ERAMBLER &

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Maxwell House Coffee

Honors Famous Jewish-American Patriots

FRANCIS SALVADOR 1747-1776
The First Jewish Patriot Killed in the American Re

FALL 2022

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 4

Around the Atlantic World in Three Days: SJHS to Meet in Charleston

It's almost time to pack your bags: the Southern Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina are pleased to present the SJHS 46th annual conference at the College of Charleston on October 21–23, 2022.

In line with this year's theme, "Southern Jews and the Atlantic World," presenters will examine the roles Jews played in colonial-era networks that connected Europe, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere. Others will take the story into modern times, analyzing, for example, how the International Style in synagogue architecture came South.

Participants will encounter a range of intriguing characters, from Richard Lushington, who led a Revolutionary militia known as the Jews' Company, to Max Heller, a refugee from Nazism who, as mayor of Greenville, South Carolina, added European flair to the city streetscape, then went on to become a powerful agent of international development in Governor Richard Riley's administration.

The conference will debut new research on southern Jewish life on a wide range of topics, including the contested legacy of South Carolina's highly revered patriot

Francis Salvador; African American perspectives on the Talmud; and coverage of the Leo Frank trial and murder in the Ladino press.

Professors Michael R. Cohen of Tulane University and Shari

Rabin of Oberlin College will be our distinguished keynote speakers. On Friday, Cohen will deliver the Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Lecture at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim on the subject of his current book project, *American Jews: An Economic History*. On Saturday, Rabin will present a new interpretation of Jewish life in early Charleston, sponsored by the Helen Stern Fund.

On Saturday evening we will gather at the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library to celebrate the Jewish Heritage Collection's remarkable 30-year run with music, hors d'oeuvres, and libations. We will witness the first SJHS Best Paper award







Clockwise from top left: Revolutionary War hero Francis Salvador, as recognized by Maxwell House. Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries. Miniature portraits of Richard and Charity Lushington. Gift of Elizabeth Adams to the Charleston Library Society, photos by George H. McDaniel. Leah Moses's Charleston Mercury ad (1833) illuminates early Jewish life in Charleston, the focus of Saturday's keynote. Family of Lee

Cohen Harby, whose plantation reminiscences will be featured in a panel about performance and memory. Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries.

given to a current grad student—a cash prize underwritten by the Rabbi Allen Krause Fund—and have a chance to view the fabulous postcard portfolios of the William A. Rosenthall Judaica Collection that illuminate the recently launched online exhibit Synagogues of the South.

Outside the conference rooms and reception hall, attendees will be able to choose among guided tours of Charleston's uptown Jewish merchants, the historic Coming Street Cemetery, and the Old Slave Mart Museum, and will have ample opportunity to partake of the city's amazing cuisine.

For three years now, we've been saying, "Next year in Charleston!" The time is finally near.

 $- A shley \ Walters \ and \ Dale \ Rosengarten, \ program \ committee \ co-chairs$



Officers and Board 2022

PRESIDENT

Jay Silverberg

VICE PRESIDENT

Josh Parshall

SECRETARY

Marni Davis

TREASURER

David Meola

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Phyllis Leffler

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rachel Barnett

Catherine Eskin

Karen Franklin

Joshua Furman

Eric Goldstein

Stephen Krause

Anna Tucker

Ellen Umansky

Ashley Walters

Stephen Whitfield

JOURNAL EDITOR

Mark Bauman 678.828.7484

markkbauman@aol.com

JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Bryan Edward Stone bstone@delmar.edu

JOURNAL FOUNDING MANAGING EDITOR

Rachel Heimovics Braun

RAMBLER EDITOR

Deborah R. Weiner Send editorial inquiries to: dweiner70@gmail.com

Send address changes to: Barbara Tahsler SJHS PO Box 71601 Marietta, GA 30007-1601 barbarasjhs@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

Karen Franklin 917.969.9014 karenfranklin@gmail.com

Rachel Barnett rgbarnettsc@gmail.com

© 2022 Southern Jewish Historical Society

President's Message By Jay Silverberg



This line in a book I am reading struck a chord: "All history is local, but it doesn't occur in a vacuum." I began my journey through southern Jewish history inside the Jewish Home for Widows and Orphans, where I found my maternal grandmother in a 1900 census record. She and her younger sister and older brother had been orphaned in 1897. None of us in my family knew. The questions came as fast as I could travel to Louisiana and ask the clerk in East Feliciana Parish for my maternal great-grandfather's estate records. The answers I found in the thick, dusty folder began filling the vacuum of my family's history.

Genealogy brought me to the SJHS. Yet, I quickly learned that the history we find digging through the dust is inextricably linked to the interpretation of our professional colleagues. We are privileged that the joint interests of involved participants and academics have served us well during the Society's 46-year history. Our conferences, programs, and publications have continually included those of us, like me, with an abiding passion for southern Jewish history, and professionals who have made it their life's work to analyze our joint pasts.

We have learned so much. There is so much more to do. The past two years as SJHS president have been a privilege. I am ending my term thus I wish to thank my board colleagues for their unwavering support; our members who have been resolute throughout these challenging times in supporting Internet-based and at times in-person programming; and our historical society and museum partners with whom we have established important collaborations that will undoubtedly serve us well.

I am honored to turn the presidency over to Josh Parshall. I was exploring his work on local histories at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life before I ever met him. Indeed, we learn from each other, regardless of how local our histories may be.



Two of our most revered colleagues have left us in recent months, Eli Evans and Bernie Wax. We would not be the Southern Jewish Historical Society without them. Eli Evans stepped from the pages of his iconic book, *The Provincials*, to urge his colleagues to create an organization devoted to southern Jewish history. Bernie volunteered his exceptional organizational skills to ensure that SJHS would thrive. We will begin our 47th year in Charleston. That stands as testimony to the contributions of our dear friends, Eli and Bernie. L'shalom.

In Memoriam: Bernie Wax

When Bernard ("Bernie") Wax died on September 2 at age 92, the SJHS lost one of its champions. Along with Saul Viener, Bernie "provided the heart, soul, and institutional well-being of the SJHS for decades," said Mark Bauman, editor of *Southern Jewish History*.

The son of Ukrainian Jewish immigrants, Bernie was born and raised in Philadelphia. He received a B.A. and M.A. in history at the University of Chicago and served as state historian at the Illinois State Historical Library before becoming director of the American



Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) in 1966, a position he held until 1992. Under the auspices of AJHS, Bernie became deeply involved in the relaunch of SJHS at our 1976 founding conference in Richmond and helped publish *Turn to the South*, the influential essay collection that grew out of the conference. He was SJHS treasurer for more than 20 years, as well as a key board member and constant presence at our conferences along with his beloved wife, Dolly, who passed away in January. He also proofread every issue of *Southern Jewish History*, including the just-published 25th volume. He is survived by three children, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. *Photo from the 1990 SJHS conference courtesy of Rachel Heimovics Braun*.

Southern Jews and the Atlantic World

Southern Jewish Historical Society 46th Annual Conference / Charleston, South Carolina, October 21–23, 2022

Co-host: Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

All events will take place at the College of Charleston unless otherwise noted.

Friday, October 21

8:30-9:30 am: Registration (Jewish Studies Center, College of Charleston)

9:30-10 am: Welcome Remarks

Jay Silverberg, Southern Jewish Historical Society Rachel Gordin Barnett, Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

10-11:15 am: Jews, Modernism, and the Cosmopolitan South Chair: Marian Mazzone

- Samuel D. Gruber, "The International Style Comes South"
- Leonard Rogoff, "Matisse and his 'Baltimore Ladies': The Cone Sisters Collect Modernist Art"
- Cheyenne McClain, "Dr. Abram Kanof: Collecting International Judaica and the Development of Southern Jewish Identity"

11:15 am-12:30 pm: Lunch (on your own)

12:30-1:45 pm: Concurrent Panels Colonial Jews and the Atlantic World

Chair: Sandy Slater

- Sara Jay, "Practicing Empire in the American South: What a Historian of North African Jews Can Learn from Studying Jews in the Colonial Atlantic World"
- José Alberto Tavim, "Aaron Lopez's Business Networks and the South"
- Rivi Feinsilber, "Jews and Anti-Jewish Prejudice: Transatlantic Transfer to the New World"

Performance and Memory in the American South

Chair: Catherine Eskin

- Heather Nathans, "'An Esther at the South': Re-Imagining Southern Womanhood"
- Michael Hoberman, "Housebound Specters: The Mordecai House Dynasty's Fall from Grace"
- Gabrielle Berlinger, "Everyday Things, Singular Stories: Preserving and Presenting Jewish Material Culture in Greensboro, NC"

2-3:15 pm: Concurrent Panels Encounters with the State

Chair: Lance Sussman

- Seth Barrett Tillman, "New Thinking on Jacob Henry"
- Eric Eisner, "Jewish Rights on Middle Ground: Race and the Religious Test in Antebellum Maryland"
- John Williams, "The Jewish Problem: Jewish Merchants in the American South during the Civil War"

Politics of Preservation

Chair: Grant Gilmore

- George H. McDaniel, "Looking for Lushington: The Lost Quaker Commander of Charleston's Revolutionary Jewish Militia"
- Barry Stiefel, "Jews, National Identity, and Historic Preservation: Transatlantic Experiences from the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings"
- Hannah Lebovitz, "Where Did the Shtetl Go? Investigating Jewish Self-Erasure in Dallas, Texas"

3:30-4:30 pm: SJHS Board Meeting

5 pm: Dinner, Lecture, Shabbat Services (Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim) Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Lecture

"The Economics of Southern Jewish History," Michael Cohen

Saturday, October 22

7:30-8:30 am: Shabbat Services (Auerbach Hall, College of Charleston)

9 am-11 am: Walking Tours (choose one)

- · Upper King Street
- · Coming Street Cemetery
- · Old Slave Mart Museum

11 am-12:15 pm: Rising Stars of Southern Jewish History Chair: Marni Davis

- Michael Jacobs, "A New Home in the Old South: Southern Jewish Women's Role in Identity Formation, 1800–1865"
- Jacob Morrow-Spitzer, "Bastions of Localism: Mapping Southern Jewish Politics, 1870–1900"
- Mimi Brown Wooten, "La Djusticia Amerikana: Leo Frank in the Ladino Press"

12:15-2 pm: Box Lunch followed by the Beeber Family Lecture, sponsored by the Helen Stern Fund

"Dissent, Providentialism, and Slavery: A New Interpretation of Early Charleston Jewish Life," Shari Rabin

2:15-3:30 pm: Pride and Prejudice: Race and Jewish Identity in the South

Chair: Phyllis Leffler

- Jeremy Popkin, "Benjamin Gratz and Lexington: A Southern City and Its First Jewish Resident"
- Evan Howard Ashford, "Abraham's Choice: Race Loyalty Versus Civil Rights During the 1865 Freedom Summer"
- Andrew Baker, "Max Heller's Transatlantic Connections and the Palmetto State: 1979–1996"

3:45-5:15 pm: Concurrent Panels Agents of Change

Chair: Josh Parshall

- Anne Blankenship, "Varied Approaches to Immigrant Care: The Jewish Women of Charleston, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati"
- \bullet Anne Gessler, "Ida Weis Friend: A Model for Southern Progressive Activism in $20^{\text{th}}\text{-}Century New Orleans"}$
- · Amy K. Milligan, "The 'Dark-Eyed Jew' of Alabama"
- Rebecca Shimoni Stoil, "Atlantic Enigma: The Shifting Identities of Francis Salvador"

Roundtable on Material Culture

Chair: Joshua Furman

- Gabrielle Berlinger
- Dale Rosengarten
- Hilit Surowitz-Israel
- Anna Tucker

5:30 pm-7 pm: Jewish Heritage Collection Reception

(Addlestone Library, College of Charleston)

Synagogues of the South exhibit on display; SJHS awards announced

Sunday, October 23

9-11 am: Book Signing, Coffee and Bagel Breakfast

9-10 am: JHSSC and SJHS Membership Meetings

10:30-11:45 am: Social Justice

Chair: Stephen Whitfield

- Ashley Walters, "Reading the Civil War through the Russian Revolution"
- Eli Rosenblatt, "Bishop Charles L. Russell and the African American Reception of the Talmud, 1920–1964"
- Margaret Norman and Melissa Young, "A Case Study of the Holocaust and Human Rights: Fred and Anny Kraus in Birmingham, Alabama, 1954–1970"
- Leah Cannon Burnham, "Atlanta Jews and the Pursuit of Due Process for Cuban Detainees, 1980–1987"

11:45 am: Closing Remarks

Eli N. Evans: A Tribute

We lost a seminal figure in southern Jewish history when Eli Evans passed away in July. His 1973 memoir, *The Provincials*, inspired the very creation of our field. His unfailing encouragement helped organizations like the SJHS to thrive, while his sympathetic mentorship stimulated many to follow in his footsteps.

Rather than offer an obituary (several good ones can be found online), we asked four major chroniclers of southern Jewish life to talk about the impact Eli had on the field and on their own work.

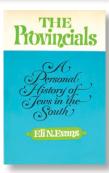
An Enduring Classic

In the historiography of southern Jewry, the status of *The Provincials* is likely to be secure. Nothing remotely like its breadth of research or its package of insights had existed before 1973. Whatever revisions and corrections of the record have become necessary, the literary power that the book exudes will salvage it from oblivion.

The excellence of *The Provincials* enables it to stand comparison with two other works, also



Clockwise from top left: Eli in Israel, c. 1980. Courtesy of Josh Evans. Schmoozing during the SJHS conference in Austin, 2014. The original book cover of The Provincials, 1973.



by non-academics, that have shaped the understanding of the region to which Eli Evans was unabashedly loyal. Fellow North Carolinian Wilbur J. Cash was a journalist. In his influential book The Mind of the South (1941), a very ambivalent Cash wanted to explain the peculiar violence and bigotry of the region, to make its past intelligible, if not admirable. His angle was so singular that The Mind of the South might also have been subtitled "a personal history." Writing from arguably the South's most racially moderate state, Cash sanded down for his readers the harsher features of the region. Attorney David L. Cohn of Greenville, Mississippi, undertook a similar project in the elegantly crafted God Shakes Creation (1935), though given his own state's racial history, his was the tougher assignment. His book resembles The Provincials in blending warm memories and apt interviews, so that the Mississippi Delta is endowed with an almost mythic status. But Cohn was an apologist in a way that Evans—for all his fondness for his upbringing—was not. Cohn wrote as a southerner. The deity is mentioned in his title, but his own religion was irrelevant.

Evans by contrast wrote as a southerner and a Jew, and thus the struggle to appreciate the complexities of the region would never be the same.

- Stephen Whitfield

A Museum Success Story

As the only Jewish family in a Mississippi town of 4,500, my family members and I were called upon to answer questions and engage in theological discussions on a daily basis. Following this path of interest, and by circumstance, I became the director of the Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica. As the camp became the *de facto* Jewish Community Center of a significant part of the South, I started collecting Judaica. Many artifacts and life stories found their lifeline at Jacobs, leading to the founding of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in 1986.



What I needed was an expert. Inevitably, my search brought me to Eli Evans. He was gracious, meeting with me in New York and other places our mutual travels found us. After some resistance (and the persistent encouragement of MSIE board member Margaret Anne Goldsmith), Eli joined the MSIE board. I felt that we were on the road to success with our new star. Eli became an integral part of the development of the museum in its earliest years through his advice, hands

on assistance, and his comical personality. Our friendship grew with many intersecting opportunities over the years.

- Macy B. Hart

A Carolina Inspiration

In my folklore class as a senior at Brown University in the late 1970s, the final assignment was to write about your "folk group;" mine was Arkansas Jews. We each brought a representative dish to the class potluck dinner; I brought Shabbat fried chicken. I will never forget finding *The Provincials* in the library stacks that semester; it was my doorway into the study of the Jewish South, including its foodways. For the next 40 years, Eli was my inspiration, mentor, teacher, and friend in the field of southern Jewish history and culture.

I was honored to work with Eli at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in Jackson in the 1990s. When Bill and I came to Chapel Hill to teach at the University of North Carolina, I again worked with Eli. A Jewish studies center had been proposed in the College of Arts and Sciences. Inspired by his beloved Carolina Blue, the Tarheels, his hometown of Durham, and his family's Jewish legacy in the state and region, Eli stepped in to lead the effort as founding chair. It was a great privilege to work with Eli, the other board members, and UNC professor

Rambler, Fall 2022 4

Jonathan Hess of blessed memory, as they launched the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies in 2003. Today, in large part due to the passionate support of Eli Evans, 110 Jewish studies courses are on the books at Carolina, a strong network of graduate student support is in place, more than 23 affiliate faculty members teach in 11 different academic departments, and some 1,000 students take Jewish studies courses each year.

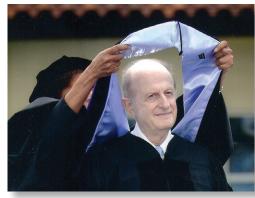
- Marcie Cohen Ferris

An Eloquent Host

As was true for many of us, reading *The Provincials* was my introduction into the Jewish South. When I was a newcomer to his hometown turf of Durham and Chapel Hill, Eli was an eloquent and gracious host. He was always game for a schmooze as I, inspired by his work, embarked on my own research of the North Carolina community. He supported our efforts to continue the story both materially and as a spokesperson. We owe him much, not only for telling our narrative and inspiring a new academic field, but in setting the tone, in creating the warmth and congeniality that still characterize our SJHS even today.

- Leonard Rogoff





Above: Eli speaks to one of Marcie Cohen Ferris's Jewish studies classes. Left: He received an honorary degree from UNC in 2009. Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

Exhibit Celebrates Memphis Rabbi and Visionary Leader By Susan Adler Thorp

The Temple Israel Museum in Memphis recently opened Righteous Among Men: Rabbi James A. Wax, A Life Dedicated to Social *Justice*. The multidimensional exhibit explores the career and conscience of Rabbi James A. Wax, who led Temple Israel from 1954 to 1978. It showcases Rabbi Wax's commitment to Judaism and social justice, which paved the way for his pivotal role in the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike and his visionary leadership as an advocate for those with mental illness.



Above: Rabbi James A. Wax. Temple

Israel Museum. Right: Visitors peruse the exhibit at its September opening. Photos by Paige Miller Photography.

"Social justice has always been Reform Judaism's crown jewel, and no leader was more committed to the vision of the Hebrew prophets than Rabbi Wax," said Rabbi Micah Greenstein. "His legacy is felt in the mission of Temple Israel and the fabric of the greater Memphis community to this day."

The exhibit recounts how this son of immigrants and only Jewish family of Herculaneum, Missouri, was lured to the pulpit and, in particular, to Temple Israel, Tennessee's oldest and largest Jewish congregation. As president of the Memphis Ministers Association in 1968, Rabbi Wax led the march of hundreds of ministers to City Hall the day following Dr. Martin Luther King's death. He confronted Mayor Henry Loeb on national television, saying,





"There are laws far greater than the laws of Memphis and Tennessee, and these are the laws of God, human decency, and dignity." Upon his death in 1989, the newspaper called him "the moral conscience of the community."

"This exhibit is important not only to our Jewish community, but also to the entire faith community, civic organizations, and school groups," said Rabbi Greenstein. "It is our hope that by reflecting on the past, we can inspire the

positive social change Rabbi Wax modeled."

The exhibit is free and open to all, with availability to host student or group tours. It is made possible by the generosity of sponsors from Temple Israel and others throughout the community. The museum is grateful to the following Presenting Sponsors: the Herbert Shainberg Foundation, James A. Wax Jr., Jonathan I. Wax, and James R. Wax. For museum hours and other information, visit timemphis.org/rabbiwax.

Susan Adler Thorp is a Memphis journalist and owner of Susan Adler Thorp Communications.

NEWS AND NOTES

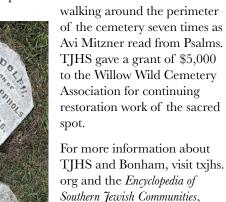
TJHS Mitzvah in Bonham

When the railroad came to the north Texas town of Bonham in 1873, a thriving, well-integrated Jewish community emerged in mercantile trade, banking, and real estate. By 1930 the last Jewish families had moved away. They left behind a cemetery that had been purchased by the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Bonham in the late 1800s. Tombstones bear the names Rhine, Levine, Rosenbaum. Other stones have crumbled with unreadable names. The cemetery has been sadly neglected for decades, with the last burial in 1925 of Miss Hannah Marie Feder, whose grave is unmarked. No records indicate that the cemetery was ever consecrated.

The cemetery occupies a rolling hill at the edge of Bonham's Willow Wild Cemetery, a sprawling landscape of 10,000 graves, among them Bonham's favorite son, U.S. Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society (TJHS) held its summer board meeting in Bonham to hear about the town's Jewish history and, more important, to consecrate the cemetery as a Jewish burial site. Avi Mitzner, ritual and cemetery director of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, conducted the service with the participation of TJHS members and several citizens from Bonham.

In anticipation of the consecration and TJHS visit to Bonham, the Willow Wild Cemetery Association placed four new cornerstones embossed with the Star of David at each corner of the plot. The consecration ritual entailed



Most of the cemetery's tombstones are broken.

Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Sheldon Lippman, president,
 Texas Jewish Historical Society

isil.org/texas-bonham-

encyclopedia.html.

Chevra T'helim Ark Is Repaired

Built more than 100 years ago, the Chevra T'helim synagogue in Portsmouth, Virginia, closed in 1985. Acquired in 2002 by the nonprofit Friends of Chevra T'helim, it was restored and placed on the Virginia Register of Historic Places. It opened to the public in



2008 as the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center, with the mission of presenting an environment where visitors and the community can celebrate and learn about Jewish history, faith, and culture.

It was recently discovered that the synagogue's ark was starting to pull away from the wall. To preserve the building and ensure the safety of visitors, the Friends needed to work quickly. Thanks to grants from the Tidewater Jewish Federation and Virginia

Museum of History and Culture: Commonwealth History Fund in partnership with Dominion Energy, repairs to the ark were completed over the summer, and the ark can be showcased once again.

Archaeological Site to Highlight Francis Salvador Story

Clemson University's anthropology department has undertaken an archaeological excavation at Fort Rutledge



and Esseneca in Clemson, South Carolina, with funding from a National Park Service Battlefield Protection Planning Grant. Beyond its role as a Revolutionary War fortification, the site is significant to Jewish American history: the first

Jewish member of a legislative assembly in American history, Francis Salvador, died in the Battle of Esseneca on August 1, 1776, from wounds sustained during an ambush of the South Carolina militia by British-allied Cherokee forces.

Salvador's pioneering role in colonial governance and the quest for independence features prominently in the site's interpretive plan, as Clemson seeks to incorporate the mosaic of histories intertwined at Fort Rutledge in order to tell a more holistic story of the Revolutionary War in Upstate South Carolina. For more information, contact David Markus at dmarkus@clemson.edu.

Rambler, Fall 2022 6



Holocaust Monument Database is Launched

A new digital database of Holocaust memorial monuments has been launched as a joint project of the Center for Jewish Art at Hebrew University, the Miller Center at the University of Miami, and the International Survey of Jewish Monuments. The project collects and preserves digital documentation about Holocaust memorial monuments worldwide, including

standardized mapping, photography, description, and historical research. A work in progress, the database contains searchable and comparative records for educational, public policy, and academic use and can be viewed at cja.huji.ac.il/hmm/browser.php?mode=main.

This fall, the project will add photos and descriptions of three dozen memorial monuments in South Carolina and Florida. *Rambler* readers can help identify Holocaust memorial monuments in the South and assist in collecting information on their history, design, and use. Dr. Samuel Gruber is coordinating documentation efforts for North America. To volunteer information or actively participate, contact him at samuelgruber@gmail.com or submit information through the website.



Holocaust Memorial at Boca Raton Synagogue Photo by Samuel Gruber.

Southern Jewish History Publishes 25th Annual Volume



The editors of *Southern Jewish History*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, proudly announce publication of the journal's 25th volume. The issue contains scholarship showcasing the vibrancy of the field of southern Jewish history, with contributors offering a range of perspectives that reflect their diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Public historian Owen Lourie traces the career and financial troubles of Elias Pollock, a Jewish veteran of the Revolutionary War. English professor Michael Hoberman provides a unique perspective on a familiar figure, Judah P. Benjamin, by examining how the slaveowner, U.S. senator, and Confederate cabinet member has been depicted in fictional works. Historian Andrew Baker takes on the political career of Max Heller, mayor of Greenville, South Carolina (pictured on the journal cover, left, with his wife Trude). In the Primary Sources section, historian/archivist Joshua Furman analyzes a recently discovered document related to the Galveston Movement: a Yiddish brochure distributed to potential immigrants in Europe explaining the virtues of Texas as a destination.

A new feature in this issue is a Memoir/Autobiography section, edited by historian/rabbi Lance Sussman and genealogist Karen Franklin, where first-hand accounts of southern Jewish life can be presented and interpreted. The debut entry is Rabbi Fred Davidow's account of growing up in the Mississippi Delta in the 1940s and 1950s, balancing his southern and Jewish identities alongside an awakening racial consciousness. The volume also includes book, exhibit, and website reviews from, among others, a graduate student, a retired professor, and a college chancellor.

SJHS members receive copies of the journal as a benefit of membership. The full contents of all but the two latest issues are free to download on the Society's website and at Academia.edu; see jewishsouth.org or independent.academia.edu/SouthernJewishHistory. Print copies of all issues of the journal and individual articles from the latest two volumes can be purchased at jewishsouth.org, or e-mail journal@jewishsouth.org.

Southern Jewish History is always seeking scholarly articles for consideration for publication. To discuss or submit a potential article relating to the southern Jewish experience, please contact editor Mark Bauman, at MarkKBauman@aol.com, or by phone at 678.428.3622.



www.jewishsouth.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit.Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 134 Jackson, MS

SJHS Conference Draws Near

See pages 1 and 3 for news about the conference, to be held October 21–23.

For registration and other information, please visit jhssc.org/events/conference. We look forward to seeing you in Charleston!

Meet the Proposed New SJHS Board Members

The Nominations Committee's proposed slate of new officers and directors for 2022–2023 will be voted on at the membership meeting at our Charleston conference on October 23. Please plan to be there!

Nominations for Officers:

President: Josh Parshall has served as SJHS vice-president for the past two years. He is director of the history department at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, where he edits the online Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities, co-manages the summer internship in public history, and lectures and publishes in the field. Vice-President: Eric Goldstein is associate professor of history at Emory University with a joint appointment in the Institute for Jewish Studies. He co-wrote On Middle Ground: A History of The Jews of Baltimore, which won SJHS's quadrennial book prize in 2019. He chaired the SJHS grants committee for many years. Secretary: Anna Tucker is executive director of the Framingham History Center in Massachusetts. She previously served as curator at the recently opened Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans, where she directed the curation of the new collection. Treasurer: Jay Silverberg will step into the position of immediate past president of SJHS. The Society plans to secure a professional financial manager to oversee SJHS finances; as treasurer, Jay will serve as the board's liaison. Now retired, Jay worked as a journalist and a corporate consultant during his professional career.

Nominations for New Directors:

Gemma Birnbaum is executive director of the American Jewish Historical Society. She previously worked at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Heifer International, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. She is eager to work with the Society to develop collaborative programs. **Jacob Morrow-Spitzer** is a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University specializing in 19th- and early-20th century Jewish history. His undergraduate work was at Tulane University, where his thesis focused on southern Jewish history. He has published in *American Jewish History* and has worked at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life.