

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of SOUTH CAROLINA

WINTER 2005 VOLUME X - NUMBER 1



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Bernard Warshaw

From^{the} President

Bernard Warshaw

I am happy to report that our joint weekend with the Southern Jewish Historical Society in October was a resounding success. “Jewish Roots in Southern Soil” commemorated three anniversaries—350 years of Jewish settlement in America, Brith Sholom Beth Israel’s 150th birthday, and JHSSC’s 10th year of operation. Sunday’s outdoor festival at Marion Square, called “Religious Harmony: A Celebration of Diversity,” began with a speech by Charleston’s Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., and brought together people of all faiths participating with song, dance, and food. Many great compliments were received, and my hat is off to Marty Perlmutter, Enid Idelsohn, and a terrific steering committee comprised of Eve Berlinsky, Leah Chase, Susan Garfinkle, Leah Greenberg, Sandra Rosenblum, Dale Rosengarten, and Ann Warshaw.

As you know, my project for my term as president is to turn the Historical Society into a “grassroots movement.” In pursuit of this goal, we traveled to the upstate on January 28th to honor Spartanburg’s Temple B’nai Israel’s 100th anniversary and celebrate Shabbat at Beth Israel in Greenville. Unfortunately, freezing rain and snow caused the cancellation of Saturday and Sunday’s events, but the musical revue and children’s festival have been rescheduled for the end of February. Many thanks to Hy Brand, Rabbi Dov Rubin, Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz, Michael and Nancy Yoffe, Marla and Hank Steinberg, Jay Wachs, Mike Krupsaw, Harry Price, and Marsha Poliakoff for all of their hard work.

Next on the agenda is Beaufort on April 1st and 2nd to help Congregation Beth Israel commemorate its 100th anniversary (see page 8–9 for weekend schedule). Then on to Columbia, September 9th and 10th, for another 100th anniversary celebration—this time at Beth Shalom.

The grassroots project is really underway, and we are getting to meet our fellow Jews from the lower, middle, and upper parts of the state.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Bernard Warshaw
President

*On the cover:
Beth Israel Synagogue,
Beaufort, SC.
Photo by
Paul Keyserling, 2004.*

Jewish Families of Orangeburg: Links in a Chain

by *Rhetta Aronson Mendelsohn*

In 2002, in connection with the exhibition “A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life,” the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina published a wonderful brochure entitled *A Guided Tour of Jewish Community Life, Past and Present*. Towns from Beaufort in the lowcountry to Rock Hill in the upstate were listed as places with sites of Jewish interest. All the synagogues in South Carolina also were listed.

Jewish residents of Orangeburg were quick to note, however, that no mention was made of their town, and their synagogue was not on the list. In actuality, Orangeburg has a long and illustrious Jewish history. Founded in 1735, the town was named for William, Prince of Orange, and settled by German-speaking immigrants who were coming to South Carolina for economic opportunity as well as religious freedom. Apparently by the mid 1800s, German- or Yiddish-speaking Jews felt comfortable in Orangeburg and even smaller towns nearby—maybe because there was no language barrier.

Today, the Hebrew Cemetery, adjacent to Sunnyside Cemetery on Summers Avenue, bears quiet testimony to more than 130 Jews who lived and worked in Orangeburg and vicinity.

The Sunnyside Cemetery Company was organized on April 13, 1886, with the Hebrew Benevolent Society named as part of the organizing group. At some point, the Benevolent Society withdrew from the organization and operated its burial ground independently. Today the entire 15 acres is maintained by the City of Orangeburg as a city cemetery.

The first Jewish burial was Hirsh (Herman) Marcus, who died June 25, 1890, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Solomon (Hanna) Link. A native of Posen, Germany, he had been in America for only 11 years. Mrs. Link buried her husband in December of that same year.



Grand Purim Masquerade Ball, Hebrew Benevolent Society, Orangeburg, SC. Prize winners of 1901: Julia Peterkin, who later would win a Pulitzer Prize for her vernacular novel, Scarlet Sister Mary, is seated second from the left. Courtesy of David S. Ross.

There are at least ten other people with the name of Marcus in the cemetery, including Miss Evelyn Marcus, who in 1920 became the first woman admitted to the South Carolina Bar. Milton Marcus, a retired merchant, still resides in Orangeburg.

The Marcus family seems to be tied to the Rich family through the marriage of Hannah Rich to Mitchell Marcus. Hannah came from Prussia as a girl of 13 with her parents Lipman and Eva Rich. By 1855, they had arrived in Charleston, where they joined the newly established “Polish and German” congregation, Berith Shalome. Lipman and son Philip were elected officers of that synagogue in 1860 and 1865, respectively, but it appears that parts of the family had moved on to St. Matthews and Orangeburg by that time.

Hannah’s other brother Moritz and his wife Bertha had five children, and one of those children, Isadore, married Reka Brown, who bore six more Riches. Needless to say, there are many members of this family buried in Orangeburg. Sadly, in January of 2004, my mother Rose Louise Rich Aronson became the fourth generation of this family to be laid to rest in Sunnyside Cemetery. Several descendants of the Rich family now live in Charleston, including Reka Rich DeMasi, Carol Aronson Kelly, and the author.

... continued on page 4

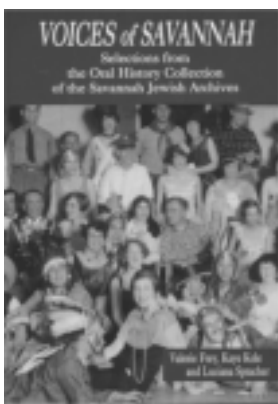
Other names in the cemetery include Wald, Gilman, Kahnweiler, Kohn, Baum, Wolfe, Bamberg, Nussbaum, Benjamin, Goldiner, Kline, Jarecky, and Pearlstine. The early German Jews clearly were joined by Jews from Poland and Russia in the 20th century.

Through marriage, the Jewish families from Orangeburg have ties to Jewish families all over South Carolina—the Baruchs and Hirschs of Camden, the Aronsons of Kingstree, the Furchgotts of Charleston, to name a few. As elsewhere, most heads of these households were merchants, but their numbers also included lawyers, doctors, dentists, musicians, cotton brokers, bankers, soldiers, and teachers.

One Confederate soldier, Theodore Kohn, is of particular note, having fought at Morris Island, Secessionville, Battery Wagener, and Ft. Sumter in the “War for Southern Independence,” as it was called in the Orangeburg newspaper in 1902. In his obituary that year, Kohn was extolled as “one of Orangeburg’s most prominent and useful citizens.” He had been an alderman of the city, an organizer of the Edisto Bank, and the “father of the Orangeburg Graded Schools.” He served on the school board until his death.

In 1980, when Joseph Jerome Miller, the only Jewish person in Ellore, South Carolina, passed away, he had not a relative in the world. At his funeral in

Voices of Savannah



Voices of Savannah, published in 2004 by the Savannah Jewish Archives (SJA), combines photographs from the archives and narrative from more than 100 oral history interviews to create a unique picture of Savannah in days gone by. Local Jewish residents tell their own stories in their own

words, illustrated by lively images that supplement SJA’s previous publication, *The Jewish Community of Savannah* (Arcadia Press, 2002). Founded in 1994, SJA is housed in the Georgia Historical Society and funded by the Savannah Jewish Federation. All proceeds from *Voices of Savannah* will go to support the archives’ work.

For more information or to order copies, contact the Savannah Jewish Archives at 912.651.2125.



Left: Lipman Rich, 1855. Right: Lipman Rich (named for his great uncle) and Henrietta Block Rich, Orangeburg, SC, April 1945.

Orangeburg, many citizens of Ellore, both white and black, came to show their respect. He left money to many Jewish organizations and also to every church in Ellore.

When Edward Mirmow died at the age of 95 in 1995, he was eulogized as a founder of the Orangeburg-based First National Bank and the instrumental force behind the organization of American Legion Baseball. He lettered at the University of South Carolina in baseball and football. He was married to Rebekah Blatt of Blackville, sister of Solomon Blatt, who served in the state legislature for 54 years and as Speaker of the House for more than three decades.

In the mid 20th century at least 15 stores on the main street in Orangeburg were owned by Jewish families. Today those stores are all closed—some victims of their own success. The children of these merchants went away to college and did not return to Orangeburg. This, of course, is the story of many Jewish families in small towns across the South and the nation.

Orangeburg’s Temple Sinai, built in the 1950s and still in use today, has never had a regular rabbi, but visiting rabbis and local residents, including the late J. J. (“Jimmy”) Teskey, conducted services and taught the religious school for many years.

Perhaps through this article, Orangeburg will gain a rightful place in South Carolina’s Jewish history. Hopefully the remaining Jewish residents of Orangeburg will be proud to be recognized as an important link in the story.

Written with gracious and plentiful help from the Orangeburg County Historical Society and dedicated to the memory of Hugo Ackerman, history teacher at Orangeburg High School and founder of the Historical Society.

Writing Congregational History

Brith Sholom Beth Israel Celebrates 150th Anniversary

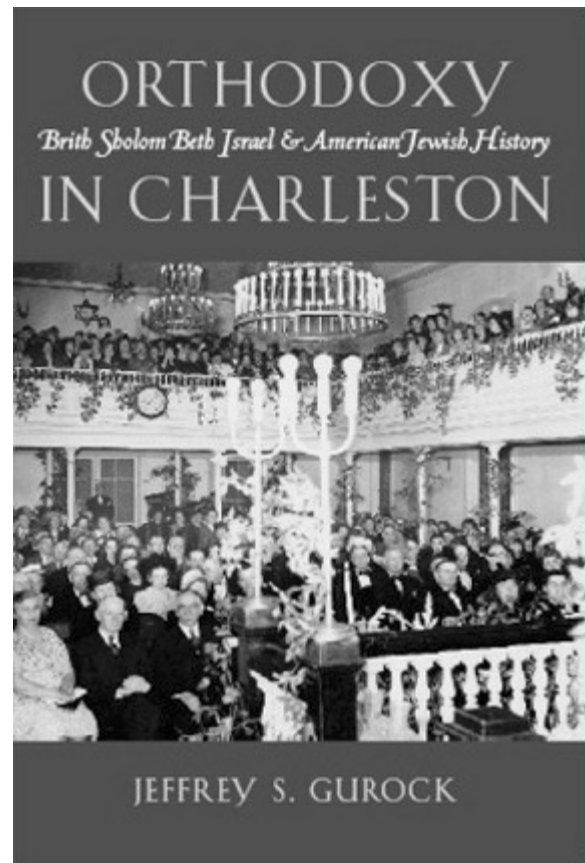
by Jeffrey S. Gurock

Libby M. Klapperman Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, New York City

What more could a historian ask for? Minute books covering decades of congregational deliberations, synagogue correspondence, files documenting generations of membership discussions, an almost complete run of 40 years or more of shul newsletters, and a bank of memories recorded in more than 300 oral history interviews, all housed in a first-class college library, organized and maintained by an extraordinarily talented and engaging locally-based historian and her staff of archivists. Such was my fortunate lot when I arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in October 2003. My mission initially was to gather enough information to deliver a keynote address in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of that city's Congregation Brith Sholom Beth Israel at the 2004 Southern Jewish Historical Society meeting in the Palmetto State. I soon realized that there was a book in this cache of materials on file in the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston.

I quickly understood that if I did my work well, I would be able to do more than just reassure my friendly hosts that their local history had been worth preserving. Rather, BSBI's story could flesh out some of the national trends that historians of American Jewry, myself included, have been writing about recently. I also thought that this project could show those who love American Jewish history how a team of historians and archivists working in concert with a committed cadre of local volunteers could produce quality volumes.

What emerged from our labors was a reminder of how early and diverse East European Jewish incursions were into this country and how quickly newcomers conformed to American ways, often to the chagrin of later arrivals from the same parts of the Old World. We also learned from the Charleston experience much about the social factors that split communities into Orthodox and Conservative factions after World War II. But above all, through BSBI's history, we were sensitized to the difficulties Orthodox rabbis faced from the mid-19th century to the present day in their efforts to instill traditional Jewish observances in locales far removed from the New York base. For me, this "Southern exposure" deepened my



understanding of both life in this region and Orthodoxy in the United States.

Dedicated to Rabbi David and Mrs. Barbara Radinsky and published in no small measure thanks to the largesse of the Sisterhood of BSBI, with a supplemental grant from SJHS, *Orthodoxy in Charleston: Brith Sholom Beth Israel and American Jewish History* appeared in time for the joint meeting of SJHS and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina last October. I trust the book will accomplish the goal of projecting this synagogue's significance to students of the larger American Jewish experience. There could be no greater gift to a congregation as it celebrates its 150th anniversary and to all of us as we commemorate 350 years of Jewish settlement in this country.

An earlier version of this article appeared in The Rambler, The Southern Jewish Historical Society Newsletter, VII:2 (Summer 2004).

New & Noteworthy: Holocaust Archives Project

A Joint Venture of the Jewish Heritage Collection
and the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

by Dale Rosengarten

Five years ago, a generous grant from the Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Endowment enabled the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston Library to begin soliciting archival material from survivors of the Shoah and liberators of the concentration camps who live in the Charleston area. In a short period of intense effort, field researcher Sheila Rodin-Novak gathered an extraordinary collection of images and documents from Eastern Europe before World War II; correspondence between Jews in Europe and family members in South Carolina; photographs taken inside concentration camps before and just after liberation; audio and videotaped interviews with survivors; albums, scrapbooks, and artifacts.

Some of these objects and images were donated outright to the college library, and some were loaned for reproduction. With the help of archivist Harlan Greene

and photographers Bill Struhs and Rick Rhodes, we made copy photos of everything, and either returned the originals or gave donors good quality prints.

In 2003, we extended the range of our collection across the state and broadened our funding base. In partnership with the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, we hired Melissa Jane Taylor, a graduate student in history at the University of South Carolina, to continue the fieldwork. The depth and richness of what she uncovered astonished us: memoirs by survivors, inquiries from people tracing lost families, letters to a “hidden child,” and two extraordinary collections of photographs documenting the last days of the war and its aftermath—one taken by an American soldier, the other by a nurse stationed at the 113th Evacuation Hospital in Germany.



Left: Regina Kaver with her cousin Ruchel Liebhaber, her brother Eleazar, and her sister Maria, Warsaw, Poland, ca. 1930. Courtesy of Samuel Greene.

Right: Dientje Krant with her father Phillip Krant and mother Evaline Krant-Hamel, taken in front of their home at 24 Hoogeweg, Bussum, Holland, 1939. Gift of Dientje Krant Kalisky-Adkins.



Karoline Goldstein and Armin Fingerhut, Budapest, Hungary, 1938. Courtesy of Katherine Goldstein Prevost.



David Grabinski (later Grabin), standing at the far right, with a group of friends, Slesin, Poland, 1937/38. Courtesy of David Grabin.



Francine Ajzensztark, along the Seine, Paris, France, 1945. First photo taken after the war. Gift of Francine A. Taylor.

This winter our attention shifts to the upcountry. We are soliciting materials not only from survivors and liberators of the camps, but also from refugees and witnesses. Researcher and editor Karen Tannenbaum, of Greenville, South Carolina, has agreed to spearhead the effort and already has found a collection of original photographs and artifacts from Dachau.

Our Holocaust archives will be a windfall for historical research. It will support major curriculum initiatives in Holocaust education at the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina. The collection will be described in an online catalog mounted on the websites of both the college library and the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust.

Our goals are twofold: First and foremost, we want to preserve recollections and artifacts from survivors, liberators, refugees, and witnesses so that they will know that the tragedy of the Holocaust will not be forgotten. Second, we will make their memories and memorabilia accessible to students, scholars, and other researchers, and encourage use of the materials in public programs, exhibitions, and school curricula.

If you can help us locate South Carolina residents with links to European Jewry before and during the period of the Holocaust, or if you would like to contribute financially to this effort, please call Karen Tannenbaum at 864.232.4480, or e-mail: ktann@charter.net.

We thank the following for supporting this important work: South Carolina Council on the Holocaust; Coastal Community Foundation (donor-advised funds)—Sam and Regina Greene Family Fund, Lieberman Family Endowment, Zucker Family Endowment; Private donors—Anonymous, Sylvia & Robert Dreyfus, Joe Engel, Bruce & Lilly Filler, Karl & Margo Goldberg, Max & Trude Heller, John Hipp, Pincus Kolender, Henry & Minda Miller, Selden & Dorothy Smith, Mark C. Tanenbaum.



Buchenwald, near Weimar, April 1945, about two weeks after the camp was liberated. Gift of Charles C. Cross.



102nd Division meets Russian troops in Gardelegan, Germany, May 1945. Courtesy of Ethel Jorgensen Stafford.



Renee Fuchs (later Fox) and her brother Michael arriving in New York, January 1947. Photograph by Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. Courtesy of Pincus Kolender.

JHSSC Meets for 100th Anniversary



Beth Israel sanctuary window frames the Beaufort Arsenal window next door.



The Ten Commandments on the bima.



*View of Beth Israel looking east to the bima.
Photos: Paul Keyserling.*

This year, Beth Israel Congregation in Beaufort is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the signing of its charter. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has scheduled its spring meeting in Beaufort for the weekend of April 1–3 to be on hand for Beth Israel’s rededication and other festive events. There will be lots of activities commemorating the anniversary, with families using it as an opportunity to hold reunions, thereby highlighting the central place that Beth Israel has played in the life of the Beaufort community for the last hundred years.

Jews have resided in Beaufort since as far back as the 1760s. In the latter half of the 19th century, as the town’s population grew, Jews from the vicinity gathered to worship in various locations: in homes, in apartments over stores, in

View of the vaulted ceiling looking west to front entrance.



the Masonic Hall, and then in a room on the second floor of the Beaufort Arsenal on Craven Street.

By 1905, members of the Jewish community decided that their numbers justified construction of a synagogue. A lot was available at 401 Scotts Street, directly adjacent to the Arsenal. State law required that an organization have a charter to jointly buy and hold title to land.

As a result, a group calling itself Beth Israel Congregation applied for incorporation, and on October 16, 1905, the Congregation was granted a charter by the State of South Carolina. This states that the purpose of the Corporation is “Religious, and to buy a lot and build a synagogue.”

The lot was purchased, money was raised, and a synagogue was built and dedicated on June 14, 1908. Beth Israel Congregation has been worshipping together in the same white clapboard building on Scotts Street ever since.

Special thanks to Rost Beyder, Conner Chilton, Rachel Garrett, and Beth Stephenson.

in Beaufort - April 1-3, 2005 of Beth Israel Congregation

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEKEND:

FRIDAY, April 1

Beth Israel Synagogue, 401 Scotts Street

- 7:15 pm Rededication of Synagogue
- 8:00 pm Shabbat Services
- 9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat hosted by Beth Israel Sisterhood

SATURDAY, April 2

Beth Israel Synagogue, 401 Scotts Street

- 10:00 am Shabbat Services
- Beaufort Arsenal & Museum, 713 Craven St**
Annual Meeting of JHSSC begins
- 12:00 pm Welcome by Bernard Warshaw, President, JHSSC
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 12:45 pm **The Jewish Community of Beaufort in 1905 and the Founding of Beth Israel Congregation**
Helen Goldman and Stephen Schein
- 1:45 pm Break
- 2:00 pm **Beaufort in Context: The Jewish History of Small Town America**
Lee Shai Weissbach, University of Louisville
- 3:15 pm **JHSSC Cemetery Survey Project and Survey of Beth Israel Cemetery**
Stanley Farbstein and Dr. Cyndi Levy

- 6:30 pm **Beaufort Yacht & Sailing Club**
30 Yacht Club Drive
off Meridien Road, Ladys Island
(transportation provided)
Reception & Dinner
Rabbinic Reminiscences of Beaufort
Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum

SUNDAY, April 3

Beaufort Arsenal & Museum, 713 Craven St

- 10:00 am **Struggling, Growing, and Reaching New-Old Conclusions**
Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum
- 11:00 am JHSSC Board and Membership Meeting
- 1:00 pm Tour of Beth Israel Cemetery



Lee Shai Weissbach



Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum

JHSSC Meeting
Beaufort, South Carolina
April 1-3, 2005

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

*The cost for this weekend is \$50 per person
not including hotel accommodations.*

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Return form to:
JHSSC / Jewish Studies Program
96 Wentworth Street
Charleston, SC 29424

____ Check if kosher food is requested

BEAUFORT HOTEL INFORMATION:

Country Inn & Suites

2450 Boundary Street
Beaufort, SC 29902
Ph. 843.379.4000
Fax 843.379.4020

RATE: \$79/night

Special rate available until March 2
You must make your own reservations
(request a room in the
"Jewish Historical Society room block.")

JHSSC's Statewide Cemetery

Early in 2004, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina embarked on a survey of burial places of South Carolina Jews. The goal of the project is to learn who is buried in each cemetery, collect biographical information on those individuals, and organize and archive the findings so they can be readily accessed by descendants, historians, and researchers.

We draw inspiration from the work of Rabbi Barnett Elzas of Charleston's Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim who, between 1900 and 1910, surveyed all then existing Jewish cemeteries in South Carolina. He published the information gathered in a series of books. These publications continue to serve as a major source of information on the early Jewish residents of the state. No such comprehensive survey has been undertaken since Rabbi Elzas's day.

It is fitting that 100 years later — when we commemorated the 350th anniversary of the first arrival of Jewish settlers in North America and the tenth anniversary of our society—JHSSC picked up where Rabbi Elzas left off. The Cemetery Survey Project is the Society's first endeavor calling upon the energy, labor, and skills of its more than 500 members from across the state and beyond. Leaders have volunteered for a majority of the locations where there are Jewish burial grounds. These team leaders, working with local volunteers, will plan and carry out the surveys, research the appropriate biographies and prepare reports on their findings. More volunteers are needed. Call 843.953.3918 to sign up.

Locations of Cemeteries and Surveys in Progress

So far, the project has identified 20 cities and towns in South Carolina with Jewish cemeteries. Charleston and Columbia have more than one Jewish burial ground. South Carolina Jews were also buried in Savannah and Augusta, particularly before cemeteries were established closer to

their home towns. Some South Carolina Jews are also buried in Charlotte and other North Carolina locations.

The following list identifies the 20 cities and towns where Jewish burial grounds have been located. For cemeteries where survey work has begun, the people organizing the local effort are identified.

Aiken – Doris Baumgarten
 Anderson – Mike Krupsaw
 Barnwell
 Beaufort – Stanley Farbstein
 Camden
 Charleston – BSBI cemeteries – Ruth Jacobs
 Charleston – KKBE cemeteries – Sol Breibart
 Charleston – Synagogue Emanu-El
 Columbia – Nard Fleishman
 Darlington
 Dillon – Maxine Koss
 Florence
 Georgetown
 Greenville – Hy Brand
 Hilton Head – Paul Isaac
 Kingstree
 Marion
 Myrtle Beach
 Orangeburg – Rhetta Mendelsohn
 Spartanburg
 Sumter – Clara and Robert Moses
 Walterboro – Arlene and Lewis Harris



*Entrance to Beth Israel Cemetery, Greenville.
 Photo: Hy Brand.*



*Gravesite of Bessie Katzif, Beth Israel Cemetery,
 Beaufort. Photo: Paul Keyserling.*

Survey Project

by Stanley Farbstein

Tasks Toward Completion

Those buried at each location will be identified and biographic information will be collected. That is a difficult task, but it is a task that is less difficult now than it will be in the future. Time is not on our side.

The information collected at each burial ground will be incorporated into a report for that cemetery and prepared for archiving. Copies of the report and other collected material will be placed in several locations including the Jewish Heritage Collection at the new Addlestone Library at the College of Charleston, the Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina and at the library in the county where the cemetery is located. As initial reports are drafted and edited, they will be available to show the kinds of information that should be included and possible formats that can be used.

Current Status of Work

In locations where work is already underway, some surveys are nearing completion while others are still in the planning and organizing phases. For the cemeteries of Aiken and Beaufort, the final report has been drafted and will probably go to layout and printing this spring. For five additional locations, lists of burials have been prepared. In some of these, biographical information and photographs also have been collected. We anticipate that at least two of these five will be in the final stage of report drafting and publication by the end of 2005.

Meanwhile, thanks to the timely assistance of Dr. Cyndi Levy, we are developing a computerized database that will include Jewish burials in all cemeteries in the state, and eventually burials of South Carolina Jews in other locations (see sidebar).

Further Support Needed

We need people with a variety of interests, skills, and abilities to help collect data, take photographs, and write, edit, and proofread survey reports before they are published. Please join us in this intriguing and important collaborative effort. Not only is it the first major grassroots effort of the JHSSC, it is the highest form of mitzvah because the dead will not be able to repay us for our efforts.



*Sons of Israel Cemetery, Aiken.
Photo: Dale Rosengarten.*



*Tombstone of Abrahm Isaac Patla, Brith Sholom Cemetery, Charleston.
Photo: Dale Rosengarten.*

Making the Cemetery Survey Useful – A Computerized Database

As the initial lists of burials and biographical information began to be assembled, we realized we needed some method of storing the material so that it could be readily utilized.

Then along came Dr. Cyndi Levy, a computer maven and daughter of Ina Rae and the late Rabbi Theodore Levy, a founding member of the JHSSC. Cyndi recently joined the Society Board, and when she heard of the need to develop a database, she volunteered to join the group working on the Cemetery Survey Project.

Cyndi has begun designing the database and entering data so that the information collected statewide can be searched by name, dates, and places of birth and death, cemetery location, maiden names, and a number of other subjects called “fields” by the computer literate. The data base she is developing will have the capacity for over 10,000 names, each linked to the biographical information that has been gathered. So we have room to grow.

Past success leads to another request for assistance in developing biographical information on burials

The fall 2004 issue of the JHSSC bulletin included an article on the Beth Israel Cemetery in Beaufort. When a survey of this cemetery began in 2003 as part of planning for the 100th anniversary of the charter of Beth Israel Congregation in Beaufort, there was no current list of burials and no map of where specific graves were located. Several people worked to develop and refine such information based on physical surveys, and we have identified and charted 160 burial sites.

But we soon recognized that little or nothing was known about many of those buried there. Thus began a search for biographical information. Obituaries on microfilms of old newspaper files in Beaufort, Charleston and Savannah libraries provided information on about 70 percent of the burials. Relatives, other newspaper files, and distant libraries have resulted in more information, so we now have significant biographies of more than 90 percent of those buried in the cemetery.

With the success of previous requests in this newsletter in mind, we are now requesting information on Bessie Katzif, and further information on Tessie Weinberg.

■ Bessie H. Katzif died in March 1912 and was the first person buried in the new cemetery in Beaufort. Her husband Joseph died in February 1922 and is also buried in Beth Israel Cemetery. The couple had a son, David Katzif who died in April 1954 and was buried in the cemetery. We think that Bessie and Joseph also had a daughter who lived in Savannah.

■ We need information about the later years of Tessie Reinstein Weinberg, who was born in Ridgeland in 1878. After the death of her husband, Joseph, in 1930, she left Beaufort. Where did she live until her death in 1963 when she was buried in Beaufort? In 1930, when Joseph died, there was an obituary for him that said that there were four daughters and one son. Louis is buried in the Beaufort National Cemetery. The two married daughters in 1930 were Mrs. David R. Gordon of Tampa, Florida, and Mrs. W.L. Rand of New Orleans, Louisiana; the unmarried in 1930 were Miss Daisy Weinberg of New Orleans and Miss Josephine Weinberg of Staunton, Virginia.

Finding information on the later years of Tessie Weinberg is particularly difficult because we know only the year of her death and not the day and month, and do not know where she was living at her death. This makes searches in newspaper files almost impossible. One report is that she lived in Florida. If so, it is possible that she was in the Tampa area where her daughter, Mrs. Gordon, lived 33 years earlier.

If you can provide any information about these two women, or if you have any questions about the SC Cemetery Project, please contact Stanley Farbstein, 14 Lockwood Drive, Ashley House, Suite 11-H, Charleston, SC 29401. Telephone: 843.722.6608. E-mail address: stan-farb@worldnet.att.net

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA **ARTS AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is pleased to announce its third annual Arts and Cultural Achievement Award. Previous winners are Dale Rosengarten and Meira Warshauer.

This year the award will be presented to an individual of any faith in South Carolina (native-born or resident) who exemplifies and demonstrates exceptional leadership, support, and/or prowess in fostering and preserving Jewish Arts and Culture in South Carolina.

This individual can be:

- A presenter, coordinator, or patron of the arts
- An individual who is involved in visual, literary, theatre, media, or performing arts, or music.

The award will be presented at the fall meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina held in Columbia, SC, September 9–10, 2005.

The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2005.

For more information contact: Lyssa Harvey at 803.920.0707.

Yearlong Celebration Marks 100th Anniversary of Beth Shalom in Columbia, SC

1 mikvah, 2 cemeteries, 10 (or more) rabbis, 50 presidents, 68 years of Sisterhood, 350 family members and 100 years of mitzvahs. Beth Shalom of Columbia, South Carolina, will mark its centennial with a year of inspiring events. Distinguished speakers and guests will join our congregation throughout the year to remember the past and to envision the future of Beth Shalom Synagogue. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will hold its fall meeting in Columbia to honor the congregation. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!



"The Big Apple," Beth Shalom's first synagogue, now on Park Street.

September 9–10, 2005:

Joint Shabbat Weekend with JHSSC

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will join us in Columbia to continue the 100-year celebration. Weekend events include Shabbat services, historical lectures and panels, trolley rides, a guided tour of the Whaley Street Cemetery, and dedication of a marker on Assembly Street commemorating the site of Columbia's first synagogue, which was burned by General W. T. Sherman's forces during the Civil War. A reception at "The Big Apple" on Saturday, will feature a special musical event. On Sunday, JHSSC will hold a business meeting and elect new officers. Co-chairs: Lyssa and Jonathan Harvey

November 6, 2005: Time Capsule Ceremony

Our yearlong celebration will end with a family event at "The Big Apple." A time capsule filled with memorable items contributed by members of the congregation will be given to a family that is designated as "keeper of the capsule" – to be opened in 50 years. Co-chairs: Jane and David Kulbersh

Schedule of Events

Co-chairs of Centennial Celebration: Lily and Bruce Filler

February 5-6, 2005: Kickoff Centennial Weekend

featured a Shabbaton at the synagogue. Co-chairs: Heidi and David Lovit

March 12, 2005: Centennial Gala Celebration

Saturday evening gala celebration at Embassy Suites.

A documentary video produced in honor of Beth Shalom's 100th anniversary will be premiered. All guests will be given a keepsake book featuring an account of Beth Shalom's history illustrated by pictures of the past, photographs of present members, and well wishes from the community. It will be an evening to remember. Chair: Rachel Levinson



Beth Shalom's second synagogue on Marion Street, demolished some time ago.

For more information call Lyssa Harvey at 803.920.0707 or e-mail her at scartandplay@hotmail.com.

SJHS-JHSSC October 28 - 31, 2004



Building a Strong Foundation: Society Seeks Pillars



The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has been remarkably successful in its ten-year history. The Society's anniversary meeting last October displayed just how far it has come, with a major academic conference, more than 400 paid registrants, and a festive weekend celebration.

JHSSC operates on a modest budget, funded largely by the generosity of its leadership members, the Pillars. Pillars provide the foundation for our work through a commitment of \$1,000 a year for five years. We are fortunate to have 29 current Pillars. To sustain our operations and provide for new growth, the Society needs additional support.

Please consider becoming a Pillar of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Each gift is tax-deductible and will directly fund the Society's efforts in cultural conservation and education. For more information about giving to JHSSC, please contact Martin Perlmutter at 843.953.5682 or perlmutterm@cofc.edu



Rabbi Theodore Levy z"l

Rabbi Theodore (Ted) S. Levy, founding member of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, passed away on November 11, 2004. Rabbi Levy was a formative voice for the Society, was on its board since the Society's inception, and was a Pillar of the Society for many years.

Rabbi Levy was a longtime leader in Syracuse's Jewish community, serving for 27 years as rabbi of Temple Society of Concord, Syracuse's oldest synagogue, where he was an outspoken advocate for racial, religious, and social equality. Rabbi Levy was the founding rabbi of Temple Beth Yam when he moved to Hilton Head in 1991 and was its leader for many years.

May Ina Rae, Seth, Cynthia, and Jonathan find comfort among the mourners of Zion.

The Pillars of the Society (2005)

John and Marcie Baker	Columbia, SC
Norman and Eve Berlinsky	Charleston, SC
Bernice (Bunny) Bernstein	Mt. Pleasant, SC
In memory of Anne and Samuel Richman of Manning, SC	
Alan Coleman	Charleston, SC
Harriette Kraft Ehrlich	Jacksonville, FL
Meri Gergel	Columbia, SC
Richard and Belinda Gergel	Columbia, SC
Dr. Mark and Judith Green	Charleston, SC
Ruth B. Greenberg	Florence, SC
Michael Kogan	Little Falls, NJ
Ronald Krancer	Villanova, PA
Cynthia J. Levy	Hilton Head, SC
Ina Rae Levy	Hilton Head, SC
Susan Lourie	Columbia, SC
Frieda and Jack Margolies	Charleston, SC
Rose Mark	Beaufort, SC
Dr. Albert and Robin Mercer	Owensboro, KY
Leon and Karen Ortner	Charleston, SC
Susan Pearlstine	Park City, UT
Klyde and Claire Robinson	Charleston, SC
Benedict and Brenda Rosen	Myrtle Beach, SC
Robert and Susan Rosen	Charleston, SC
Jeffrey and Mickey Rosenblum	Charleston, SC
Paul and Jayne Siegel	Walterboro, SC
Steven and Harriett Steinert	Sullivan's Island, SC
Dr. Gordan and Barbara Stine	Charleston, SC
Mark C. Tanenbaum	Sullivan's Island, SC
Bernard and Ann Warshaw	Walterboro, SC
Jerry and Anita Zucker	Charleston, SC

***Yes, I/we want to be a pillar of the JHSSC.
In doing so, I/we commit to a gift of \$5,000
over a period of five years.***

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ***State:*** _____ ***Zip:*** _____

Phone: _____ ***Fax:*** _____

Email: _____

Check enclosed \$ _____ ***(includes annual membership)***



Martin Perlmutter, Executive Director
Enid Idelsohn, Administrator

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Bernard Warshaw, *President*
Belinda Gergel, *Vice-President*
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Jewish Heritage Collection

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Join the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

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ANNUAL DUES FOR 2005 (JANUARY–DECEMBER)

_____ Individual/Family Membership	\$36
_____ Friend	\$200
_____ Sponsor	\$350
_____ Founding Patron	\$1000
_____ Pillar	\$5000 (\$1000 for 5 years)

Join or renew JHSSC online. **Go to www.cofc.edu/~jwst/**
Enroll your friends and relatives for an additional \$36 each.
Send us their information and we will inform them of your gift.

Please make checks payable to JHSSC

Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program

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Charleston, SC 29424

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