

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of SOUTH CAROLINA

WINTER 2006 VOLUME XI - NUMBER 1



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From the Presidents

Bernard Warshaw

You will never know how much I have enjoyed being your president for the past two years. When electing me to this position, you added a great deal of pleasure to my life, and I want to thank you all. We have had many successes in these years, and we will be remembered for them.

Our October 2004 three-day joint meeting with the Southern Jewish Historical Society brought together Charleston's three synagogues to help accomplish our goals for harmony. The weekend concluded with a fabulous Celebration of Diversity at Marion Square. A major work in progress is our Cemetery Project, aimed at documenting Jewish burial sites across the state. Our most capable chairman, Stanley Farbstein, heads the project, assisted by a committee of hardworking and efficient volunteers.

When I took office, my goal was to establish a statewide grassroots program so that the Jews of South Carolina could come to know one another. We have accomplished this thus far by having meetings and celebrations in Georgetown, Spartanburg/Greenville, Beaufort, and Columbia, where we awarded the JHSSC Arts and Cultural Achievement Award to Dr. Selden Smith, chairman of the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust.

The Society will now be in the hands of Dr. Belinda Gergel of Columbia and her slate of officers and board. With tremendous respect and admiration for Dr. Martin Perlmutter and Ms. Enid Idelsohn, without whom I could not have accomplished my goals—I give them a great big thank you!!!!!!!

Sincerely,



Belinda Gergel

What an honor to serve as your president and to follow in the footsteps of such outstanding leaders as Bernard Warshaw, Jeffrey Rosenblum, Robert Rosen, Klyde Robinson, Richard Gergel, and Founding President Isadore Lourie.

The Historical Society, now in its second decade, has had a remarkable record of achievement. In ten short years it has helped create an archives of significant historic artifacts and documents pertaining to Jewish life in the South; mounted a major exhibition that toured nationally for two years; supported the publication of research on South Carolina's Jewish history; and served as a powerful network linking members.

Our challenge now is to build on these successes and to define our mission and goals for the next decade. I see on the horizon several critical issues that require attention, including the preservation of artifacts and historic structures, particularly in small towns with declining Jewish populations; the documentation of Jewish cemeteries; and the designation by historic markers of places of significance to the Jewish experience in South Carolina. I am also excited about the College of Charleston's new initiative in creating a Center for Southern Jewish Culture, which will complement and enhance our ongoing efforts to preserve our special history and educate the public.

The key to our future success will be the active participation of members in every community in the state. Please join us in this effort and help us build a vibrant program and organization. I welcome your ideas and suggestions and look forward to seeing you at the next regional meeting in Sumter and Columbia on March 3-4.

Sincerely,

*On the cover:
Charter Members of the
National Council of Jewish
Women, Charleston Section,
1906. From NCJW
scrapbook compiled by Irma
Furchgott Blank in 1958.
Jewish Heritage Collection,
College of Charleston
Library (JHC).*

NCJW Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The National Council of Jewish Women, Charleston Section, is one hundred years old! Come celebrate the achievements and contributions of this remarkable group of women at the Dock Street Theatre, Sunday, February 26, at 3:00 p.m. The NCJW is an all-volunteer organization that has been serving people in the Charleston community and around the world for 100 years. Inspired by Jewish values, the NCJW works through programs of education, advocacy, and community service to improve the lives of women, children, and families, and strives to ensure individual rights and freedoms for all.

Founded in 1906, the Charleston Section is one of the oldest NCJW groups in the country, with over 200 current members. From its first project of sending aid to victims of San Francisco's earthquake, the NCJW has been committed to community service and touched virtually every institution in Charleston. Council members threw themselves into home-front efforts during World War II; they made bandages for the Red Cross, provided recreational outings and hospitality for the soldiers, developed an information bureau for servicemen and women, and their families, sold war bonds, and taught English to new immigrants. NCJW volunteers provided screening for diabetes and Tay-Sachs, and hearing and vision tests for children in the schools. They worked at the dialysis clinic, volunteered for the Pap Mobile and Head Start programs, sponsored a workshop on "Youth in Trouble," sent

clothes, toys, and books to Israel, and co-sponsored the first community Health Fair in 1980.

The Council's philanthropic efforts continue. NCJW provides school supplies to low-income schools, lunches for seniors, food preparation at Crisis Ministries Soup Kitchen, toys and toiletries for abused women and their children, and programs and advocacy on issues related to women, children, and families. For ten years, it has sponsored and facilitated an interactive program for middle-school students, Hello Israel.

President of the Charleston Council Faye Seigel speaks with pride about the women who came before her: "The passionate women who have unselfishly served The Charleston Section of the National Council of Jewish Women for 100 years have left a rich heritage and a permanent imprint on thousands of lives in this community. It is a legacy we can all be proud of."

In honor of that heritage, NCJW's anniversary will feature proclamations from Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., and the Council's national president, Phyllis Snyder, as well as a video retrospective, recognition of past presidents, and a musical program of Broadway songs performed by singer and actress, Gail Nelson. A champagne reception for major donors will be held at the East Battery home of Mr. and Mrs. Morton Needle prior to the event. The Jerry and Anita Zucker Foundation, Inc., and Arnold and Diane Goodstein have generously underwritten the gala evening. Tickets are available at the Dock Street Theatre for \$50.00 per person.



For further information about the donor reception or Dock Street event, or about sponsorships for the commemorative book, please call Faye Seigel at 843.795.5157.

The NCJW organized a Ship-A-Box program which sent toys, bicycles, and carpentry tools to children in Jewish communities overseas. From NCJW scrapbook, JHC.

Mystery of Temple Sinai

Adapted from an article by Eddie Litaker, staff writer, in The Item, June 12, 2005



Temple Sinai was placed on the National Registry of Historic Sites in 1999.

Home to Sumter's Reform Jewish congregation, Temple Sinai is architecturally stunning—a massive brick building with Moorish details, castellated towers featuring domed roofs, and eleven large stained glass windows. Its architectural significance landed it on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. But who exactly was the architect? Despite the efforts of Katherine Harrison, director of the Sumter County Museum, and Robert Moses, Temple Sinai's historian, the identity of the Temple's designer remains a mystery.

Sumter's first Jewish citizens came from Charleston about 1815. These early settlers were of Sephardic background, whose ancestors had fled persecution in Spain. As oppression spread in Germany, Poland, and then Russia, immigrants from these countries also settled in South Carolina and the Sumter community.

The current Temple was built in 1913, a tangible symbol of the religious commitment of Sumter's Jewish population. German artisans were enlisted to build the ten large stained glass windows that adorn the temple. The eleventh, a circular window above the entrance depicting Solomon, was built in Atlanta. These tall, impressive windows flood the temple with afternoon light, as the sun shines through depictions such as Abraham and Isaac, Moses with the Ten Commandments, and David playing the harp. In 1982, the windows were covered with protective mesh on the

outside, but they still cast a luminous light over the interior of the Temple.

Despite the architectural significance of the Temple, its creator remains unknown. Harrison and Moses still hold out hope that the architect may be discovered. When records of the Temple were copied for historic preservation and granted to the Sumter County Museum, the copyist neglected to turn over a crucial postcard addressed to the architect, which would have revealed the architect's name. If the card is found, then the mystery of Temple Sinai's architect will be solved.

This historically significant building is a testament to the long-standing presence and strength of the Jewish community of Sumter. Visitors to the Temple will be impressed with its solidity, the effort and expense involved in shipping the large windows from Germany, its architectural grandeur, and not least the mystery of its provenance.

My America: Art from The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900-1955



Raphael Soyer (1899–1987), Dancing Lesson, 1926. Estate of Raphael Soyer. Courtesy of Forum Gallery, NYC.

Organized by The Jewish Museum (New York, NY), this exhibition is on view at the Columbia Museum of Art through May 7, 2006. The exhibit focuses on the first half of the 20th century, a period of great social turmoil during which Jewish artists played a major role in shaping American art. *My America* explores eclectic styles and subjects and includes over 70 works—paintings, sculpture, photographs, and works on paper.

A guided tour of the exhibit will conclude JHSSC's Sumter/Columbia weekend. Please join us for this extraordinary opportunity.

JHSSC Meets in Sumter & Columbia March 3-5, 2006

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 3rd at Temple Sinai in Sumter

- ◆ 8:00 pm – Services: Rabbi Robert A. Seigel
Oneg (refreshments) follow. All are welcome.

Saturday, March 4th at the Sumter County Museum

- ◆ 10:00 am – “Why We Must Preserve South Carolina’s Jewish History,” Dr. Belinda F. Gergel, JHSSC President
- ◆ 10:15 am – Introductions, Bernard Warshaw, JHSSC Past President
- ◆ 10:20 am – “Small Town Jews: A Legacy of Leadership in South Carolina,” Richard Mark Gergel, Senior Partner, Gergel, Nickles, and Solomon Law Firm, Columbia
- ◆ 11:15 am – “Jewish Confederates/Sumter Confederates,” Robert N. Rosen, author of *A Short History of Charleston* and *The Jewish Confederates*, and Partner, Rosen Law Firm, Charleston
- ◆ 12:00 pm – Comments and Questions, Dr. Hyman S. Rubin, Associate Professor of History, Columbia College
- ◆ 12:30 pm – Luncheon with music by The Southern Klezmer Group

Saturday Afternoon at Temple Sinai

- ◆ 2:00 pm – “The Windows of Temple Sinai,” Robert A. Moses
- ◆ 2:30 pm – Performance by Koleinu (Our Voices), The Choir of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston
Refreshments follow the performance.

Sunday, March 5th at the Columbia Museum of Art

- ◆ 9:00 am – JHSSC Board Meeting
- ◆ 10:30 am – Guided tour of “My America: Art from the Jewish Museum Collection, 1900–1955”

JHSSC Meeting
Sumter & Columbia, South Carolina
March 3-5, 2006

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

*The cost for this weekend is \$20 per person
not including hotel accommodations.*

Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

Return form to:

*JHSSC / Jewish Studies Program
96 Wentworth Street
Charleston, SC 29424*

SUMTER HOTEL INFORMATION

Fairfield Inn

2390 Broad Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: 803.469.2222
or 800.426.7866

RATE: \$60/night

Special rate available until February 20, 2006

You must make your own reservations

(request a room in the

“**Jewish Heritage Weekend** room block.”)

COLUMBIA HOTEL INFORMATION

The Whitney Hotel

700 Woodrow Street
Columbia, SC 29205
Phone: 803.252.0845
or 800.637.4008

RATE: \$104/night

Special rate available until February 20, 2006

You must make your own reservations

(request a room in the “**Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina** room block.”)

Flight or Captivity: Four Teenagers

by Karen Tannenbaum, Field Researcher, Holocaust Archives Project

It was morning on November 9, 1938, the day preceding the night history knows as Kristallnacht, or “the Night of Broken Glass.”* Max Freilich, age 14, was hiding in the Leipzig train station to avoid attack by mobs roaming the streets

looking for Jewish men and boys. He had arrived on the early train from Altenburg to attend the Zionist ORT School, where his parents had enrolled him after public schools in Altenburg were closed to Jewish children. He

quickly saw it wasn’t safe to venture out of the station. So, for more than 12 hours, he hid alone, in the station’s numerous corridors, nooks, and crannies.

Months later, in August 1939, his parents put him aboard one of the last Kindertransport trains to leave Germany. He never saw

them again. In the years that followed, Max was interned by the British as a German citizen, served with the Canadian Army in Germany, and learned that his parents had perished in Auschwitz. In the summer of 1945, on leave in

Germany, he talked his way into the spectators’ gallery at the Nuremberg trials, the only Canadian army private

to do so, he reports. He still has his entry passes and program, which have been reproduced for the

College of Charleston

library’s Jewish Heritage Collection. Max Freilich has lived in Greenville since 1983 with his wife, Anita, also a refugee from the Holocaust.



Max Freilich (l), age 14, and Walter Kornfeld (r), age 17, managed to avoid arrest by the Nazis on November 9, 1938—the day of Kristallnacht. Both Freilich and Kornfeld’s son, Tom, are residents of Greenville, South Carolina.

Again on November 9, 1938, in Vienna, 17-year-old Walter Kornfeld had an afternoon dentist appointment. His parents waited in an anteroom. Warned by another patient of bedlam in the streets, the family left the dental office and

calmly settled in at a nearby café known to be frequented by the Gestapo. The café was not busy that day. The Kornfelds stayed until dark, drinking coffee and reading newspapers. Then they quickly made their way home. Walter’s father

Alexander, a decorated World War I veteran, intensified his efforts to get visas for the family to leave Austria. Walter, a happy teenager and recent high school graduate, did not want to leave. Nonetheless, in February 1939, he preceded his parents to America, starting his life here

working on a chicken farm in New Jersey. His son Tom Kornfeld, also a Greenville resident, has shared with our research team his family’s story, including a memoir written by Walter.

In August 1942, in Paris, the Gestapo was staging surprise round-ups of Jews, men and boys in particular. Henri Ejbuszyc, almost 20 years old, was tired of his mother’s warnings to stay indoors. His father had simply disappeared two years

earlier when he and a relative went to look for a safer place for the family to live. A friend called and urged Henri to come out for a while. Bored, he slipped out of the family’s

Germany. Austria. France. Poland. Four countries. Four teenagers. Each one caught up in the events of the Holocaust. Three were Jewish, one was not. Three survived; one did not. Each has a South Carolina connection. These are their stories.



* All across Germany and Austria, a pogrom was underway—a massive state-sanctioned attack on Jewish shops, homes, and synagogues. Throughout the day, Nazi SS troops and their sympathizers broke windows of Jewish businesses and houses, burned and looted synagogues, rounded up and arrested Jews, and sent thousands to concentration camps. The rampage, which intensified throughout the night, is considered the start of the Holocaust.

under Nazi Rule



Max Freilich in an Aliyah group in Wales in 1939, following his evacuation from Germany on the Kindertransport.

modest apartment and was soon picked up. From Drancy, the transit concentration camp near Paris where he was held for a few days, he wrote to his family. “I have some news that will make you sad,” he reported. He was being shipped to “an unknown destination.” They all knew this meant Poland and that he was unlikely to return. H el ene Diamant, Henri’s sister, lived in Greenville for 22 years before moving to the Boston area to live near her daughter, the novelist Anita Diamant. H el ene has audio taped her family’s story and has loaned the archives Henri’s final postcard for photographic documentation.

Twelve months after Henri was rounded up, in August 1943, Jerzy Gruszczyński, age 17, was arrested by the Gestapo in Warsaw. For almost a year, he had been running errands for the Polish underground in the city. Although not Jewish, Jerzy and his family had left Warsaw to avoid Nazi rule. His father worked on an estate in the countryside where Jerzy studied English and German—reluctantly—with two elderly Jewish women who were being hidden in the estate mansion. In 1942, Jerzy was back in the city to take a radio technician course. He was soon working for the Underground. After his arrest and interrogation, he was deported to Auschwitz as a political prisoner. Ironically, knowing German helped him in several harrowing situations. “A bad dream, a nightmare” is his shorthand description of life in Auschwitz, including his assigned work of wheeling carts of dead bodies to the crematoria. Jerzy Gruszczyński and his wife, Dorothy, live in Mauldin, outside of Greenville.



Jerzy Gruszczyński (l), shown here at age 15, working in the fields in the Polish countryside. Jerzy was arrested by the Gestapo when he was 17 and held at Auschwitz as a political prisoner for more than two years. He lives in Mauldin, South Carolina.

Four teenage boys. Four perspectives on the Holocaust. Their histories are preserved in narratives, photographs, and documents in the Holocaust Archives, Jewish Heritage Collection, at the College of Charleston’s Addlestone Library. If you would like to learn more about these individuals, call 843.953.8028 and make an appointment to visit Special Collections.



Max Freilich (l), 81, and Jerzy Gruszczyński (r), 80, met for the first time recently in Greenville. Here, they discuss their experiences as teenagers in Nazi Europe. Photograph by Karen Tannenbaum. All photos courtesy of JHC.

Coming to Charleston in June: Spotlight on Jewish History & Culture

A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto



For the ninth consecutive year, the College of Charleston's Jewish Studies Program and the City of Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs are sponsoring "A World of Jewish Culture" at Piccolo Spoleto. The 2006 program has been greatly expanded and scheduled a week later than usual, to coincide with the opening of the Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History (see below). Beginning after Shavuot and concluding on Monday night, special events tentatively include:

- a screening of the Israeli film *Ushpizin* in the classic American Theater on King Street
- a preview of *Terezin*, a soon-to-be-released production with music by Charleston native Joel Derfner
- a Klezmer band
- Sephardic music by Brio
- a concert by Charleston's own Jewish Choral Society
- a cabaret performance, and
- an evening of Gershwin in Charleston, featuring selections from *Porgy and Bess*.



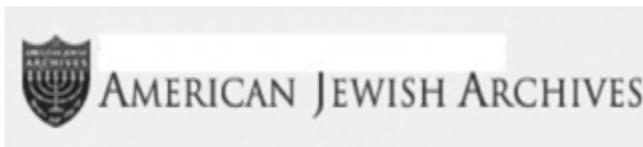
This year's bountiful offerings are made possible by a generous gift from the Herzman-Fishman Foundation. A complete schedule of events will be mailed to Society members in May. JHSSC has reserved a block of rooms at the La Quinta Inn Riverview located immediately across the Ashley River at Ripley Point Marina. To receive the special rate of \$69 per night (including breakfast), call the Inn at 843.556.5200 and mention the "Jewish Historical Society."

JHSSC Board Meeting and Panel

During *A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto* and in anticipation of the Scholars' Conference, JHSSC will organize a distinguished panel on southern Jewish history and hold a special meeting of the board on Sunday, June 4. Society members also are invited to participate in the Piccolo Spoleto performances of Jewish film, theater, and music, and to stay for the Scholars' Conference.

Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History

The College of Charleston's Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program and Jewish Heritage Collection will host the 2006 Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History. Co-sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society and the American Jewish Archives, this premier professional meeting of American Jewish historians promises to be both edifying and fun. To paraphrase the Levy's rye bread advertisement, you don't have to be Jewish *or* a scholar to sign up for the Scholars' Conference, June 5-7. For more information, call 843.953.5682.



Scholars' Conference Schedule

June 5-7, 2006

MONDAY, JUNE 5

- 8:30 am Tours of historic Charleston led by Rhetta Mendelsohn and Ruth Miller
- 11:00 am Registration and lunch at Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center
- 12:30 pm **Roundtable on Regionalism: The Significance of Place in American Jewish Life**
Patricia Nelson Limerick, Deborah Dash Moore, John Shelton Reed, Theodore Rosengarten, and George Sanchez, moderated by William R. Ferris
- 3:00 pm **On Stage**
- Sally Sims Stokes, *The Art and Craft of Comic Imitation: The Parodies of Daniel Ottolengui . . .* Andrea Most, *Selling (and Buying) the American Dream: The Ethics of Ambition in American Jewish Culture . . .* Ted Merwin, *'Jewface': Non-Jews Playing Jews on the American Stage*
- Taking Care of One's Own**
- Aline Voltaire, *'In Need of the Elements of Civilization': American Reform Judaism, the Alliance Israélite Universelle, and the spreading of 'civilization' in the Levant in the 1860s . . .* Alan M. Kraut & Deborah A. Kraut, *'A Power for Healing': Newark Beth Israel Hospital and the Jewish Hospital in the United States . . .* Kim Van Alkemade, *Orphans Together: A History of New York's Hebrew Orphan Asylum . . .* Steven Lapidus, *Jewish Community Council: The Evolution of Sectarianism in a Montreal Organization*
- 4:45 pm Walk to Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim for evening activities
- 5:00 pm **The Eldridge Street Project**
Roundtable discussion by Jeffrey Gurock, Annie Polland, Jeffrey Shandler, and Tony Michels, moderated by Daniel Soyer
- 6:30 pm Cocktails and dinner
- 8:00 pm **Gershwin in Charleston:** Selections from *Porgy and Bess*. Co-sponsored by the City of Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto festival and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

- 7:00 am Walk (or run) the new Cooper River Bridge, led by Jeffrey Gurock and Neda Nussbaum
- 9:00 am **Southern Strategies**
- Pamela Dorn Sezgin, *'Country Jews': Reconsidering 19th-century Alsatian Jewish Identity in the American South . . .* Mark K. Bauman, *The South to Center-Stage: The Origins of Reform Ideology at Baltimore's Har Sinai and in America . . .* Jessica Elfenbein, *Uptown and Traditional: A New Take on Baltimore's German Jewish Community . . .* Hollace Ava Weiner, *Whistling Dixie while Humming Ha-Tikvah: Acculturation and Activism among the Orthodox in Fort Worth*
- Languages and Landscapes**
- Adam Mendelsohn, *Tongue Ties: Emergence of the English-language Diaspora in the Mid-19th Century . . .* Daniel Kurt Ackermann, *Holy Congregation, House of God: KKBE's 1794 Synagogue Reconstructed*

- 10:45 am **The Jewish Woman in America after Thirty Years**
A discussion on the state of the field by Joyce Antler, Karla Goldman, Mary McCune, and Paula E. Hyman, moderated by Beth Wenger. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Women's Archive.
- 2:00 pm **Jewish Criminals**
- Ron Arons, *The Jews of Sing-Sing . . . Rhonda Moskowitz, American Prison: The Forgotten Jews, a documentary film-in-progress . . . Isabel Vincent, Bodies and Souls: The Trafficking of Jewish Prostitutes in the Americas*
- City Jews, Country Jews**
- Roundtable discussion by Richard M. Gergel, Leonard Rogoff, Jonathan D. Sarna, William Toll, and Lee Shai Weissbach, moderated by Dana Greene
- 4:00 pm Bus ride to Middleton Place for a plantation tour and a southern/Jewish feast
- Pass the Rice 'n Gravy: It's Shabbos in Charleston**
Custom-designed menu, served with commentary by Marcie C. Ferris, Jenna Weissman Joselit, Joan Nathan, and kosher caterer Marcie Rosenberg

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

- 9:00 am **Regionalism Redux**
- Amy Hill Shevitz, *Constructing Community, Constructing Section: Regional Culture and Jewish Community . . . Ellen Eisenberg, Western Jewry during the Period of Mass Migration: A Case for Regional Distinctiveness . . . Eric L. Goldstein, How Southern is Southern Jewish History?*
- Inside Story: Writing about Family**
- Joseph Butwin, *Tevey on King Street: Charleston and the Translation of Sholom Aleichem . . . Marcus D. Rosenbaum, Heart of a Wife: The Diary of a Southern Jewish Woman . . . Janice Rothschild Blumberg, Rabbi Edward B. M. Browne in New York, 1881–1889, and One Voice: Rabbi Jacob M. Rothschild and the Troubled South*
- 11:00 am **Seeds of Statehood**
- Noam Pianko, *From Zionism to Ethical Nationhood: Mordecai Kaplan and Jewish Nationalism . . . Daniel P. Kotzin, The Radical American Zionist: Judah L. Magnes in the Yishuv . . . Adam Howard, Sewing the Seeds of Statehood: American Garment Unions and the Establishment of the State of Israel*
- First Person Singular: Wonders from the Archives**
- Field trip to the College of Charleston's Special Collections, Addlestone Library, with Marie Ferrara, Harlan Greene, and Dale Rosengarten, editors of a new and unabridged edition of Joseph Lyons's diary
- 12:30 pm Lunch at Addlestone Library
- 1:30 pm **Changing American Jewish Identities**
David E. Kaufman, *American Celebrity and Jewish Identity: Toward a Reconsideration of the Early 1960s . . . Michael E. Staub, Israel and the Making of American Jewish Identities . . . Marjorie N. Feld, 'Sexism Is a Sin': Feminism and American Jewish Life in the 21st Century*
- 3:30 pm Optional afternoon tours: Boat ride to Fort Sumter . . . Walking tour of the Coming Street cemetery with Sol Breibart . . . Jewish Confederate tour with stops at the Phoebe Pember house, the M. C. Mordecai house, and the Daughters of Confederacy Museum, led by Rhetta Mendelsohn and Robert N. Rosen

Books of Interest

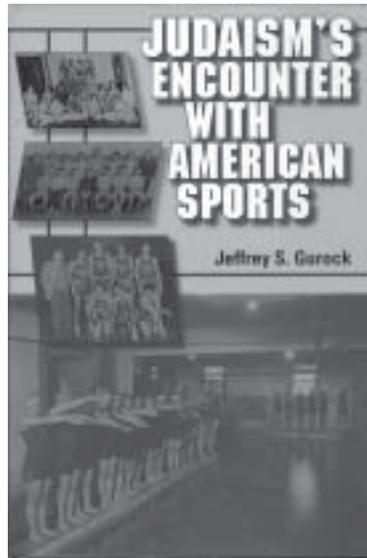
Judaism's Encounter with American Sports

Jeffrey S. Gurock

On the basketball court, the golf green, and the swimming pool, sports and religion meet—with what consequences? In this highly entertaining book, *Judaism's Encounter with American Sports*, Jeffrey Gurock examines the history of sports in the lives of American Jewish men and women. Do the secular values of sports threaten religious identification and observance? What do Jews do when a society—in this case, a team—“chooses them in,” but demands commitments that clash with ancestral ties and practices?

Gurock's look at sports and Judaism follows his congregational history, *Orthodoxy in Charleston: Brith Sholom Beth Israel & American Jewish History*, which chronicled the story of BSBI in light of national Jewish history. In his new book, Gurock uses the experience of sports to illuminate an important mode of modern Jewish religious conflict and accommodation to America. He considers the responses of Jewish leaders to sports' challenges to identity, such as using temple and synagogue centers, complete with gymnasiums and swimming pools, to attract the athletically inclined to Jewish life. Within the suburban frontiers of post-World War II America, sports-minded rabbis competed against one another for the allegiances of Jewish athletes and all other Americanized Jews. Today, tensions among Jewish movements still are played out in the sports arena.

In a mostly accepting American society, it is easy for sports-minded Jews to assimilate and lose regard for Jewish ties. At the same time, a tolerant America has enabled Jews to succeed in the sports world, while keeping faith with Jewish traditions. Gurock contributes his own experiences as a basketball player, coach, and marathon runner to make the book both a national and a personal history. By using the metaphor of sports, *Judaism's Encounter with American Sports* underscores the basic religious dilemmas of our day.



Dean of Charleston's Jewish History Reflects on his New Book

by Sol Breitbart

Explorations in Charleston's Jewish History was launched with a book signing at the annual meeting of the JHSSC in Columbia and followed by four signings in Charleston. I have been deeply gratified at the reception that the book has received.

The volume is a compilation of writings based on 30 years of research, unified by the common theme

of the Jewish experience in Charleston. *Explorations* was the result of the energies of many people. The initial impetus came from Robert N. Rosen, historian, lawyer, and past president of the JHSSC, who raised the necessary funds. Financial support also came from the Society, which will receive the royalties from the sale of the book.

Jack Bass, a professor at the College of Charleston and the author of several works on Southern politics, coordinated the project. My wife Sara, who for years had urged her reluctant husband to compile his writings for publication, saw to it that the materials were assembled.

The volume was faithfully edited and arranged by Harlan Greene, a talented archivist and writer. He was aided by Dale Rosengarten, the dynamic curator of the Jewish Heritage Collection, and her colleagues in Special Collections at the College of Charleston library, who selected and scanned more than 50 photographs for use in the publication.

I hope these articles will bring more attention to little known subjects. Each was pursued for my own enjoyment and in the interest of preserving our Jewish heritage. I also wanted to help members of the Jewish community better understand, and take pride in, the Jewish presence in Charleston for over 300 years.

Indiana University Press, 2005, \$29.95

The History Press, 2005, \$24.99

Matzoh Ball Gumbo

This bountiful book by Marcie Cohen Ferris, assistant professor of American Studies and associate director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, marries food history and recipes on a tour of southern Jewish cooking. As she travels from the Mississippi Delta to the South Carolina Lowcountry and across the centuries, Ferris describes how Jews adjusted their eating habits to their new surroundings. "At the heart of the story," writes historian Dale Rosengarten, "is a paradox: how can there be such a thing as southern Jewish cooking when the laws of kashrut . . . forbid such staples of southern kitchens as pork, shrimp, oysters, and crab?"

In the Lowcountry, Jewish women adopted patterns of their middle-class, non-Jewish neighbors, serving the same regional dishes, yet still observing Jewish holidays and in many cases Jewish dietary laws. Some families trained their African-American cooks in the intricate rules of keeping kosher, particularly during Passover. Ferris outlines the staggering labor involved in making Charleston's Jewish kitchens kosher for the holiday. Families sterilized all kitchen equipment and "sold" all non-kosher food to their gentile

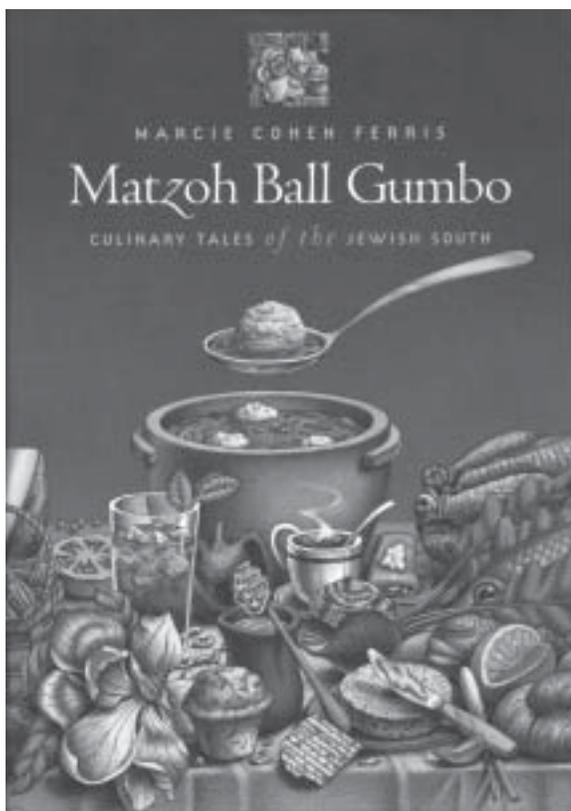
neighbors, then "bought" the food back after the holiday. Meat markets and delicatessens such as Zalkin's and

Mazo's supplied the Jewish community in the heyday of East European immigration. Catering businesses run by Jewish women flourished in the 1940s and 1950s.

One such business was operated by Minnie Weinberg and Mildred Bernstein, whose recipe for schnecken is reprinted in the book. South Carolinians will find lots of other familiar names and faces in these pages. Ferris made ample use of oral histories and images from the College of Charleston's Jewish Heritage Collection, and in addition interviewed such notables as Jack Bass, Fred Bernstein, Sol Breibart, Ruth Bass Jacobs, Roslyn Furchgott Karesh, Alex, Lila, and Teri Bernstein Lash, Sandra Goldberg Lipton, Cynthia Kahn Nirenblatt, Peggy

Kronsberg Pearlstein, Sydney Solomon Richman, Morris and Robert Rosen, David and Marcelle Cohan Rosenberg, Raymond and Sandra Lee Kahn Rosenblum, Marian Birlant Slotin (o.b.m.), Dana Berlin Strange, Anita Rosen Levine, Kaylene Schoenberg Karesh, and Leona Geismar Stamler.

University of North Carolina Press, 2005, \$29.95



Nettie Levenson's Spoonbread

This recipe is adapted from one found in the Ella Levenson Schlosburg papers in Special Collections at the College of Charleston library. The recipe was written in Yiddish by Ella's mother, Nettie Levenson, of Bishopville, South Carolina, and translated for the Jewish Heritage Collection by Paul and Jean Birnbaum of Savannah, Georgia.

2 cups hot cooked grits
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut up
4 large eggs, well beaten
1 cup stone-ground white or yellow cornmeal
2 cups milk
2 teaspoons kosher salt
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 375°. Grease a 9 x 9 inch glass baking dish or ceramic casserole.

Put the grits in a large bowl. With a sturdy wooden spoon, stir in the butter until melted. Vigorously stir in the eggs, then the cornmeal until well blended.

Gradually stir in the milk. Stir in the salt and pepper. Scrape into the prepared baking dish. Bake until firm, puffed, and lightly browned on the surface, about 45 minutes.

Serve hot.
Makes 6–8 servings.

News Notes

Preserving Our Torahs

by Hy Brand, Second Vice-President, JHSSC

It is our duty to preserve and transmit our holy Torahs from one generation to another. We all cherish our Torahs and we know many Jews have sacrificed themselves to save their Torah. Torahs hold a cardinal place in Jewish history and we consider them priceless.

In South Carolina we have some large congregations that may have an abundance of Torahs and small congregations with a limited number of Torahs. American society is very mobile. Because of shifts in population, some congregations are closing or considering closing. Often the Torahs of the closing synagogues are given or sold to larger congregations.

We should consider doing a survey and inventory of Torahs in South Carolina. Ask all congregations: How many Torahs do you have? What size are they—small, medium, or large? What is their condition? Are they Torahs rescued from destruction during the Holocaust or donated to the congregation from a sister shul that closed its doors?

Once we have collected this information, if we find a congregation that is closing, we could be in a position to suggest a new home for its Torahs.

JHSSC Goes Global

by Ann Meddin Hellman

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina now has its own website. At www.jhssc.org you can find information about the Society, copies of publications, a listing of upcoming events, a photo gallery, and a connection to a secure page so that you can pay your membership dues online. You can even become a Pillar of the Society from this page.

Our photo gallery shows images of attendees at JHSSC meetings and functions. Some of the people in the pictures have remained nameless. Do you know who they are? Please click on the webmaster link at the bottom of the page and let me know their names. I would like to give them their moment of fame.

“A Portion of the People” Now Available Online

A digital version of the museum exhibition “A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life” has been launched on the World Wide Web. This visually exciting project is the product of a partnership between the Addlestone Library at the College of Charleston and University Library at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The College library’s Special Collections supplied photographs and text to a great team of web designers who mounted the site. Three of four sections of the exhibit are now up and running @ www.lib.unc.edu/apop

- **First Families** begins with the coming of Jewish settlers to Carolina in the late 1600s and ends with the founding of the Reformed Society of Israelites in 1824.
- **This Happy Land** portrays southern Jewish religious life before the Civil War and culminates with the Confederate defeat.
- **Pledging Allegiance**, *still under construction*, traces Jewish migration to the South in the first half of the 20th century through World War II.
- **Palmetto Jews**, a portfolio of photographs by Bill Aron, moves the story into the 21st century.



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Dale Rosengarten..... Editor
Jecca Hutcheson..... Copy Editor
Enid Idelsohn..... Design and Layout

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and Elizabeth Stephenson for their help.

JHSSC
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC 29424

Looking Toward the Future: A Center for Southern Jewish Culture

Building on the successes of the Jewish Heritage Collection and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program and the Addlestone Library propose to establish a Center for Southern Jewish Culture. The Center will promote teaching, research, and community education on Southern Jewish life, a field in which the College has earned national attention and respect. The resources of a research center will enable the College to broaden its collecting efforts, develop coursework in Jewish Studies, and provide a public venue for Southern Jewish history.

JHSSC, together with the Jewish Studies Program and the College library, has laid the foundation for the proposed Center. The success of each institution is apparent in its accomplishments over the past decade. What is needed now is a headquarters for the study of Southern Jewish life.

The new Center will become a focal point for learning that ranges across academic disciplines. Like the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, a Center for the Study of Southern Jewish Culture will significantly increase the College's research capabilities and boost its reputation for excellence in higher education.

Charleston is *the* natural place for a research center on Southern Jewish culture. The city boasts many "firsts" in American Jewish history: the South's first Jewish settlement,

America's first Hebrew Benevolent Society, first Hebrew Orphan Society, first Jew elected to public office, first effort to reform Judaism; South Carolina's first Ashkenazi

Orthodox congregation and first Conservative congregation.

Charleston's great attractions—its mild winters, historic architecture, cosmopolitan society, and fine restaurants—will help make the new Center a magnet for research, scholarly conferences, and group visits.

Just as the curriculum of a college makes a strong symbolic statement for what matters and what does not, the existence of the Center recognizes Jewish history not as a minority religious interest, but as a field integral to the study of civilization.

The Center will establish two new faculty positions: a research archivist and a scholar specializing in Southern

Jewish studies. With these positions, the College can respond to the escalating demand for conferences, courses, oral history interviews, archival services, and community programming. The Center for Southern Jewish Culture will become an area of excellence in the College's heralded liberal arts curriculum.



Porters Lodge, College of Charleston, 2005.



Left: Wolff's Department Store, Allendale, SC, 1913. Courtesy of Sura Wolff Wengrow.

Right: Cemetery marker for second oldest Jewish burial ground in the state. Georgetown, SC.



Our Pillars, Our Strength

by Martin Perlmutter, JHSSC Executive Director

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is now the largest statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina. The Society's strength lies in its members, who have been the driving force behind many of our best initiatives.

For two years, Stanley Farbstein has spearheaded a project to survey Jewish cemeteries across the state. He and his team of volunteers have discovered previously unknown gravesites and compiled biographical information on those buried there. Through the efforts of Hy Brand, we hope to complete an inventory of our state's Torahs.

In 2005, funds from the Society contributed to the publication of Sol Breibart's *Explorations in Charleston's Jewish History*. Last April, JHSSC members turned out in droves to help Beaufort's Beth Israel celebrate its 100th anniversary, and they showed up again in Columbia in September for a spectacular centennial celebration for Beth Shalom.

The Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library has embarked on two big new projects. One effort involves collecting photographs, documents, and memoirs in the possession of South Carolinians that relate to the Holocaust. The other is a long-overdue mission to create a photo archives—to scan and catalog the imagery JHC has been collecting for the past ten years and make it available online.

The work of JHSSC and its members has focused attention on the long and significant role that South Carolina Jews have played in building our nation. We will have an unparalleled opportunity to showcase our history this coming June, when the College of Charleston will host the Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History, co-sponsored by America's two premiere Jewish archives: AJHS in New York and AJA in Cincinnati.

The generosity of our Pillars makes all of this possible. Each Pillar pledges to give at least \$1,000 a year for five years, money that helps to cover our operating expenses and fund our activities. Please consider adding your name to our list of distinguished supporters. Become a Pillar and help preserve the history of South Carolina's Jews.

The Pillars of the Society (2006)

John and Marcie Baker	Columbia, SC
Doris Baumgarten	Aiken, SC
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Ruth B. Greenberg	Florence, SC
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Alan and Charlotte Kahn	Columbia, SC
Michael Kogan	Little Falls, NJ
Ronald Krancer	Villanova, PA
Cynthia J. Levy	Hilton Head, SC
Ina Rae Levy	Hilton Head, SC
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Leon and Karen Ortner	Charleston, SC
Susan Pearlstine	Park City, UT
Edward and Sandra Poliakoff	Columbia, SC
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
Mark C. Tanenbaum	Sullivan's Island, SC
Bernard and Ann Warshaw	Walterboro, SC
Jerry and Anita Zucker	Charleston, SC

Harvey and Mimi Gleberman, o.b.m.	Spring Island, SC
Anne Oxler Krancer, o.b.m.	Villanova, PA

Yes, I/we want to become 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): _____

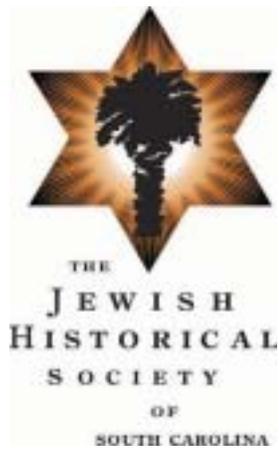
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_____ Individual/Family Membership	\$36
_____ Friend	\$200
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_____ Pillar	\$5000 (\$1000 for 5 years)

Join or renew JHSSC online. Go to www.jhssc.org
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
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