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# THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## of SOUTH CAROLINA

SPRING 2012 VOLUME XVII - NUMBER 1

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THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

> Dale Rosengarten editor Alyssa Neely assistant editor Joseph Rubin designer

The JHSSC newsletter is published twice a year.

Current and back issues can be found at www.jhssc.org

**On the cover:** Marion ("Mary") Cohen [?] and Janie Cohen Marcus of Eutawville, SC, ca. 1915. Photo courtesy of Ronald Cohen.

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his community never interfered with his commitment to his family or his law	

practice.

# Letter from the President



In the spring of 1994, I was working at Chernoff Silver, a public relations firm in Columbia, when we were asked by Senator Isadore Lourie to assist with the launch of a new organization. Of course, we jumped to the task you didn't say no to Isadore! The organization was the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. A preliminary meeting was held at the Capital City Club

in downtown Columbia to a packed house. I remember how exciting that gathering was—there was intense energy and excitement for this fledgling organization.

Fast forward 18 years and I now find myself the president of this well-established, well-respected society. I am honored to be at the helm and to succeed such leaders as Ann Hellman, Ed Poliakoff, Bernard Warshaw, Richard and Belinda Gergel, Robert Rosen, Jeffrey Rosenblum, and Klyde Robinson. It is somewhat daunting to follow those that I admire, but with the guidance of Executive Director Marty Perlmutter and Administrator Enid Idelsohn, and assistance and support from the Society's board and membership, I hope to bring more attention to Jewish communities in out-of-the-way places like Summerton, where I grew up. Indeed, one major impulse behind the founding of the Society was to document the dwindling Jewish populations of small towns that Senator Lourie and friends feared were in danger of disappearing.

Today the Society has more than 350 members and over 20 Pillars. Its incredibly informative website *www.jhssc. org* and its ongoing projects, including the publication of bi-annual newsletters, the placement of historical markers, developing cemetery records, and archiving the Jewish record of South Carolina, are signs of a vibrant society that is a model of public stewardship. JHSSC has put South Carolina's important Jewish history on the national map.

This past October the JHSSC and the Southern Jewish Historical Society held a joint meeting in Columbia on the campus of the University of South Carolina. "Sights, Sounds, and Stories of the Jewish South" was a weekend that appealed to all of the senses, with tours to Sumter and sites around Columbia, exhibits mounted by McKissick Museum and four different archives, insightful lectures, a program of original music, and a final session on southern Jewish humor. Thanks go to program co-chairs Dale Rosengarten and Phyllis Leffler. Their creativity, diligence, and attention to detail set a high standard for conferences to come.

I hope you will make plans now to attend our spring meeting on May 19 and 20 in Charleston. "To Heal the World: Jewish South Carolinians in Public Service" will examine the contributions modern-day Jews have made in their communities. In this issue the children of leaders of several South Carolina communities have shared their memories of growing up in a small town with a parent who was engaged in local business and/or government. We appreciate the enthusiasm and hard work of our authors. The histories of the Jewish communities of South Carolina are well documented but there is a new generation to be heard from. Those who grew up in small and mid-size towns in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s now are finding their voice.

We will continue this conversation at the meeting when we hear from this next generation, as well as from Jewish women who have held (or currently hold) elective office in our state. Our keynoter, Hollace Ava Weiner, will provide context with a talk titled "Fighting the Philistines: Southern Jews in High Places," a look at Jewish movers and shakers across the region. Our own published historians and former presidents Richard Gergel and Robert Rosen will return for an entertaining lunchtime presentation, providing an overview of Jewish public service in the Palmetto State. To register, please go to *www.jhssc.org*.

I hope to see you all in Charleston in May. What could be finer?!

Isadore would be very proud.

With warm regards,

Rachel Lordin Barnett Rachel Gordin Barnett

rgbarnett@earthlink.net



Schmoozing on a Sunday afternoon: Morris Gordin (center), David's father, catches up on the latest news with his brother Louis (r) of Pinewood and Herman Fox of Greeleyville (1), 1955.

was not quite ten years old in 1971 when my dad—David Gordin—won a seat on the Summerton Town Council, the first time someone Jewish served on it. On the other hand, we were the only Jewish family in our town of 1,306 people. We were defined by that as much as African Americans were by the color of their skin. Certainly we never denied who we were, nor could we even if we had wanted to. We attended the Reform temple in Sumter, 20 miles away, and I had a bar mitzvah with all my gentile friends present. Still, even as a youngster, I understood there was a certain order to our society and our place in it, and it was seemingly as fixed as the test patterns on our black-and-white television. We had a black woman, Ethel Glover, who worked for us, and we had a black yard man, Asie, who lived up the road from our house. Ethel was as much a part of my family as my own siblings. And yet, the distance that divided our worlds could not have been greater had we lived on different sides of the Atlantic. Our house stood directly across the street from an Episcopalian church, and I could say almost the same thing about the divide between us and the Episcopalians. But the times, as Bob Dylan sang, were "a-changin'." Or were they?

Dad was the town's pharmacist and a native of the community, and Mom wasn't from too far away, being Charleston born and raised. Having a local southern pedigree certainly helped solidify his electability. The community was small enough so that no formal campaigning was necessary; he had name recognition and respect among the white and the African-American communities. His was a progressive platform built around the desire to affect the kind of change that truly impacted people and their well-being, no matter one's skin color, creed, or religion.

Still, Summerton was segregated, the whites occupying one side of town and the blacks another. The majority of



Teacher Miriam Gordin leads a class in world history, Summerton High School, ca. 1970.

black people lived in dilapidated dwellings. Because of extreme poverty, most had no indoor plumbing. In fact, sewer lines did not even extend to their section. One of Dad's major accomplishments on town council was to help apply for a federal grant to change that. The grant provided funding not just for the lines but also for indoor plumbing for those who could not afford it, and the ubiquitous outhouses disappeared virtually overnight.

The Summerton council also tackled the changing local economy. Ours was a rural community based primarily on agriculture. When I was a small child, sharecroppers like Asie still drove mules and wagons in from the country to make their purchases. Farming had been labor intensive, but over time, new machinery reduced the need for farm workers. Poor education left many with little choice other than to apply for welfare. Unemployment was rampant, and the situation obviously affected the town merchants as well. In league with the governor's office, Dad and the council lured an auto parts maker to the area. The town laid water and sewer lines to the building site. The plant opened in 1983 and eventually employed 300 people. Not only did it provide



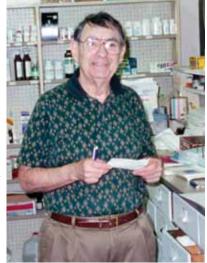
C. A. Harvin Ginnery, Summerton, SC.

### The Times They

### Were A-Changin' by Stephen J. Gordin

jobs, but it also increased the tax base for the county. That in turn set the stage for the eventual building of a new public school in 1998 that replaced the old one.

Color came into our house with the purchase of our first such television in 1972. However, the gray came in 1970 as Summerton's schools faced court-ordered desegregation. White par- Pharmacist David Gordin behind the ents, including my own, were concerned about the quotas



counter at Rowe-Tomlinson Drugs in Summerton, May 1996.

(Summerton was nearly 70 percent African American) that were instituted. Having been denied a track system, as was allowed in nearby Manning, they pulled their kids out of the public school and sent us to Clarendon Hall, a private school founded by Southern Baptists. My mother, a teacher at the public school, got a job at the private one. Dad served on Clarendon's school board. The motives for sending kids to the private school may have been complicated, but because of my parents and other dedicated people like them, Clarendon Hall blossomed into a school where a child could receive a quality education.

Dad retired from the town council in 1981 but did not disengage from public life. When I was a youngster, we had the traditional old country doctor who made house calls. After he retired, however, the closest physicians were ten miles away—an obvious hardship for many locals who had limited transportation. Dad spearheaded a committee to attract a physician to the town and obtain funding to open a medical clinic.



Rowe-Tomlinson drug store.



The author with (l to r) his aunt Marilyn Gordin Roth, Ethel Glover, who worked for the Gordins for 30 years, and his mother, Miriam Gordin, early 1980s.

Ironically, the new physician arrived with a friend of his, a pharmacist who opened his own drug store as a direct competitor of Dad's. Not long after that, I was in a grocery store and overheard a conversation between two women whom I knew mentioning how it would now be good to trade with "our kind." (The new pharmacist was a member of a local church.) One of the ladies then used a racial slur in reference to an African-American woman who worked for her. Such attitudes were certainly not ubiquitous, but they represented a dark undercurrent of prejudice among at least a portion of the community. And, like the nearby Santee, it ran as deep and was as unchanging as the river itself.

So maybe Bob Dylan was wrong, or maybe Aldous Huxley was more correct when he said, "The charming thing about history is that nothing changes, and yet everything is completely different." More likely, the truth is in between. Through Dad's contributions, life did improve for many in my hometown. Changing ingrained attitudes was, of course, beyond his control and remains a multi-generational task. Yet, as the Talmud says, "You are not required to finish the job, but neither are you free to desist from it altogether." For my folks, taking that advice and living by it meant not just doing their part but helping us children understand the task and its importance. By doing so, they painted a silver lining along what had once been a vast unbroken gray.

Stephen J. Gordin, M.D., is a radiologist now residing in Campobello, SC. He is also a published author and novelist, whose hometown of Summerton figures in many of his works. All photos courtesy of the Gordin family.

### The Golden Age of Temple Beth Or: The Jewish Co



Rabbi Hillel Millgram and Cantor Jacob J. Renzer of Charleston's Emanu-El arrive to conduct the once-monthly Sunday service in Kingstree, SC, 1959.



Temple Beth Or Sunday school class, Kingstree, SC, 1956. Left to right: Back row – Gail Marcus, Judy Lesselbaum, David Marcus, William Marcus, Joan Berger, Bill Dubin. Middle row – Theresa Heiden, David Grossman, Michael Cole, Douglas Bess, Jimmy Mischner, Sam Moskow. Front row – Leslie Drucker, Risa Grossman, Nancy Bess, Michael Mischner, Arthur Berger, Diane Moskow, Neil Dubin.



Rabbi Millgram and Cantor Renzer at the bimah.

South Carolina's first Conservative congregation, Temple Beth Or, was the heart of a vibrant Jewish community in Kingstree and surrounding towns for over 40 years. Formed on April 8, 1945, the congregation initially held services in private homes and then in various public buildings. In 1946 Harry Marcus donated a plot of land in Kingstree, and the cornerstone of the synagogue was laid on April 10, 1949.

The town of Kingstree was established in 1730. It is a farming community of approximately 3,200 townspeople, located 75 miles northwest from Charleston. It is the county seat of Williamsburg County (population 35,000). The main crops are tobacco, cotton, corn, and soybeans. While there were Jewish families in Kingstree in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the "golden age" for the Jewish community spanned 1945 to 1990. The community was actually composed of families from four nearby towns, with Kingstree as the hub. The other three towns were Lake City (16 miles away), Andrews (25 miles), and Greeleyville (13 miles).

After World War II there was an influx of young couples drawn to Kingstree by family relations and/or in search of business opportunities. This process is well described in Stella Suberman's book, *The Jew Store* (Algonquin Books: Chapel Hill, NC, 2001). These families went into a variety of businesses, including department stores, drug stores, a shoe store, building supplies, a jewelry store,

heating and plumbing, a car dealership, a record store, and appliance business. Four of the young men—Sidney Dubin, Herman Marcus (a nephew of Harry Marcus), Lenny Grossman, and Jerome Moskow—were integral to the success of the synagogue. There was a Sunday school, a men's club, a sisterhood, and monthly services conducted on a Sunday afternoon by the rabbi from Emanu-El, the Conservative synagogue in Charleston. Among the rabbis who conducted services over the years were Gerald Wolpe, Hillel Millgram, and Jordan Taxon.

These Sunday services were in addition to year-round Friday night services that always had a minyan. William Marcus, a brother of Harry Marcus, who had moved to Kingstree from Canada after escaping from Lithuania at the beginning of World War II, was the

### mmunity of Kingstree, South Carolina: 1945–1990

### by William R. Dubin



Students (l to r) Douglas Bess, Sam Moskow, David Marcus, David Grossman, and Theresa Heiden study Hebrew in Millgram and Renzer's Sunday school class, 1959.



Wedding of Shelly Marcus and Alan Brenner, 1974. Photo courtesy of Shelly Brenner.

lay leader and conducted the Hebrew part of the services every Friday night for almost 40 years. Marcus Different members of the congregation would rotate reading the English portion of the service. For most of Temple Beth Or's existence a student from the Conservative seminary in New York, the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), would come to Kingstree for ten days and conduct Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Many of these students returned for several years to lead the services, and developed life-long relationships with families in the congregation.

Beth Or had a robust Sunday school, including Hebrew classes every Sunday morning. A seminary student from JTS lived in Kingstree for one summer and taught Hebrew to the children three days a week. Many of the children had their bar or bat mitzvahs and weddings in the synagogue. For almost 20 years the sisterhood held a community seder that drew all of the families from the community. The sisterhood held an eagerly anticipated and popular regional bazaar in the synagogue every fall. Each spring the entire congregation would go for a day-long *Department Store's "Old Fashion* Sunday picnic to Poinsett State Park near Sumter.



Dotty and David Marcus run Marcus Days," ca. 1989. Photo courtesy of Shelly Brenner.

Members of the non-Jewish community were frequently invited to events and celebrations in the synagogue and, likewise, Jewish families were often invited to events in both white and black churches. Each June Sidney Dubin would host various church Bible schools in the synagogue to explain Judaism and discuss the various symbols and practices of the religion.

The congregants of Beth Or were active participants in the fabric of the larger non-Jewish community. Jewish men and women were involved in and officers of most of the town organizations, and many served as president. Some of the men participated in sports leagues, such as Herman Marcus, who was a fixture in the church summer softball league. Other examples were:

- Sidney Dubin—Moose Lodge (a national civic organization), Parent Teacher Association, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, and Jaycees
- Rose Heiden—Eastern Star
- Harold Lesselbaum—Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce
- Herman Marcus—Masons, Moose Lodge, Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, and one of the founders of the Demolay chapter (an organization for high school boys sponsored by the Masons)
- Herman "Red" Mischner-Kiwanis Club and Chamber of Commerce
- Jerome Moskow (Andrews)—Fire chief, head of local Boy Scouts, president of the Lions Club, and chairman of the local school board.

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Almost all of the women from this era worked as partners in the businesses of their husbands and were essential to their success. Several women worked as substitute teachers in the school system and all played vital roles in their children's school activities.

Joseph Goldstein, M.D., who grew up in Kingstree, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1985 for his pioneering work in cholesterol metabolism. In 1992 Sidney Dubin received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Kingstree Chamber of Commerce. In 1993 Jerome Moskow was awarded

In 1993 Jerome Moskow was awarded *up in downtown Kingstree*. I the Order of the Palmetto—South Carolina's highest civilian honor, recognizing lifetime achievement and contributions to the state—by Governor David M. Beasley. The same year Moskow was also inducted into the South Carolina Lions Hall of Fame.

Typically—perhaps stereotypically—Kingstree's Jewish children excelled in academics and athletics and went off to college. Also, as was typical in small southern towns, very few returned. Of those who came home, Dr. Louis Drucker and Dr. David Grossman established their dental practices in Kingstree. David Marcus and Tab Blakely returned to run the family businesses, and Sam Drucker, a pharmacist, took over the family



have been placed in the Williamsburg County Museum in Kingstree. The lian local newspaper, the *News*, affectionately and respectfully profiled the several Jewish businesses, including Dubin's Department Store, Marcus's Department Store, Tucker's Department Store, and Drucker's Drug Store.

As in other small southern towns, post–World War II prosperity provided for the education of the children so that it was difficult for them to return home. It was a way of life that, by and large, led to a prosperous future for most Jewish families, but has now all but vanished. It's the typical small-town story, sad, but in its way, a wonderful success story that is rarely appreciated or understood outside of the South.

drug store. Melissa Moskow returned

to Andrews to help with her father's

five Jewish families remaining and the

synagogue was sold to the Catholic

Church, as those who stayed could

no longer handle the upkeep. There

is a Jewish cemetery, which is still

maintained and supported by a trust

fund. A menorah, a kiddush cup, a

tallit, a mezuzah, a yarmulke, the flag of Israel, a plaque of the temple property,

and books from the religious school

By the year 2005 there were only

accounting firm.

William R. Dubin, M.D., chairs the department of psychiatry at Temple University School of Medicine and is Chief Medical Officer of Temple University Hospital-Episcopal in Philadelphia, PA. Thanks to contributors Neil Dubin, M.D., Cincinnati, OH; Louis Drucker, D.D.S., Kingstree, SC; Miriam Drucker, Kingstree, SC; Gail (Marcus) Genderson, Richmond, VA; Shelly (Marcus) Brenner, Cherry Hill, NJ. A special thanks to Dale Rosengarten for her thoughtful suggestions.

Unless otherwise noted, photos of Temple Beth Or were taken by Jerome Moskow in the 1950s and are provided courtesy of the Moskow family.

### The Families of Temple Beth Or, 1945–2005 from The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina newsletter, 8:1 (Winter 2003), p.10

#### Andrews

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Moskow Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moskow Mr. Samuel Moskow Mrs. Stella Richburg Mr. and Mrs. M. Stern Mr. Joe Weiner

#### Lake City

Mr. Harry Bebergal Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Berger Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bess Mr. A. B. Brick Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Dubin Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dubroff Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Heiden Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Heiden Mr. Horace Nachman Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Libbert Greelyville Mr. and Mrs. Herman Fox Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Grossman Kingstree Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Adams Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Aronson Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Berman Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Blakely Dr. and Mrs. Allan S. Brenner Mr. Harry Cahn Mrs. Bernice Cole Mr. and Mrs. Moses Collis Mr. and Mrs. Charles Drucker

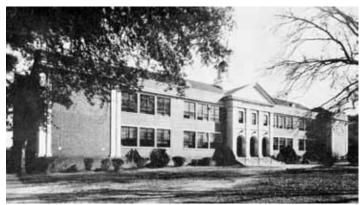
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Louis Drucker Mr. Max Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Dubin Mr. and Mrs. Sam Friedman Mrs. Tillie Gershman Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Goldstein Mrs. Pauline Goldstein Dr. and Mrs. David Grossman Mrs. Sadie Isquith Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jacobs Mr. and Mrs. Karol Kalisky Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Karesh Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lesselbaum Mr. and Mrs. David Marcus Mr. and Mrs. Harry Marcus Mr. and Mrs. Herman Marcus Mr. William Marcus Mr. and Mrs. Herman Mischner Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schreiberg Mr. and Mrs. Max Schreiberg Mr. Norris Schreiberg Mr. Nathan Schreiberg Mr. and Mrs. Barney Schulman Dr. Leon Sigler Mr. and Mrs. David Silverman Mr. Louis Swetlitz Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tucker Mr. and Mrs. Lester Weinberg

### Georgetown's Jews Notes of a Native Son

### by Laz L. Schneider

When I graduated from Winyah High School in Georgetown, South Carolina, in 1957, I was one of two Jews in my class of 125. This might have been the highpoint of Jewish enrollment, although there were usually Jewish students at Winyah, one in some classes, from the earliest days of public education in the town.

Jews began settling in



Winyah High School, Georgetown, SC, from the 1943 yearbook. Courtesy of the Georgetown County Library.

Georgetown before the War of Independence. Abraham Cohen, appointed as the town's first U.S. postmaster in 1790, was also a Mason, a founder of the Georgetown Library Society and the Georgetown Fire Company, and a commissioner of streets and markets. Abraham's brother Solomon served as postmaster, treasurer of the Library Society, tax collector, and first sergeant of the Winyah Light Dragoons. He also belonged to the prestigious Winyah Indigo Society, was elected intendant (mayor) of Georgetown in 1818, and became director of the Bank of the State of South Carolina in 1819. Indeed, three early 19<sup>th</sup>-century mayors were Jewish.

As an important port—in fact, the world's leading port for rice exports in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century—the town attracted a substantial number of Jewish merchants and professionals. In 1800 Georgetown's 80 Jews constituted ten percent of a total white population of 800. A few Jews achieved the status of plantation owners, such as Solomon Cohen Jr., who was a charter member of the

Planters Club and, in 1836, married Miriam Gratz Moses, a niece of the famous Philadelphia educator Rebecca Gratz.

The Jewish business class was prominent in the economic and political life of Georgetown from its earliest days through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When I grew up, many of the stores on Front Street were Jewish owned. The New Store, established in 1912, was owned first by my grandfather Albert Schneider and my great-uncle Harry Rosen, and then by my father, Philip Schneider, and his brother Harold. When the store closed in 1988, it was the oldest business in town.

My experiences in Georgetown prior to graduation were



Laz "Leffy" Schneider's bar mitzvah at Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown, 1952. Courtesy of Laz Schneider.



Purim party at Temple Beth Elohim in 1952. Left to right: Back row – Brenda Bodian, Sandra Abrams, Larry Rosen, Leffy Schneider, Bunky Abrams, Roslyn Goldstein, Sam Abrams, Tad Fogel. Front row – Alicia Gardner, Robert Schneider, Michael Schwartz, Susan Schneider, Steven Goldstein, Sarah Baker, Sally Schneider. Courtesy of Beth Elohim, Georgetown.

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typical. I do not recall a single antisemitic slur or act of discrimination, although it is certainly possible that there were both behind my back. The only incident of personal embarrassment I remember was that of a teacher saying how smart Jews were. The remark was intended benevolently, although I received it with great discomfort. My recollection of be unique. My cousin Sylvan Rosen was elected mayor and



Philip and Harold Schneider relocated The New Store to the McCrory this benevolent period cannot building on Front Street, which they purchased in 1965. Photo: Jimmy Elliott. From A Walk Down Front Street compiled by the Georgetown County Historical Society, courtesy of the Georgetown County Library.

served from 1948 to 1961, and his brother, Meyer, was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives for two terms.

As far as the broader national issues were concerned, I was mostly unconscious. Winyah, like all schools in South Carolina, was segregated. Brown v. Board of Education was decided in 1954 and had no impact before my graduation in 1957. I also was unaware of any racist actions or even statements by my friends and acquaintances. To the extent memory is an indication of exceptional incidents, I will give two examples.

The first occurred when we were driving with a teacher to a debate tournament. I told the driver to avoid the "black lady" on the side of the road. My car-mates expressed surprise at my statement. Puzzled, I inquired, "Why?" The answer I received was, "That's the first time we ever heard anyone describe a black female as a 'lady.'"

The other incident—or rather, nonincident-happened during civics class when I expressed agreement that taxpayer money shouldn't support discrimination, as I understood Brown v. Board of Education to say. The class moved on without further discussion.

My father's business had always had a large black customer base; I never heard a race-based comment in my home. My father was exceptional in all respects when it came to dealing with others. He liked everyone and it was reciprocated. He was apolitical, but voted Democratic, even against South Carolina's Senator Strom Thurmond in his third-party campaign. I worked Saturdays at my dad's store and delivered appliances and installed television antennas with the other his partner and brother-in-law Harry "boys," who were black. We drove together Rosen. Courtesy of Laz Schneider.

the University of South Carolina. I did not think beyond the immediate area and there was no one in school to make any other suggestions. During Christmas vacation of my senior year, after my applications had been submitted, two of my mother's brothers came to visit my grandmother who had suffered a stroke. They asked about my plans and were upset with my limited vision. (Sanford had gone to Washington University and Henry had gone to Columbia). I was read the riot act and, after looking in my encyclopedia to learn where Yale was, I requested an application. I applied elsewhere as well, but fortune smiled on me and on three others from South Carolina; we became members of the Yale Class of 1961.

Yale at the time had only a few more black students than Winyah High School—maybe ten or so in a class of 1,000. The Civil Rights Movement was just beginning and was certainly more noticeable in New Haven than in South Carolina. I was



Closing after more than three quarters incorporated in 1912, was operated by Laz's grandfather Albert Schneider and

in a small group of future engineers and had become friendly with a black classmate from Connecticut. At some point after a couple of months, he asked where I was from. I replied, "South Carolina." He never spoke to me again.

I have returned to South Carolina only for family visits and vacations since graduating high school and so missed the turbulent Civil Rights years, although, from what I have heard, Georgetown remained a place of relative calm and reasonablenessaside from the burning of my school, and who knows who did that? I suppose one expects moderation in a town that has elected Jews to of a century in business - The New Store, civic positions for more than 200 years.

> Laz L. Schneider is an attorney with Berger Singerman in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

in the same truck and did the same work, except that I was the helper. Turmoil had yet to arrive in Georgetown. In 1981 Winyah High School was burned down, whether by pro- or anti-integrationists is unknown. All of this was well after I left Georgetown for Yale.

Yale was pure serendipity. In my senior year of high school, I thought I was going to be an engineer. I had applied to Georgia Tech and

### To Heal the World Jewish South Carolinians in Public Service May 19–20, 2012, Charleston, SC,

Unless otherwise noted, sessions will take place at the Jewish Studies Center on the College of Charleston campus, 96 Wentworth Street.

### Saturday, May 19

11 1	
11:00 am	Registration
12:00-1:30 pm	Buffet lunch and opening remarks
	Robert Rosen and Richard Gergel
2:00-3:15	Fighting the Philistines: Southern Jews in High Places
	Hollace Ava Weiner
3:30-4:45	Women in Public Office
	Moderator: Dale Rosengarten
	Panelists: Susan Alion Brill, Dyan Cohen, Belinda Gergel
6:00	Reception
	Home of Robert and Susan Rosen, 5 Water Street, Charleston, SC
	(Van transportation will be available.)
	Dinner on your own

### Sunday, May 20

9:30–10:15 am	Brunch
10:39-11:45	The Next Generation Speaks
	Moderator: Adam Mendelsohn
	Panelists: Billy Keyserling, Joel Lourie, Ernest Marcus, Leigh Mazursky Zaleon
11:45–12:30 pm	JHSSC open board meeting
	Moderator: Adam Mendelsohn Panelists: Billy Keyserling, Joel Lourie, Ernest Marcus, Leigh Mazursky Zaleon

### **Register online at** *www.jhssc.org/events*

Visa, MasterCard, or by check payable to JHSSC Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Center College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424 Conference Fee: \$70 per person

**Questions:** Enid Idelsohn phone: 843.953.3918 – fax: 843.953.7624 Email: *IdelsohnE@cofc.edu* 

### **Hotel Reservations**

Best Western, 250 Spring Street, Charleston (corner of Lockwood Blvd. and US 17 South) Toll Free: 888.377.2121 Local Number: 843.722.4000 JHSSC group rate of \$119.99+tax/night Distance to the meeting venue is 1.6 miles Call JHSSC office at 843.953.3918 for other hotels



## Conference

### Keynote - Fighting the Philistines: Southern Jews in High Places

Hollace Ava Weiner, a native of Washington, D.C., is a journalist-turned-historian. A political science major at the University of Maryland, she worked as a reporter at the *Annapolis Evening Capital* and the *Baltimore News-American*. From 1986 to 1997, she wrote for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, covering everything from police to politics. Her research into southern Jewry began with profiles of Lone Star rabbis published in her newspaper's Sunday religion section. One article, on the career of a Corpus Christi

rabbi, was expanded into a chapter for the anthology, *Quiet Voices: Southern Rabbis and Black Civil Rights.* Subsequent articles about trailblazing rabbis were the basis of the book *Jewish Stars in Texas,* now in its third printing. As her Fort Worth synagogue neared its



100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002, Weiner went back to school, this time at the University of Texas in Arlington, to become an archivist. She realized it was time to organize materials about the Fort Worth Jewish community into a professional archives so that she could write her congregation's centennial history. The archives also furnished material for her master's thesis, which traced the rise and decline of the National Council of Jewish Women. Her most recent book, *Jewish "Junior League": The Rise & Demise of the* 

Fort Worth Council of Jewish Women, was published by Texas A&M University Press in 2008. Hollace lives in Fort Worth with her husband, Bruce, a pediatric dentist. Their son is an air force officer. Their daughter, a journalist, lives in New York.



### Panel 1 – Women in Public Office

Born in Columbia, South Carolina, **Susan Alion Brill** earned a B.A. in history with a minor in secondary education. In 1997 she was elected to Richland County Council, then in November 2000 was re-elected for four more years. Susan won election to the Richland County District 2 School Board in 2006 and again in 2008, and currently serves as vice-chair. She has been president

of the Historic Columbia Foundation (2008–11), the Spring Valley High School Education Foundation (1992–94), and the Columbia Medical Society Auxiliary (1986–87). A life-time member of the Tree of Life congregation, Susan and her husband, Dr. Alan Brill, have four adult children—Vanessa Kligman, Lindsey, Keith, and David—and three grandsons.



Belinda F. Gergel is a native South Carolinian with а passionate love of the history of her home state. Following graduation from Columbia College in 1972, she earned an M.Ed. and Ph.D. from Duke University, where her graduate work focused on women's higher education in the early 20thcentury South. After a short

stint teaching social studies at C. A. Johnson High School, Belinda went on to spend most of her professional career as a professor and college administrator at Columbia College. Since her retirement in 2001, she has focused her attention on **Dyan R. Cohen** is a member of Darlington City Council, currently serving her third term. She received a B.A. in chemistry from Metropolitan State College of Denver and an M.A. in journalism from the University of South Carolina. She worked for nine years in the textile industry and another seven as adjunct



instructor of mass communication at Francis Marion University. Her writing has been published in periodicals and newspapers regionally. Dyan serves as a trustee of Beth Israel Congregation in Florence, South Carolina. She and her husband, Dr. Alex Cohen, have two college-age children, David and Ginny.

scholarship and civic service, culminating in her election to Columbia City Council in April 2008.

In 1996 Belinda and her husband, attorney Richard Gergel, published In Pursuit of the Tree of Life: A History of the Early Jews of Columbia, South Carolina, and the Tree of Life Congregation. More recently, she co-edited Matthew J. Perry: The Man, His Times, and His Legacy (University of South Carolina Press, 2004). She served from 2003 to 2005 as president of the board of directors of the Historic Columbia Foundation. Belinda is a devoted gardener and a member of the board of trustees of Brookgreen Gardens, the Southern Garden Historical Society, and Columbia Green. The Gergels have two sons, Richie, who is a graduate student in journalism at Columbia University, and Joseph, who is a senior at New York University. Panel 2 – The Next Generation Speaks

## Participants



Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, **Billy Keyserling** received a B.S. from Brandeis University and an M.S. from Boston University. After graduation he spent a decade and a half on and around Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., serving as an administrative legislative aide and for members of the U.S. Congress, coordinating an international human rights initiative, and working as a public affairs consultant.

When Billy's mother, Harriet Keyserling, left the seat in the S.C. House of Representatives that she had occupied for 16 years, Billy threw his hat in the ring and was elected to two terms (1993–96), serving as vice chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Energy and chairman of the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation. In 2000, he was elected to the Beaufort City Council and served one term. In November 2008, he was elected mayor of his home town.



Born in 1956, Ernie Marcus grew up in Eutawville, South Carolina. On his mother's side, his family's roots in the Palmetto State date back to the 1840s. Ernie graduated from George Washington University with a B.A. in finance and from American University with an MBA in real estate. Over the past 34

years, he has worked in the field of real estate development in Washington, D.C., specializing in urban housing and mixeduse projects. He has been a member of a number of non-profit boards, including community farmers' markets, educational institutions and, currently, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington. Ernie lives in the District of Columbia with his wife, Madalyn, who is a painter. Their daughter Natanya (19) attends Union College and their son Jacob (24) is leading a new gourmet food truck operation for Think Food Group, Inc., headed by Jose Andres, a James Beard awardwinning chef.

#### A native of Columbia and a graduate of the University of South Carolina, **Joel Lourie** is the son of Susan Reiner and the late Senator Isadore Lourie. The Louries have deep roots in South Carolina. Joel's grandfather opened the first Lourie's Department Store in 1912, and the family has been involved in the civic and business life of the Midlands ever since. Following in the footsteps of his father, who



served in the South Carolina legislature for 28 years, Joel was elected to the house of representatives in 1998 and the state senate in 2004. He balances his time between his family, business, and public service. He is involved with many local boards and commissions and has been recognized for his work in education, public safety, and healthcare. Joel and his wife Becky have two children who attend the same public schools Joel attended over 30 years ago.

Leigh M. Zaleon, daughter of Morris and Marcia Mazursky, grew up in Sumter and graduated from Sumter High School. She has devoted herself to early child care and education for almost 30 years as a classroom teacher, center administrator, and child care consultant. She has provided child development expertise on numerous projects involving quality improvement, construction



of new child care centers, and renovations; and developed and led workshops and in-service training on various topics. She has taught classes in community colleges and is a lecturer in university classes. Leigh has a B.A. in early childhood education from UNC– Greensboro and a M.Ed. in special education at UNC–Chapel Hill. The focus of her master's program was early intervention and family support with a state certification in Birth–Kindergarten. Leigh operates her own consulting business and is currently the education coordinator for Orange County Head Start in Chapel Hill, NC. Leigh and her husband, Phil Zaleon, have two daughters, Alyssa (25) and Jessica (24).



Sarah (standing) and Mendel Cohen with their mother, ca. 1875.



Hymie and Harry Marcus, 1920s.

# Searching fo



Harris and Blanche, children of Abe and Corinne Cohen, ca. 1930

My father, Harry Marcus, died 20 years ago. I was not so young when he passed away but there remains a yearning in me to see him more clearly. I want to understand what influenced him, his accomplishments, his thoughts. His was a life that was both unique and simple, a life largely spent in rural South Carolina. Central to his story was his tenure, from 1948 to 1971, as the first and only Jewish mayor of Eutawville, a small town in Orangeburg County. But there was more to it: the theme of connecting to "community," especially family, resonates through his whole life.



Sam Zaks and Abe Cohen, ca. 1915.

Eutaw Village was established in 1836 by coastal rice and cotton planters seeking cooler environs among the pine trees during the long, hot summer. Eutawville became an incorporated town in 1886 and until a huge sawmill in nearby Ferguson was closed in 1915, it was a pretty bustling place with over 2,000 residents. Afterwards and extending to today, the town became a sleepy farming community with a population around 500. The flooding of the nearby Santee River in 1941 to create the 200,000-acre Santee Cooper lakes was the biggest event that happened after the sawmill closed, becoming a major generator of employment for the area.

Like many small southern towns of the time, Eutawville attracted Jewish merchants. My grandfather Morris Marcus was a Lithuanian peddler who came to Eutawville in 1901 and established Marcus Department Store. By 1910 census records show that there were three stores owned by Jews, catering to the laborers, managers, and railroad men at the sawmill. One of the stores was owned by my grandmother's parents, Harris Nathan and Sarah Cohen, Russian and Polish immigrants, who moved to Eutawville sometime after 1900 from Mayesville, South Carolina, near Sumter. They brought along their eight children—Katie, Janie, Leah, Isaac, Mary, Moses, Gertie, and Abraham.

My great-grandfather Harris Cohen died in 1908, only 46 years old, the same year Morris married Janie and the year my father was born. Tragedy struck again nine years later when Morris, age 44, died of cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Katie Cohen married Abe Karesh and they had six children in Eutawville—Sadie, Marie, Roy, Rita, Jeannette, and Harold. The 1920 census records show that there were 12 members of this extended family—Marcus, Cohen, and Karesh—all living together in a modest home on Porcher Avenue.

# r Mayor Marcus

#### by Ernest L. Marcus

There were no other Jews in town except a boarder in the house, Sam Zaks, who owned a store. My research shows a Zaks family in Keidan, Lithuania, where my grandfather Morris came from, so perhaps there was a connection to the Old Country. Incidentally, the only other Jewishowned store in town in 1910 was operated by the Levines, who had left by 1920. Moses Cohen eventually also started a store in town—it's not clear when it closed. More close connections—in nearby Holly Hill, the Kalinsky family was from the same village as my great-grandmother Sarah Cohen.

The home on Porcher Avenue must have held quite a household. I'm told that Katie was the matriarch who kept the family together until she died in 1952. Memories abound of relatives coming and going through the century, returning to Eutawville from the diaspora—from nearby Charleston, Columbia, and Orangeburg to far-away New York City and Florida. Children spent their summers together at the house and working in one of the stores. For the kids there were lasting memories of the giant fig tree out back, the outhouse, baths in tin tubs in the back yard, the adults playing poker, and the spectacle of Eastern European and southern cuisine carried on platters with great flourish out of the kitchen. Passover seders were led in heavily accented English and Hebrew by Zaks, as he was called, the master of the ceremony. Cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents came from all over for the love and warmth of being with family, perhaps 50 miles from the closest sizable Jewish community. Losing his own father at nine, this

enveloping c om m u n it y must have been everything for my father.

Dad sometimes told me stories of his life in Eutawville as a kid. There was an old artesian flowing well downtown which served townspeople, as well as mules and horses. The large trough was a place where everyone socialized during the day, including playing checkers made out of bottle caps, just a few steps from Marcus Department Store. At night Dad used to sneak down there with friends and, after washing the trough down with soap, they'd go for a bath. Nearby were seven natural springs in limestone rock formations next to the Santee River, called Eutaw Springs. This was a favorite watering hole for all the kids in town.

Dad spent part of his early schooling in Charleston, at Courtenay and Crafts schools, while he studied to be a bar mitzvah, and most of the rest he spent in Eutawville. After graduating from nearby Holly Hill High School, he attended the University of South Carolina for a year, before being called back to the store to earn enough to pay for his younger brother Hymie to attend college. (Hymie later studied medicine and, for 50 years, worked as a doctor in Orangeburg.)

Dad's life for the next 20 years was spent in Eutawville running the store with his mother and tending to a small farm. However, there were a couple of exceptions. During the Depression he moved to a house on Herschell Street



Marcus Department Store on Porcher Avenue, 1970s.



Eutawville's main drag, 1970s.

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Harry Marcus, a member of the Army Signal Corps, in uniform during World War II. Photo courtesy of Ellen Marcus Smith.

Newlywed Harry Marcus poses by his Packard Clipper in front of the old Eutawville Hotel, ca. 1948. Photo courtesy of Ernest Marcus.

Janie and son Hymie Marcus, Eutawville, 1940s.

in the Bronx, which served as a way station for Cohen and Karesh relatives from the South who typically found work at Western Union on Hudson Street in New York—surviving the crushing economy by pooling family resources. At the outbreak of World War II, Dad used his skills as a telegraph operator to become a member of the Army Signal Corps, serving in New Guinea and the Philippines, and reportedly translating the message of Japan's surrender to MacArthur.

After the war, the Jewish social network that was active in the small towns of South Carolina led to Dad meeting and marrying my mother, the former Louise Levi from Abbeville, who was recently divorced and had two young boys—Arthur and Robert Berger. Mom was from an old South Carolina Jewish family with ties to the state that predated the Civil War. My sister Ellen and I came along in the '50s. Dad's mother passed away in 1962, at which point he and Mom modernized some aspects of the store, making it one of the most successful business enterprises in town. It sold everything from costume jewelry to overalls to Easter hats to Converse sneakers and patent leather children's shoes, all oriented to a primarily African-American customer base. Dad had deep ties to the area, serving three and four generations of families. His sole advertising was on the local gospel radio shows on Sunday mornings.

Throughout our childhood the house on Porcher Avenue was the center of our Jewish world, though we all went to religious school on Sundays at KKBE in Charleston. While we were in school, Dad would do his wholesale shopping for the store at nearby Hyman's Wholesale, Dixie Shoe Company, and Hornik's Bargain House. The day would be capped with a stop at Zinn's Delicatessen or Harold's Cabin, after visiting a Karesh or Cohen family member. The car had a wonderful aroma for the drive back, arriving home in time to sit at our TV tables to watch Ed Sullivan.

By 1975 Marie Karesh, the last occupant of the house, had passed away, leaving my mom and dad, until their deaths in the early 1990s, as the last Jews in town. I graduated from high school in 1974 and settled in Washington D.C. in 1976. My father made it clear that he did not want me to take over the store or to live in Eutawville—he said it was no place for a young Jewish man to live. I think it was partly because, by then, the light of Jewish life in town was nearly extinguished. Thus ended a century of Jewish presence in the town. Still, Eutawville remains a connecting crossroads for the family. All the years I've lived in D.C., nearly every seder is spent with three groups of relatives whose great-grandparents are the same Harris Nathan and Sarah Cohen who moved to Eutawville at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Dad became a community leader somewhat reluctantly. He had been involved in the town government before joining the army, acting as treasurer and secretary. When he came back from the war, fellow residents asked him to throw his hat in the ring and run for mayor. Eventually he agreed to run and won, serving as mayor for 23 years. At his retirement, the local paper said, "Few have ex-mayor Marcus's drive and tenacity. Under his guidance the town and the whole township were constantly being bettered by his optimism, far-sightedness, and dauntless efforts in building up and advertising the area. Eutawville and Eutaw Township will certainly miss him as their leader, but will gratefully extol his virtues for many years to come."

Eutawville was not a place that you expect a mayor would have a lot to do. I'll admit that as a kid, I was pretty clueless about most of Dad's accomplishments, which included:

- Installation of a 75,000-gallon water tank and six miles of water lines. Before then all homes and businesses were served by wells, which could become contaminated. The system still serves over 600 people, 26 retail businesses and gas stations, four churches, two schools with 500 students between them, and one industrial facility with 100 employees. I've heard the water tank referred to as "Harry's Monument."
- Extension of the incorporated boundaries of the town.
- Paving of the town's streets and construction of sidewalks along the main arteries and neighborhoods close to downtown, including the small commercial district on Porcher Avenue, consisting of about 20 buildings. Street lighting was added.
- The town government encouraged the sale of the local telephone company to United Telephone when they promised to provide dial-up service.
- A Trailways bus route was established.
- A new post office building was acquired, becoming a center of the community.
- A new public health center was built and operated.
- A volunteer fire department was formed.
- Regular garbage collection and disposal were instituted.
- Eutawville arranged for a deputy sheriff to live in town.
- Assisted in organizing the Swamp Fox Boat Club and its volunteer rescue squad.
- Welcomed 25,000 campers to a nearby national camper's convention held at Rocks Pond Campground on Lake Marion. My scout troop gave out Spanish moss in little bags with a story of the town as the campers came through.

Being the mayor's kid had its advantages and disadvantages. I recall wanting badly to ride my bike on the sidewalks, but when I remembered my dad yelling at cyclists doing just that, I would avoid it. While he



The extended family gathers on the festive occasion of Charles Karesh's bris, 1946.



Cohen/Karesh/Marcus ties remain strong among the cousins who gather for a reunion at Harry Marcus's house on Lake Marion in Eutawville, ca. 1990. Photo courtesy of Blanche Cohen Seifstein.

earned only about \$100 a year being the mayor, he was an important character in town, which put us in the upper echelon of power brokers. I remember being proud when my scout troop—#319—unveiled a historical marker commemorating the South Carolina tri-centennial, which was led by my father the mayor. I also remember working at a cucumber grading shed one summer and having cucumber culls—the large ones usually fed to hogs thrown at me because my co-workers thought it was cool playing around with the mayor's boy. But then there were priceless moments—watching a civil case being heard in the shoe department when the local magistrate was out of town. My dad held court, Bible in hand, while sitting on the shoe measuring stool.

Ernest L. Marcus is president of the Marcus Asset Group, Inc., Washington D.C.

All photos courtesy of Ronald Cohen unless otherwise noted.

## Growing Up with a Civic S

by Don A. Mazursky, Leigh Mazursky Zaleon, Jon E. Maz



Political activists, Morris Mazursky (l) and friend post "Your One Vote Counts!" in anticipation of the 1950 primary election.



Morris Mazursky (r), who promoted industrial development in Sumter, reviews construction plans.





Morris Mazursky (r) takes the oath of office for Sumter City Council.

Since we first could remember, our father, Morris Mazursky, served on the City Council of Sumter, South Carolina. As young children, the impact of Dad holding office seemed vague. However, with his tenure in city government lasting 29 years, we have grown up appreciating the contributions he made to our home community and his ability to balance his civic duties with both professional and family time. Looking back, we can see the lasting good he did that continues today.

Dad was born in a hospital in Columbia in 1923 and initially lived in Mayesville, South Carolina, before moving to Sumter with his family. His mother, Mary Blatt Mazursky, was a first-generation American whose parents immigrated to the United States from Austria to escape antisemitism. His father, Abraham Isaac ("Abe") Mazursky, escaped from Russia at the age of 17 by bribing border guards to allow his entire group of Jewish emigrants to leave. Abe had a driving desire to flee the oppressive conditions under which Jews lived in Russia and to settle in America with its promise of freedom and opportunity.

Abe's history—growing up in Russia and escaping from persecution, struggling to transform himself from a jobless immigrant into a successful dry goods merchant—inspired his son to give back to his community. Dad has always identified strongly with the Jewish religion and community and is extraordinarily proud of his heritage. At the same time, religion has not defined him and never caused him to segregate himself from others. In fact, both of his parents encouraged him to take part in community activities and taught him to gain respect for himself and his beliefs by respecting others.

While Dad never felt the sting of antisemitism for which much of the deep South was known, he is keenly aware of the oppression his father and other Jews suffered because of their religion. Partly because of this, he has always upheld a sense of humanity that includes respect for all races, even when such respect was not popular in his community.

Knowing that he did not want to work in the family retail clothing business, Dad completed college and law school at the

University of South Carolina, moonlighting on weekends in clothing stores in Columbia when he could not make it back to Sumter to assist Abe. Graduating in 1945, he returned to life, Marcia Weisbond Mazursky, and eventually raise his family. Early in his career, Dad became active in civic life, serving as chairman of the General Election Commission, four terms as president of the Sumter

> NORRIS D. MAZURSKY MORRIS D. MAZURSKY

reisbond Mazursky, and eventually raise his family. rly in his career, Dad became active in civic fe, serving as chairman of the General Election Commission, four terms as president of the Sumter Jaycees, Exalted Ruler of the Sumter Elks Club, a member of the Tuomey Hospital Board of Directors, and a founding and active member of the Optimist Club. In these roles he gained Club.



Morris Mazursky (second from right) at the Optimist Club.

ursky, with contributions from Marcia W. Mazursky





Morris Mazursky (1) attends a Sumter City Council meeting.



Sumter council members check on the progress of a building project.

exposure to Sumter's civic affairs and became convinced that local government needed to take a more energetic role in promoting industry and creating jobs. In 1958 Dad decided to run for city council. He prevailed over a crowded field, winning a runoff against a member of an established Sumter family.

During his seven four-year terms, during which he also served as mayor pro tem (that is, vice mayor), Dad was an integral part of Sumter's growth and progress. Pushing his agenda of industrial expansion, he worked with other city council members to create a new industrial park by purchasing 1,000 acres of land. This encouraged Campbell Soup Company to open a plant, which was the genesis for much of the prosperity Sumter has experienced.

As a respected leader with friends throughout the African-American community, Dad helped bridge race relations. As a proponent of racial equality even before passage of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, he played a central role in Sumter's quick adaptation to the act's requirements, which allowed the community to avoid the violent upheaval that struck many cities.

As children, we often asked Dad why he did not run for mayor. He explained that he served on city council to promote projects he believed would help the community and did not have time for the Councilman Morris Mazursky presents ceremonial duties of mayor. He also had to put food on the family's table, which required him to

work tirelessly in his legal practice, which he referred to as his "jealous mistress." Working long hours seven days a week, he was and still is a very busy man. On the other hand, he never missed a family meal, breakfast, lunch, or dinner. He attended all of our school, sporting, and other events. He went on dates with Mom. He took the family on vacations. He served as president of Temple Sinai, taught Sunday school, and otherwise was and remains a great father and role model.

Dad gave selflessly of his time and talents for the good of the community. Strongly



Morris Mazursky (r), Exalted Ruler of B.P.O.E. Elks, ca. 1950.

influenced by his family's history, his upbringing, and his Jewish heritage, he performed his elected duties with a sense of commitment, respect, and humility. Our country could certainly use that approach today from its leaders in both parties.

Don A. Mazursky is senior partner with Mazursky Constantine LLC in Atlanta, GA; Leigh Mazursky Zaleon, a consultant with Orange County Head Start in Chapel Hill, NC; and Jon E. Mazursky, M.D., a neonatologist with the Pediatrix Medical Group in Austin, TX.

All photos courtesy of Leigh Mazursky Zaleon.



a plaque to Freddie Solomon.



Leigh, Morris, Don, and Marcia enjoy family time at the Elks Club pool.



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