



Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Spring 1996

Mazel Tov to our New Officers and Directors

Good luck to our new officers, board, and committee chairs just elected for two-year terms at the annual business meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina on January 14 in Columbia. We suggest that our members save this list for further reference.

PRESIDENT	Klyde Robinson
VICE PRESIDENT	Richard Gergel
SECRETARY	Martin Perlmutter
TREASURER	David J. Cohen
FOUNDING PRESIDENT	Isadore Lourie

Board of Directors

Max Heller	Joseph Rex
Robert Moses	Gerry Sue Arnold
Arlene Polinsky	Harold Kornblut
Sam Rogol	Benjamin Goldberg
Dr. Sol Neidich	Rabbi Theodore Levy
William Ackerman	Mick Lourie

Chairmen of Standing Committees

(Also serving as Board Members)

HERITAGE	Sandra Lee Rosenblum
PROGRAM & CONFERENCE	Belinda Gergel
HISTORIC SITES	Janice Kahn
FINANCE	Robert Rosen
GRANTS	Solomon Breibart
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Leah Chase
NOMINATIONS	Jeffrey Rosenblum
MEMBERSHIP	Barry Krell

Executive Committee

All Officers	Gerry Sue Arnold
Belinda Gergel	Benjamin Goldberg
Robert Rosen	Sandra Lee Rosenblum

JEWISH HERITAGE PROJECT	Dale Rosengarten
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Helen Silver

Getting Acquainted with our New President Judge Klyde Robinson

Our new president, installed at the last session of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina in Columbia in January, is well-known to many of our members.

A Charleston native, Klyde Robinson began his higher education in South Carolina at The Citadel, earning his bachelor of arts degree in 1946. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1949, with a degree in jurisprudence, and in 1977 attended the National Judicial College. Returning to South Carolina, he has served as Circuit Judge, United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina and Attorney for Charleston County.

Robinson has played an active role in local and state organizations. He has served on the boards of directors of the Charleston Interfaith Crisis Ministry, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, South Carolina Heart Association, Charleston Jewish Community Relations Committee and Beth Elohim Congregation.

Through the years, Robinson has held numerous leadership positions, including President, Charleston Jewish Community Center; Chairman of the Board, Charleston County Heart Association; Campaign Chairman, Charleston County Muscular Dystrophy Association; Vice-Chairman, Charleston County Democratic Party; Vice Chairman, Simons

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A Visit with Dale Rosengarten, Historian and Curator for the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Stacks of old records, books, aging photographs, tape recorders, file cabinets, and computers catch one's attention when one arrives in Special Collections at the College of Charleston Library.

Presiding over a back corner of the archives is Dale Rosengarten, historian and curator for the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina since January 1995. She is waiting to greet me with a smile.

Dale is perfectly suited for the job both by education and experience. A native of New York City, she received her B.A. degree summa cum laude from Radcliffe College, Cambridge, MA., in 1969, with a major in social studies. In 1975 Dale received her M.A. in American History and at present is a Ph.D. candidate in the History of American Civilization at Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Her expected date of completion is June 1996.

Her work experience is equally impressive, with many publications to her credit. Best known to Charlestonians is the exhibition catalog titled *Row Upon Row: Sea Grass Baskets of the South Carolina Lowcountry*. Mounted by McKissick Museum in

Columbia, the exhibit traveled to Charleston's Gibbes Museum and many other sites around the country.

Dale told me in an interview that "through the basket project, I entered the museum business... If I had to describe myself, I'd call myself a 'social historian,' but I love curatorial work because I enjoy putting history together with a visual interpretation. After *Row Upon Row*," Dale explained, McKissick Museum hired me to organize a conference focusing on sweetgrass as a natural resource. The conference spawned a community organization and helped initiate a transplantation project."

Dale and her husband, writer Theodore Rosengarten, moved from Massachusetts to McClellanville, SC, in 1976, and have put down deep roots. Their sons, Rafael David, now 16, and Carlin Isaiah, nearly 12, were both born in South Carolina.

The Jewish Heritage Project was initially suggested by one of Dale's colleagues at McKissick. In 1992 the Museum asked Dale to explore the feasibility of mounting a major research project and exhibition on South Carolina's Jewish history and culture.

This is when I met Dale. She called

one evening for an appointment and was on our doorstep the next day. I described some of the resources available in Charleston and throughout the South.

With the founding of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina in April, 1994, the idea of the Heritage Project became a reality. The rest is history, as the saying goes. Over the past year, the project has gained tremendous momentum (see our Fall 1995 newsletter for a progress report).

I predict that Dale's enthusiasm and skills, together with the financial backing and support of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, the College of Charleston, and McKissick Museum, will one day lead to a traveling exhibition about the Jews of South Carolina, and looking to the future, to a permanent museum.

If you would like more information about the project or want to share your family's history, write to: Dale Rosengarten, Jewish Heritage Project, College of Charleston Library, Charleston, SC 29424.

Helen Silver

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Guild of the College of Charleston; and Secretary, Brith Sholom Congregation.

Robinson is very proud of his family. His wife, the former Claire Zuckernik, is a Boston native and a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College in Springfield, Massachusetts. She is currently employed as Director of the Elderhostel Program at the College of Charleston.

She, too, has been active in community organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Charleston County and the Charleston Chapter of the Council of Jewish Women.

The Robinsons have two daughters, Amy and Eve, both of whom live in the Washington area, and one granddaughter Robinson Gold.

Robinson has given much thought to the agenda he would like to see carried out by the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. "I would like to increase the participation of volunteers in the Heritage Project in order to interview every Jewish family in South Carolina as to their family genealogy and provide them with an opportunity to reminisce and tell their story. These taped interviews will be transcribed, catalogued and housed at the College of Charleston so that scholars and others may have them available," said Robinson in his acceptance speech.

He also wants to make inquiries about the reestablishment of a Jewish cemetery on Hanover Street in Charleston. "As I understand it," he said, "these cemeteries were condemned and taken by the City of Charleston for failure to pay abut-

ment taxes in the 1930s. A few of the stones were removed, but the majority were desecrated by vandals. I do not know how we can continue to revere our ancestry, take pride in their accomplishments, and let this violation of sacred ground go unchallenged. To me it is indefensible."

Another of Robinson's goals is "to create a long-range plan to establish a Jewish museum in Charleston. It is well-recognized that South Carolina, and particularly Charleston, is steeped in Jewish heritage from the earliest colonial days. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is the ideal organization to sponsor and provide the leadership for this movement. With a united effort we can begin, and ultimately, accomplish this necessary and deserving achievement!" Robinson declared.