



Get on the Bus for the 2016 Conference in Natchez!

While officially the 2016 Southern Jewish Historical Society conference will take place in Natchez, attendees will also get to explore Jewish life throughout southwestern Mississippi. Jewish settlement in this region was profoundly shaped by the Mississippi River, and attendees will get to trace the Magnolia State's Jewish history by following the river. Instead of traveling by boat as 19th-century Jewish immigrants did, we will travel by air-conditioned bus!

On the morning of Friday, November 4, attendees will board a bus in Jackson and travel across Interstate 20 to Vicksburg. One of the most historic cities in the state, Vicksburg had a thriving Jewish community before the Civil War. In fact, the Vicksburg Jewish Cemetery, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was part of the landscape on which the Battle of Vicksburg was fought. Today, the cemetery directly abuts the Vicksburg National Military Park. We will visit Anshe Chesed, hearing from some of its members about the history of their congregation and their dedication to Jewish life amidst demographic changes. We will then go back in time to the early 20th century, when the Vicksburg Jewish community was large enough to build and support a beautiful downtown social club. The B'nai B'rith Clubhouse (or BB Club as it came to be known) was recently restored to its original grandeur, and we will have the opportunity to eat a delicious lunch while contemplating the many social and cultural events that once graced its ballroom.

After lunch, we will climb aboard the bus and head down Highway 61, the illustrious Blues Highway, made famous by a Jewish folk-



Natchez, yesterday and today. Top: View from "Under the Hill" District, 2014. Courtesy of Visit Natchez. Bottom: Natchez in the 1850s. From New York Public Library, Digital Collection.



rock singer from Minnesota. Mississippi has inspired several Bob Dylan songs, and he came down to lend his voice for racial justice during the Civil Rights Movement. We will stop at Port Gibson, which had a small but flourishing Jewish community in the late 19th century. The synagogue that Congregation Gemiluth Chessed built in 1892 still stands (the oldest synagogue in Mississippi still extant) though the congregation no longer exists. Its Moorish-style architecture makes it one of the most unique houses of worship in the state. Sam Gruber, a renowned expert on synagogue architecture, will give a short presentation about the building and the history of the congregation.

After Port Gibson, we will make our way to Natchez for the SJHS conference, which will explore the history of Jewish life in the hinterlands. There's no better place to do this than historic B'nai Israel, home to the Natchez Jewish community since the 1870s. The current synagogue was constructed in 1906 after the original building burned on the same site. Local tours

and a good dose of southern hospitality will ensure that this year's conference will be one to remember.

Those driving their own car to Mississippi can either leave their vehicle at the Jackson Hilton and join us on the bus, or simply follow behind us as we drive. (See the page 3 program for more info.)

The 2016 SJHS Conference promises to be a "moving" experience in both senses of the word! We hope you are able to join us.

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President's Letter

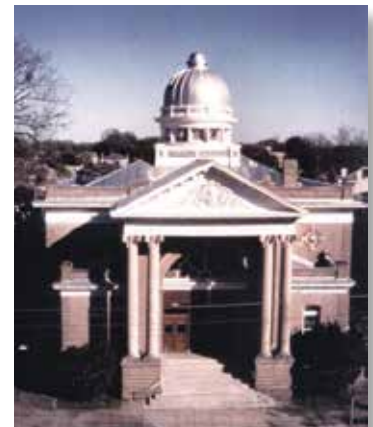
By Ellen M. Umansky



Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society. I now know at least half of our membership if not in person, then through phone conversations, contribution acknowledgments, and email correspondence. I have been fortunate to work with wonderful officers, board members, past presidents, committee chairs, journal and *Rambler* editors, program and local arrangement chairs for our Nashville and Natchez conferences, Barbara Tahsler in Marietta (with whom I have closely worked since 2010, first as membership committee chair and then as SJHS president), and many others. All of our standing committees consist of enthusiastic and hard-working members: membership; nominations; communications and marketing; finance; development; grants; and honors and awards. Plans for our 2017 conference, whose location will be announced in Natchez, are well underway.

In the many years that I have been a member of the SJHS, I have continued to find our annual conferences particularly memorable. I know that this year will be no exception. The Friday morning bus tour always affords us the opportunity to learn about the Jewish history of conference sites and local cultural, civic, and religious landmarks. This time our tour has been expanded into a far-reaching road trip, from Jackson to Vicksburg to Port Gibson to Natchez. From late afternoon on Friday, November 4, through the morning of Sunday, November 6, the program that Stuart Rockoff and Michael Cohen have organized on "Jews in the Southern Hinterland" should be fascinating, with speakers illuminating family histories, religious life, communal concerns, and the social intermingling of Christians and Jews. Shabbat services will be held at the beautiful, historically significant Temple B'nai Israel. This year's Helen Stern Cultural Encounter, a multimedia performance by Robin Amer on "Growing Up with the Last Jews of Natchez," promises to be poignant and insightful.

The Local Arrangements Committee, spearheaded by Rachel Myers of the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL), our conference co-sponsor, has set up a number of guided outing options for us in Natchez, as well as dinner on Friday night and lunch on Saturday afternoon at two of Natchez's top restaurants. I look forward to seeing many of you in November and to placing the presidency of the SJHS into the capable hands of Dan Puckett. I hope that he finds serving as president to be as rewarding and enjoyable as I have.



Temple B'nai Israel, Natchez. Photo by Bill Aron, courtesy Institute of Southern Jewish Life

Before It's Too Late: The Holocaust through North Carolina Eyes

The Holocaust Speakers Bureau (HSB), a component of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education of North Carolina, is creating *Before It's Too Late*, a documentary film and school curriculum that will present the Shoah as a North Carolina story. The HSB will interview European Jewish émigrés and their descendants who found haven in the Tar Heel State. Also included will be testimonies of Holocaust survivors, U.S. military veterans (including nurses) who liberated concentration camps, and interviews with renowned historians from North Carolina universities.

Before It's Too Late will show how local Jews like Gertrude Weil and Sidney Stern of Goldsboro struggled to save their German families desperate for rescue. Viewers will also learn of the Jewish refugee farm colony of Van



Jewish refugees at the Van Eeden farming colony. Courtesy of Holocaust Speakers Bureau

Eeden, near rural Burgaw. North Carolina Holocaust survivors and liberators will speak from personal experience of Kristallnacht, the Kindertransport, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and liberation.

The one-hour feature documentary will have a 30-minute companion version for middle and high schools and a lesson plan package for educators. *Before It's Too Late* is being produced by HSB founding director Sharon Halperin and filmmaker Steven Channing of Video Dialog, who produced the documentary *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina*. Leonard Rogoff, author of the *Down Home* book, is consulting historian.

The HSB has posted five documentary shorts on YouTube and on its website, holocaustspeakersbureau.org. If you know of North Carolinians with Holocaust-related stories, or wish to contribute financially, please contact Sharon Halperin at sharonhalperin88@gmail.com.

Jews in the Southern Hinterland

Southern Jewish Historical Society 41st Annual Conference

November 4–6, 2016 Natchez, Mississippi

Stuart Rockoff and Michael Cohen, Conference Program Chairs

Friday, November 4

9 am–3:15 pm – Bus tour from Jackson to Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Natchez

Includes on-bus lectures on delta Jewish history

- 10:30–11:30 am – Visit Anshe Chesed and Cemetery, Vicksburg
- Noon–1 pm – Lunch at B'nai B'rith Club, Vicksburg
- 1:15–1:45 pm – Ride from Vicksburg to Port Gibson
- 1:45–2:15 pm – Visit Temple Gemiluth Chessed, Port Gibson
- 2:15–3:15 pm – Ride from Port Gibson to Natchez

1 pm – SJHS chartered bus departs Jackson airport for 2-hour direct trip to Natchez

3:15–4:30 pm – Welcome to Natchez at Temple B'nai Israel

- Teri Tillman, “B'nai Israel and Natchez Jewish History”
- Jennifer Stollman, “Natchez Jewish Women”

4:30–5:30 pm – Check in at hotel

5:30–6:45 pm – Dinner at Rolling River Bistro

7–8:30 pm – Shabbat Services and Keynote, Temple B'nai Israel

- Services led by ISJL Rabbi Jeremy Simons
- SJHS Helen Stern Cultural Encounter: Robin Amer, “Growing Up with the Last Jews of Natchez,” multimedia performance exploring what traditions, culinary and otherwise, might disappear when a community is gone.

Saturday, November 5

7:45 am – Shabbat Service

- Led by Rabbi Stanley Garfein

9–10:15 am – Standing on Ceremony: Jews & Gentiles in the South

Chair: TBD

- Sam Gruber, “Jews, Masons, and Cornerstone Laying Ceremonies for Synagogues in the South”
- Kay Goldman, “The Grandest Masquerade of the Season: Purim and Other Social Occasions as Opportunities for Jews and Non-Jews to Intermingle in 19th-Century Texas”

10:30 am–Noon – Acts of God: Responding to Epidemics & Disasters in Southern Jewish Communities

Chair: TBD

- Anton Hieke, “Revisiting Yellow Fever in Southern Jewish Communities”
- Michael Cohen, “Lost in the Flood: The Story of Washing Away of Jewish Life in Bayou Sara, Louisiana”
- Marlene Trestman, “Jewish Orphans of the Southern Hinterland: The Geographic and Social Journeys of the Children Who Lived in New Orleans’s Jewish Orphans Home, 1856–1946”

12:30–1:30 pm – Luncheon at Carriage Hall

- Speaker: Steve Whitfield, “Jews against the Ku Klux Klan”
Introduction by Macy Hart

1:45–3 pm – Panel Discussion: Family History & Jews in the South

Moderator: Stuart Rockoff

- Sally Wolff King, “The Wolff Family: Two Generations of Jewish Life in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas”
- Clara Silverstein, “Bertha and Benjamin: A Love Story”
- Janice W. Fernheimer and Beth Goldstein, “Sharecropping Tobacco in Kentucky: A Narrative of ‘Jewgrass’ Identity”

3–3:45 pm – General Membership Meeting

3:45–6 pm – Guided Natchez Outing Options

- Jewish Natchez Tour (includes Natchez Jewish Cemetery, Under the Bluff, homes of former Jewish merchants).
Led by Mimi Miller and Terri Tillman.
- William Johnson House
- Grady Photography Collection at First Presbyterian Church
- Longwood Home
- Melrose Plantation

6 pm – Dinner on your own

Sunday, November 6

9 am – Early bus departs for 2-hour trip to Jackson airport

9–10:15 am – Southern Synagogues & the Gentile World

Chair: Ellen Umansky

- Shari Rabin, “Judge, Jury, Jews: Southern Synagogues in Postbellum Courts”
- Joshua J. Furman, “The Door is Always Open to Men and Women of Goodwill: Celebrating Brotherhood Week in the Bible Belt, 1945–1975”

10:30–11:30 am – Speak, Memory: Conversations with Our Grandparents

Moderators: Dale Rosengarten and Adam Meyer

- Marcus D. Rosenbaum, *Heart of a Wife: The Diary of a Southern Jewish Woman*
- Henry M. Seiden, *Grandpa White’s Diary: A Jewish Immigrant in 19th-Century America*
- Bryan E. Stone, *Memories of Two Generations: A Yiddish Life in Russia and Texas*

12:30 pm – Bus departs for 2-hour trip to Jackson airport

Our Conference Co-Host: Getting to know the ISJL

By Rachel Myers

While many SJHS members are familiar with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) as a leading source for learning about southern Jewish history, the ISJL's mission and programming offer so much more.

Our story goes back to the creation of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (MSJE), built at the Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi, in 1986. The MSJE served as a clearinghouse and information center supporting the preservation and revitalization of Jewish culture in the South. In 2000, it expanded its mission and became a subsidiary project of the ISJL. Now, we're not only preserving southern Jewish history—we're also helping sustain vibrant, contemporary southern Jewish life. The ISJL provides resources and support to southern Jewish communities of all sizes and branches of Judaism. We believe that no matter where Jews live, they deserve access to dynamic Jewish life and community.

Our six departments develop curriculum and programs that are delivered directly to communities, no matter how small. We offer rabbinic visits to small congregations with no rabbis of their own. We provide innovative community engagement opportunities, historical preservation, and cultural programs. Our education program reaches 3,500 Jewish children and their families.

Our *Education Department* currently serves 70 congregations. Our unique "3-C" System includes a conference (held annually, attended by all partner communities), curriculum (user-friendly, fully scripted religious school lesson plans for pre-K through high school), and community visits (thrice annual visits from ISJL Education Fellows, and constant support). With the goal of offering inclusive cultural programs to cities big and small, our *Programming Department* brings authors, speakers, musicians, comedians, and films to the



Rachel Myers and the ISJL Traveling Trunk. Courtesy of Institute of Southern Jewish Life

region, sharing the joy of Jewish culture with a diverse audience while fostering shared experiences and community-building.

The *Rabbinic Department* serves small congregations that lack rabbinic leadership. The ISJL's itinerant rabbi travels to these under-served congregations, speaking, teaching, and supporting Jewish life in every corner of the South. We also coordinate visits from other clergy through our "Rabbis on the Road" series. Our *Community Engagement Department* partners with nonprofits, schools, individuals, and congregations to pursue *tikkun olam*, repairing our world.

From literacy to peer mediation, our focus is on sustainable, meaningful initiatives that engage not only volunteers but also the populations served.

The mission of the *History Department* is to preserve the story of Jewish life in the South and make it available to a wider audience. Our online *Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities* is a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, and people interested in family history. (Check it out at isjl.org.) MSJE remains a collecting institution, but has shifted its focus to outreach education and historic preservation. The MSJE traveling trunk, a hands-on program containing artifacts, photographs, maps, and board games, teaches students about 19th-century European immigration to the South and how Jewish immigrants made an impact on their communities. We also help universities, congregations, and others plan heritage tours through the Jewish South, connecting with the people and places that make a "Southern Jewish Experience" trip enriching and unforgettable.

We are excited to partner with SJHS this fall and look forward to sharing more about our organization with you. See you in Natchez!

Rachel Myers is the ISJL's Museum & Special Projects Coordinator.

The President's Rabbi: An Archivist's View

By Jim Pfeifer

When Rabbi Eugene Levy asked me, as the volunteer archivist at Little Rock Temple B'nai Israel, to pick up some boxes of materials from his cluttered office, I had no idea what the boxes contained or how I would ever sort them out. With help from Temple member and University of Central Arkansas Professor Philip Spivey and four of his interns, over a seven-year "Sunday morning only" timespan, the papers of Rabbi Levy's 24-year career at B'nai Israel are largely processed in nearly 50 archival boxes. An on-line finding guide is being prepared.

What we did not expect to find: vast personal communications with Bill and Hillary Clinton during Bill's governorship and presidency, and letters to and from their many White House aides. In addition, because of Rabbi Levy's close association with the Clintons, he received many missives from members of the American Jewish community, ranging from well-known rabbis to persons in prison,

all hoping to capture the President's ear. Professor Spivey was particularly intrigued by messages handwritten on scraps of paper from Jonathan Pollard's prison cell.

As we sorted the papers, we pondered concepts of faith, power, and friendship, and the propriety and potential of religious leaders with strong connections to political power. Though Rabbi Levy has not yet written on such subjects, he has used the now-processed B'nai Israel archives to reconstruct an account of his experiences with President Clinton and the First Lady, which he has self-published as "A Privileged Encounter—My Unique Experience with President Bill Clinton, 1987-2000." Contact Rabbi Levy at elevy79@yahoo.com for information about his book. The Rabbi Eugene Levy Papers at Temple B'nai Israel archives are available to researchers.

Jim Pfeifer is Archivist at Temple B'nai Israel in Little Rock.

Keeping the Flame Alive: The Rededication of the Middlesboro Jewish Cemetery

By Mary Ann Merrell

How best to begin this story?

Once upon a time a rabbi traveling in the Kentucky mountains stopped at a local grocery where, because he was wearing a *kippah*, someone mentioned a Jewish cemetery in town right off Hebrew Road.

Or . . . once upon a time, an adventurous *tzadik* convinced his wife to move to a small town in east Tennessee that needed his expertise to create a medical school.

Or . . . once upon a time, the Knoxville (Tennessee) Jewish Alliance received an email from the mother of a college student attending Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. She wanted to talk to someone about a Jewish cemetery in nearby Middlesboro, Kentucky, that she had seen in a YouTube video.

This story deserves to start with all three beginnings because all three people, without any connection to Middlesboro, came upon the cemetery around the same time and saw it as a sacred place deserving their attention.

Lincoln Memorial University—created in 1897 to honor Abraham Lincoln's wish to establish a university for east Tennessee, whose people remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War—has 4,000 students and a flourishing new medical school. In 2015, LMU established the Maimonides Jewish Student Association (MJSA). The effort to create a recognized Jewish organization on campus was led by Dr. Howard Teitelbaum (the *tzadik*), professor and chair of the department of preventive medicine, and three medical students: Troy Fuller (the rabbi, starting a second career as a doctor), Jordan Miller (daughter of Julie Kogen, the email sender), and Jarrod Walerstein.

For MJSA's first project, the students decided to renovate the Middlesboro Jewish Cemetery. With no remaining Jewish presence in Middlesboro, the cemetery was cared for from afar by a few descendants, but funds were short and long-term needs were going unmet. The students raised funds, repaired the wrought-iron gate and fencing, and addressed other maintenance needs. They also turned into arborists and landscape architects between classes.

Others played key roles as well, including Kogen, a unique contributor both as a fundraiser



A Chicago gangster in a Kentucky cemetery. Courtesy of Lincoln Memorial University

in Florida and a seasoned general contractor who suggested engineering solutions for the cemetery. Knoxvilleian Sam Balloff added immensely to the project as resident historian and storyteller. And so the cemetery has been thoughtfully and lovingly reinvigorated through the work of the MJSA, in concert with Melvin and Evan Sturm, cemetery trustees since 1984, and current trustees Gary Sturm and Mary Ann Merrell (all of Knoxville). Melvin and Evan's parents, Louis and Beatrice Cawn Sturm, and Mary Ann's paternal grandmother, Sadie Sussman Cawn, are interred in the cemetery.

Although Middlesboro never had a synagogue, it had a Jewish congregation that held services at the Masonic Temple into the 1930s. The cemetery was founded by fruit store owner Ben Horr after his six-year-old granddaughter passed away in 1904. Horr donated the land with the stipulation that anyone of the Jewish faith could be interred there. There are 84 burials, the last being over a decade ago. Perhaps the most notable is that of Polish immigrant Jack Zuta, a Chicago gangster who had once been Al Capone's accountant (his mother thought he was a horse trader). Murdered in Wisconsin while running from his enemies in 1930, Zuta was buried by his Middlesboro cousins. They had difficulty finding a religious leader to officiate the funeral because of safety concerns, so Melvin's father Louis, a merchant, led the service.

In honor of the cemetery rejuvenation, the MJSA and trustees held a rededication on June 8, 2016. More than 30 people attended, including students, trustees, descendants of the Middlesboro Jewish community, and a strong Knoxville contingent, from Rabbi Alon Ferency of Heska Amuna Synagogue to members of the Knoxville Jewish Archives committee. William Tribell, director of the Bell County Historical Society and Museum, also attended, along the Jones family, caretakers of the cemetery for over 40 years.

For more information on the history of the Middlesboro, its Jewish community, and the cemetery, read *The Magic City: Footnotes to the History of Middlesborough, Kentucky, and the Yellow Creek Valley*, by Ann Dudley Matheny, 2003, and *Coalfield Jews: An Appalachian History*, by Deborah R. Weiner, 2006.

Mary Ann Merrell is a volunteer with the Knoxville Jewish Archives. For more information, contact archives@jewishknoxville.org.



Melvin and Evan Sturm, former trustees of the Middlesboro Jewish Cemetery, at the June rededication. Courtesy of Lincoln Memorial University

NEWS AND NOTES

Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South Launches Exodus Project

The Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South has received a generous \$6,000 grant from the Memphis Jewish Federation's Fedovation Impact Grant Committee for the Exodus Project, a two-year oral history project that will culminate in a special exhibition at the Memphis Jewish Community Center in April 2017. Collaborating on the project with JHS are Bornblum Jewish Community School, Jewish Family Service Department, Margolin Hebrew Academy, Memphis Jewish Community Center, Plough Towers, and the Temple Israel Archives.

Volunteers along with middle schoolers in the Jewish community are interviewing Jews from the former Soviet Union who resettled in Memphis during the late 20th and early 21st centuries, as well as interviewing the professionals and volunteers who helped in their resettlement.

The interviews are being stored at the Temple Israel Archives under the direction of archivist Jennifer Campbell.

Inspired by Richmond's Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives, volunteers are creating an interactive exhibition, to include family and community photographs, excerpts from interviews and stories, and personal objects.

—Lynnie Mirvis, Project Writer and Coordinator for the Exodus Project.



Bornblum Jewish Community School students interview Lena Vaysbukh. Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South

JHSSC Spotlights Greenville Congregation's Centennial

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will travel to upstate South Carolina this fall to celebrate the centennial of Congregation Beth Israel in Greenville. Scheduled for October 21–23, the meeting will explore the roots of the Greenville Jewish community through lectures, panel discussions, and tours.

Furman University's Diane Vecchio will open the conference with her lecture "Jewish Entrepreneurs in the Carolina Upcountry." Saturday's first panel, "From the Old Country to the Upcountry," will feature members of longstanding Jewish families recollecting their lives in Greenville. Second, "From Main Street to the Board Room" will explore the city's economic transition and changes in Jewish demographics over the past hundred years.

An historic marker dedication and evening concert of music by Ernest Bloch and Leonard Bernstein at the Peace Center for Performing Arts will round out the day. Sunday morning, Trude Heller, her children, and former South Carolina Governor Richard W. Riley will share memories of Max Heller, mayor of Greenville from 1971 through 1979, who is widely credited with the city's revitalization. The weekend will conclude with a walking tour downtown, including Max Heller Plaza, led by urban planners Abbie Rickoff and Barry Nocks. To register, please go to jhssc.org.



Max Heller (far left) at high holiday services at Greenville's Beth Israel, circa 1958. Courtesy of Joan Bolonkin Meir

From Abe Lincoln to Harry Golden

The Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture is having a busy fall. On September 28, acting director Shari Rabin gave a lunchtime talk on Jews and the 1860 U.S. Presidential race, when sectionalism flourished and the nation elected its first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln. Her presentation is part of a series on "Jews and Elections" in historical perspective. Author and journalist Kim Hartnett will speak about her book, *Carolina Israelite: How Harry Golden Made us Care about Jews, the South, and Civil Rights*, on Sunday, October 30. For more, find us on Facebook, Twitter, or at JewishSouth.cofc.edu.

Hotel Info for Jackson and Natchez—Reserve Today!

Thursday night in Jackson: We have reserved rooms at the Jackson Hilton for \$107 (plus taxes). Call 1-888-263-0524 to request reservations, or go online to hiltonjackson.com and place the group code where prompted. Group Code: ISJL11.

Friday and Saturday nights in Natchez: We have reserved rooms at the Natchez Grand Hotel for \$139 per night (plus taxes), including full breakfast and free parking. Call 1-866-488-0898 and mention the SJHS group rate.

The SJHS Goes to Potsdam

Recent scholarship has shown that Jewish history cannot be understood within the borders of a single region, or even a single nation. Crosscurrents and interactions, similarities and mutual impacts are missed if historians look only at events in their own region. The “transnational” approach aims to look beyond national borders and thus to do justice to the international aspects of history.

In July, historians gathered at Potsdam University in Germany for a conference on “Re-Framing American Jewish History and Thought: New Transnational Perspectives.” The SJHS and southern Jewish history were represented by conference co-organizer Anton Hieke, presenter Janice Blumberg, and Rabbi Gary Zola, director of the American Jewish Archives, who served as introducer, summarizer, and invaluable mentor throughout. Cornelia Wilhelm, a past SJHS conference presenter, also participated. Noted historian and Rabbi Michael Meyer, professor emeritus at Hebrew Union College, gave the keynote lecture on Jewish immigration to the U.S. “From the organizer’s



Potsdam's Neues Palais, one of the conference venues. *Courtesy of Anton Hieke*

perspective it was a pleasant surprise that so many scholars worldwide submitted excellent proposals,” observed Anton. Participants came from three continents and presented on a wide variety of subjects, “bridging the gap between the academic worlds” of Europe and the U.S.

Janice Blumberg presented on “An American Rabbi’s Advice to Herzl: Rabbi ‘Alphabet’ Browne and Zionism in America.” After submitting her proposal, she remarked, “Little did I dream that it would be accepted and that I would be in Germany joining academics and rabbis from many different countries at a podium in the former palace of Prussian monarchs.” Impressed by the “depth of Jewish culture to which many of the scholars reached,” she added that “the most eye-opening aspect of the conference was how few of the participants were Jewish.”

Both attendees noted that southern Jewish history has “much to gain” from the transnational perspective. Stated Janice, “Anton and I hope that European and Israeli scholars consider joining SJHS as he has done, and attending our conferences whenever possible.”

New Volume of *Southern Jewish History* Is Published

The editors of *Southern Jewish History*, the annual peer-reviewed journal of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, announce publication of Volume 19. The journal has been published each fall since 1998.

The issue includes articles by Barry Stiefel, Florence Jumonville, Emily Katz, Ellen Rafshoon, and Jeremy Katz. It also contains book, exhibit, and website reviews, and, for the first time, a film review.

Members of the SJHS receive copies as a benefit of membership. Society members may purchase additional copies for \$15 each, nonmember or online purchases are \$20, and institutional purchases are \$40. Mailing outside the U.S. adds \$20 to the price.

Back issues of the journal are available at jewishsouth.org for \$15 for individuals and \$40 for institutions. For additional information and purchasing, email journal@jewishsouth.org.

SJHS Announces 2016 Grant Awards

The Grants Committee is pleased to announce award recipients for 2016. The committee makes awards in three categories: to worthwhile archival projects, for travel to support original research, and for project completion. These grants are so important for encouraging new research and for making materials available for current and future researchers.

This year, Scott and Donna Langston Archival Grants were awarded to three recipients. The University of Kentucky Research Foundation received a grant to support the work of a Jewish Studies student to create a finding aid for the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass records. These records date back to the 1880s and reveal the educational, charitable, social, and cultural activities of the Jewish community in central Kentucky. A grant to the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta will support transcription of oral histories with Alabama Jews regarding Jewish response to and participation in the Civil Rights Movement. At the Temple Israel Archives in Memphis, grant funds will support the transcription and digitization of interviews from the Temple’s Oral History Project with Memphians living in the area for three or more generations.

In the Project Completion category, SJHS will support the publication of two important books that will extend our knowledge of American Jewish life and culture. Long-term Society member Leonard Rogoff will publish *Gertrude Weil: The Torch of Idealism* and Shari Rabin, a relatively new and enthusiastic member, will publish *Manifest Jews*, a book about mobile Jews and the ways they built their Jewish identities. Finally, an exhibit on the Jewish Educational Loan Fund that will originate at the Breman and travel to other venues will come to fruition through modest SJHS grant support.



North Carolina’s Gertrude Weil is the subject of a new book by Leonard Rogoff. *Courtesy of Holocaust Speakers Bureau*

An SJHS Travel and Research grant will support the work of Ph.D. student Timothy Quevillon, who is researching Rabbi Moshe Cahana, an Orthodox rabbi in Houston who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and supported interracial civil rights activities in the Houston area.

—Phyllis Leffler, Grants Committee Chair



Conference Registration Form

Jews in the Southern Hinterland

Southern Jewish Historical Society 41st Annual Conference
November 4-6, 2016 Natchez, Mississippi



Name _____ Spouse/Companion _____

Mailing Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Registration for full program:* Includes lunch/dinner Fri, lunch Sat, and transport to all events. \$135 per person (\$150 after Oct 1). \$ _____

Jackson-Natchez round trip bus fee (See below for bus options) \$55/person. \$ _____

***Full conference registrants must be members of SJHS.** If you are not a member or wish to renew, include membership dues. \$ _____

Daily options (local residents only) \$50 Friday program, lunch, dinner _____ \$50 Saturday program, lunch _____ \$ _____

Meals: _____ Require vegetarian meals. (Kosher meals are not available.) **Total Payment:** \$ _____

Bus Options: Pick up at 9:30 am Fri, Nov 4, at Jackson Hilton for morning bus tour to Vicksburg, Port Gibson, & Natchez
 Pick up at 1 pm Fri, Nov 4, at Jackson-Evers International Airport for direct bus to Natchez
 Pick up at 9 am Sun, Nov 6, at Natchez Grand, drop off at Jackson airport, 11:15 am
 Pick up at 12:30 pm Sun, Nov 6, at Natchez Grand, drop off at Jackson Airport, 2:45 pm, and Jackson Hilton
 I will arrange my own transportation to Natchez

Register online at jewishsouth.org OR, submit this form with your check (made out to **Institute of Southern Jewish Life**) to: Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, P.O. Box 16528, Jackson, MS 39236.

Early bird registration deadline is Oct 1 (postmarked). Take advantage of the reduced rate and help your conference organizers by registering early. Registration must be cancelled by October 21 to receive a refund. Bus fee is non-refundable.

Questions? Contact Rachel Myers at rmyers@isjl.org or 601-362-6357.

HOTEL MUST BE RESERVED SEPARATELY. See page 6 for hotel reservation info.

***SJHS dues:** (circle appropriate level)

Student (individual only)	\$15
General (individual or family)	\$36
Patron	\$50
Century	\$100
Cedar	\$500
Sycamore	\$1,000
Magnolia	\$2,500