 'Jewish destruction' in Europe as it was occuring; which addressed the Nazis pre/during/post the War; as well as images/stories/articles about the Holocaust in material or 'visual' culture from the mid-1930's through the late 1960's in the South. I'm looking for regional resources that are not usually known or available." Dr. Drayson-Knigge can be reached at sdrayson@drew.edu.

♦ Hebraic Collection at Library of Congress

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first gift of Hebraica to the Library. In 1912, New York Jewish philanthropist Jacob Schiff donated nearly 10,000 books and

pamphlets to the collection, forming the nucleus around which the Library built one of the world's greatest collections of Judaic research materials. "Words Like Sapphires: 100 Years of Hebraica at the Library of Congress, 1912-2012" opened October 25 and runs through March 16, 2013 in the South Gallery of the Thomas Jefferson Building. Items from the exhibition can be viewed



online at myloc.gov/exhibitions/words-like-sapphires.

♦ Biloxi's Jewish Past

The recently published Vol. 48 (2012) of Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society includes an article that recaps three centuries of Jewish history in southern Mississippi by Coast native Milton Grishman.

The fourteen page article, with numerous photographs, documents the arrival of the first Jewish colonists with the ill-fated John Law Settlement in 1720. Elias Stultheus, the business manager of one of the first French settlements in what would become the United States, is identified as a Jew from the Rhine country. Other Jews, according to the historical records, also came with the vanguard of French and German pioneers aboard the ship *Le Dromadaire*. These Jewish settlers were not the peddlers and shopkeepers of later immigrations, but endured severe hardships of disease and shortages of supplies while working at clearing land and cutting timber for constructing cabins and boat building, as illustrated in a detailed drawing of the camp for the Law Concession, dated December 1720.

The article also recounts the founding of Biloxi's old Jewish cemetery in 1853, with Samuel Friedlander as the local trustee. The only remaining headstone in that cemetery today belongs to Michel Levy, originally from Paris, France, a teen-age victim of yellow fever. Isadore Heidenheim, a native of New Orleans, is profiled as a successful seafood canner and Biloxi councilman in the early 1900's.

Copies of the journal are available by mailing a \$15.00 check for annual membership in the Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society to P.O.Box 518, Biloxi, MS 39533.

♦ Cathy Kahn Honored



Longtime SJHS member Cathy Kahn, who recently retired from the Touro Infirmary Archives in New Orleans, has received the Helen A. Mervis Jewish Community Professional Award from the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana. The award is given annually to an outstanding professional employee of a Jewish community organization in the Greater New Orleans area. Cathy Kahn came to Touro Infirmary in 1990 to create the Archives of the oldest notfor- profit, private hospital in Louisiana. For twenty-two years, she has preserved the hospital's history, creating a valuable

resource not only for the use of the hospital, but also for historians, medical researchers, students and genealogists. Cathy is also the author of several books, including "Legacy: The History of the Greater New Orleans Foundation" and "The Jewish Community of New Orleans." She has also served as project chair for "Jews of New Orleans, An Archival Guide." She has served as president of the Greater New Orleans Archivists, The Southern Jewish Historical Society, and on the boards of Temple Sinai and Newman School, among others.

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News and Notes Continued from page 4...

♦ Florida Museum Merger

On June 29, 2012, Florida International University (FIU) and the Jewish Museum of Florida (JMOF) became partners. Earlier in the month, the JMOF Board of Directors approved the gift of the two restored former synagogues on the National Register of Historic Places that house the Museum on Miami Beach, the 100,000 items in the historical collection, research library, endowment fund and other assets, and Florida's Board of Governors approved the partnership in September. FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg said, "Through this generous gift, FIU will expand our reach into the community, helping to preserve an important part of our history while enhancing the global learning experience through more than 180

bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs we offer our nearly 50,000 diverse student body." A variety of University programs, including Judaic Studies, will relocate to the Museum. Museum information is available at www.jewishmuseum.com.



"Mountain Jews" Continued from page 1...



Eli Evans, Stuart Rockoff, and Les Bergen. Stuart was honored for his two years of service as SJHS President. *Photo by Gerry Katz*



"Meet the Authors." From left, Mark Bauman, Judy Goldman, Janice Rothschild Blumberg, Rich Cohen, and Marni Davis. *Photo by Gerry Katz*

nearby Black Mountain College. Complementing the photos of campus life there, Steve Whitfield compared Black Mountain's 23-year history and its experimental educational philosophy with the establishment, in 1948, of Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. While both schools provided a refuge for Jewish artists and intellectuals fleeing Europe, Black Mountain with its freewheeling style may have contributed to its own demise, while the more structured and conventional Brandeis thrived. Wendy Fergusson presented biographies of composers Heinrich Jalowetz and Edward Lowinsky, two of Black Mountain's Jewish faculty, whose experiences exemplified the complex transnational trajectories of the refugees and their exceptionally progressive views on the issue of racial integration.

The second panel probed the thorny question of the presumed anti-Semitism of Thomas Wolfe, Asheville's favorite native son. Jay Jacoby argued that Wolfe's reputed hostility toward Jews, while founded in a number of unflattering portrayals in his novels and journals, can better be described as "profound ambivalence." Sharon Fahrer sought the roots of Wolfe's attitudes in his relationships with the Jewish townspeople he had known during his years in Asheville (the Reform synagogue was directly across the street from his boyhood home), who turn up in barely fictionalized form in his novels. Moderator Ellen Umansky — who should win



Jay Jacoby, conference academic organizer and panelist on author Thomas Wolfe. *Photo by Gerry Katz*

a prize for moderator dedication — read *Look Homeward, Angel* just days before the conference, seeking clues to Wolfe's attitudes toward Jewish people, and in the end concluded that the writer was "at best ambivalent."

After lunch, in a session moderated by Lee Shai Weissbach, Deb Weiner looked at Jewish life in the coal-mining towns of West Virginia through the lens of parents who sought to build a Jewish environment for their children; Seth Epstein analyzed the Temple Club at Asheville's Beth HaTephila in the 1930s to illuminate the congregation's public face and to consider how gentiles regarded the Jews in their midst.

The day's final panel brought together three local artists who described the region's emergence as a creative center and the influence of Judaism on their careers. Rick Chess, a poet and professor at UNCA, read from his essay "A Circle with No End," while glass artist and Klezmer musician Rob Levin and potter Lori Theriault showed slides of their work.

As evening approached, we returned to the UNCA campus where Chancellor Anne Ponder welcomed us to Pisgah House for a lively reception featuring latkes, blintzes, and music by Rob's Bandana Klezmer Band. After exploring Asheville's exciting dining scene, many conference-goers attended a reading and book-signing by author Rich Cohen, whose new release, *The Fish that Ate the Whale: The Life and Times of America's Banana King*, examines the exploits of New Orleans immigrant/entrepreneur Sam Zemurray.



Gary Freeze, speaking about the Wallace Brothers of Statesville, N.C. Photo by Gerry Katz

Gary Freeze comprised a panel unto himself on Sunday morning, speaking about the Wallace Brothers of Statesville, North Carolina. Dealers in medicinal herbs, the Wallaces depended on a network of mountain residents to harvest wild plants for them, participating in a barter economy in which they traded herbs for retail goods. The Wallace establishment came to dominate Statesville through an innovative business in which "science, commerce, and culture worked hand-in-hand."

SJHS's annual "Meet the Authors" panel, orchestrated by Mark Bauman, introduced the audience to a stellar selection of new

books: Judy Goldman's memoir Losing My Sister; Janice Rothschild-Blumberg's Prophet in a Time of Priests, a biography of Reconstruction-era Rabbi E.B.M. "Alphabet" Browne; Marni Davis's Jews and Booze; and a reprise of Rich Cohen's The Fish That Ate the Whale.

The conference proceedings were over, but the weekend was not. Guests were invited to attend Asheville's 10^{th} Annual HardLox Festival, a smorgasbord of Jewish food and crafts—among the best of its kind in the South.

SJHS is grateful for the chance to visit a town as unique and beautiful as Asheville, and we appreciate the warm hospitality and hard work of our hosts in putting together such an entertaining and informative event. "My Asheville: it lives in these few words," writes Rick Chess, "wherever they are sounded out, wherever they are heard. What will you hear? I hope you'll hear this, just this: Welcome. Welcome home."



The Bandana Klezmer Band at HardLox, with conference panelist Rob Levin on guitar. Photo by Gerry Katz

Many thanks to Dale Rosengarten and Stuart Rockoff, who contributed to this article.



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Join the Southern Jewish Historical Society!

Your membership will help support the SJHS in its efforts to study, preserve, and present the Jewish experience in the American South. The SJHS awards prizes and research grants, publishes scholarship, supports exhibitions, and holds an annual conference. Members receive *The Rambler, Southern Jewish History* journal, and special conference rates.



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