



Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Fall 2000



Photos from the April 15-16, 2000 Annual Meeting, Charleston: Above: Dramatic reading cast - clockwise from top left, Jason Shaiman (Union soldier J.A. Joel), Jason Berendt (Confederate soldier Isaac J. Levy), Elizabeth Moses (Eleanor Cohen Seixas), Carolee Rosen Fox (Phoebe Pember); Top left: Stella Suberman, author of *The Jew Store*; Middle left: Interfaith Seder at Christ-St. Paul's Episcopal Parish, L. to R. - Robert Rosen, Isadore Lourie, Reece Williams, III, Jack Boineau, The Reverend Craig Borrett, Jeffrey Rosenblum, Rabbi Theodore Levy; Bottom left: Reception at The Phoebe Pember House, 301 East Bay St.

Photos by Dale Rosengarten

Hilton Head Meeting - October 27-29, 2000
See pages 6 - 7 for Agenda and Registration!

From the President.....

Dear Friend,

It is a great pleasure to take over the leadership of a group that has come so far in such a short time. Founding President Isadore Lourie and Past Presidents Klyde Robinson and Richard Gergel have done an excellent job in getting us to this point. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) enjoys a growing membership, recently topping 300 members. An unusually large percentage of our membership regularly attends the Society's meetings and the Historical Society represents all the population centers of the state. In fact, we are the only functioning state-wide Jewish organization, having assumed some of the functions of B'nai Brith of old. It is important that we continue to build on our past successes to provide for a strong future. Towards that end, my goal is to provide the JHSSC with staff, a permanent home, and greater member participation.

I need help to continue the growth and activities of the Society and I ask those of you who want to actively participate to please let me know. For the first six years of our existence we relied on the efforts of Secretary Marty Perlmutter, Treasurer David Cohen, Curator Dale Rosengarten, and a few officers to administer the Society. Now, for the Society's own good, we need to move from a few individuals doing all the work to the membership assuming broader responsibilities. The relationship between the College of Charleston and the Society is a great marriage from which both parties benefit, and rather than change it, I shall build upon it. This means our using the College as an academic resource rather than a crutch, while continuing to strengthen our Society by increasing our membership and involving more people as committee chairs, board members, and officers. Those of you who want to serve on the board or become officers need to step forward and let your interest be known. There are still committee chair positions that need to be filled and opportunities to serve the organization.

The Society has taken important steps in securing a permanent home. Last year, the membership voted to accept an offer from the College of Charleston's Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program and agreed to occupy an office in the proposed Jewish Studies

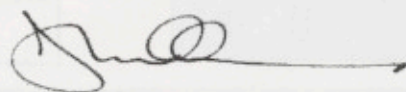
Center on the college campus. Last month, the JHSSC Board voted to help raise \$250,000 to fund that office. The decision to establish a permanent home for the Society makes the statement that we anticipate the Society will persevere and grow in the coming years. An address adds permanence to the credentials of any organization. Furthermore, we have hired an administrator, Elizabeth Moses, to oversee the correspondence, bookkeeping, and daily tasks of the organization. A staff and a permanent home will assure the Society's future.

We need to consider new initiatives to undertake in the near future. Some suggestions have been to place historical markers in Jewish cemeteries throughout the state, to identify all the Jewish sites (synagogues, cemeteries, community centers, archives, etc.), to establish a Jewish museum in the state, to make a formal study of Georgetown and Manning, and to research the Glen Springs resort near Spartanburg, where many Jewish families vacationed in the years between the world wars. We should continue these discussions and entertain all suggestions.

Finally, the quality of our meetings continues to improve. Our October meeting in Hilton Head will be an outstanding event, and we anticipate the largest membership in attendance to date. I hope that the relaxed atmosphere of the beach will allow us to reflect on our history while still allowing us to enjoy the island. In the spring we will meet in the Grand Strand, and be hosted by the fastest growing Jewish community in the state, while we discuss the vanishing Jews of Georgetown. In September 2001, our meeting will celebrate the opening of *"...A Portion of the People": 300 Years of Jewish Life in South Carolina* at the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina.

I look forward to seeing and being with all of you on Hilton Head.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Rosenblum

Dr. Herbert Keyserling passed away on June 18, 2000. Dr. Keyserling was a founding member of our Society and a pillar of the Beaufort community. His funeral was a wonderful reflection of Jewish life in Beaufort. Rabbi Belzer officiated, the Hallelujah Chorus sang gospel music, and the casket, draped in an American flag, was afforded full military honors.

Eulogy for Dr. Herbert Keyserling June 21, 2000 - Beaufort, South Carolina by Pat Conroy

Herbert Keyserling was always his own best story.

The story begins in 1869 in a *shtetl* in Lithuania and ends today in a Jewish cemetery in Beaufort, South Carolina. His story carries with it tales of pogroms and Cossacks and the invasion of Tsar's men as his father, William Keyserling, hid in a farmer's wagon and smuggled his way across a heavily guarded Russian border. In that year that same boy decided to become an American. William was the first Keyserling to arrive at Ellis Island in the shadow of the great statue the world calls Liberty. It was this father who came to Beaufort to plant the Keyserling name, yes, the famous Keyserling name, yes, the honored, revered Keyserling name, in the social history of this town. Such stories are the ones that define the glorious paths that turn immigrants into Americans and Americans into great men like the one we bury today - Dr. Herbert Keyserling.

Think Herbert lacked greatness? Think again. He had it written all over him. Pick a child of a certain age in Beaufort and there is a good chance that Herbert was present at his or her birth. Think I exaggerate? He delivered half of my own children and when Megan and Melissa say they were "birthed" by Herbert Keyserling they say it with a fierce and unstoppable pride. They knew what Herbert and his family have stood for because I have told them. Any woman who has found Herbert standing over her during the great storm and freight train that is childbirth and listened to his calming, stoic words as he coaxed her child into life can tell you the secret things about his quiet greatness. Ask a poor black man or black woman anywhere in this county who they would trust among white people in this county and Keyserling would often be the first name that you would hear. The Keyserling family did not do their good work for black people in the slums of New York - no, they did it in Klan country. Herbert did it for black people every day of his working life as he did it for white people with the same overpowering sense of awe and love for the profession of medicine.

As a young man Herbert Keyserling was the kind of man that America would send to war. How'd he do in wartime? He did well enough at Guadalcanal to win a Silver Star. Know what a Star is? It is one of our nation's highest awards for uncommon valor under fire. They only give them to heroes of the first order. Herbert Keyserling crawled to the sides of critically wounded soldiers on the front line of the Battle of Guadalcanal. Men were dying all around him. He did the job that America had sent him to do and he did it with exemplary courage. We bury a Silver Star here today and we honor this cemetery by so doing. Herbert Keyserling was fighting in the greatest war to end tyranny ever fought. As he fought in the Pacific, other Americans were planning the landing on D-Day when American boys would fight the forces of Hitler and inch their way toward Auschwitz and the butchers of Bergen-Belsen who emptied the ghettos of all traces and memories of its Jews. Today, we honor a Jew who fought against them.

The honesty of Herbert Keyserling was both a form of genius and greatness. He often told you things about yourself that you would not want to know. His honesty could be a cutting thing, but if you were sick or hurt or in need, the soft, sweet care of Dr. Keyserling is what you found ready to be of service to you. Whenever I was sick, Herbert was the man I needed by my side. When I say the word "doctor," the words "Herbert Keyserling" spring instantly to life. Whenever I have had need of a doctor in one of my novels, I have always named the guy "Herbert Keyserling." The words mean healer and physician to me. He was the layer on of soft hands. In a town made up of fabulous doctors, Herbert became mine. He was one of the men who taught Beaufort what to expect of its doctors.

Herbert Keyserling taught us to expect everything; to demand the best, and to ask for the highest standards. His only flaw as a human being is that he told about 100,000 too many jokes in his lifetime. I think his humor was another way for his sweetness to leak out.

His greatest achievement: he extended his father's legacy by leaps and bounds. He and his extraordinary wife Harriet, his brothers and sisters, his cousins and his children have made the Keyserling name a great and honored one when the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

roll call of the finest families of Beaufort are mentioned. He loved his wife and children with a devotional fierceness rarely seen in these imbalanced times. Because of Herbert Keyserling the very word "Keyserling" has come to mean service and commitment and honorable advocacy of all that is important and right in this town.

Do you hear that? That is a whole town in grief. That is the sound of Beaufort in mourning. We are mourning the passing of one of our giants on the earth, one of the ones we just don't know what we'll do without.

Pat Conroy's most recent novel, Beach Music, is about the Jewish community of Beaufort. Mr. Conroy is a close friend of the Keyserling family.

News Notes...

Exhibition Opens

September 9, 2001 at McKissick

The Jewish Heritage Collection's exhibition, "...A Portion of the People," the three hundred year story of Jewish life in South Carolina, opens a year from this fall.

As we head into the final stretch of exhibit preparation, project staff have organized public meetings in Sumter, Charleston, and Columbia to explain the process to lenders and answer questions.

After a four-month run at McKissick, the exhibit is expected to travel to Yeshiva University Museum at The Center for Jewish History in New York (Spring and Summer of 2002), return to South Carolina at The Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, then move on to two additional sites.

Educational Video Plans

The team of Bill Pendergraft and Paul Keyserling has been contracted to produce a public education video about the Jewish history of South Carolina as well an educational video for 8th grade schoolchildren.



Upcoming Meetings of the JHSSC

The Society's Spring meeting will be held in the Grand Strand in March and will include a trip to visit Jewish sites in Georgetown.

An ambitious annual meeting is planned for the Fall of 2001 to coincide with the opening of the museum exhibition. A preview banquet will be held Saturday evening September 8, 2001, at the McKissick Museum, honoring Society members and their friends and lenders to the exhibit.

Sunday morning, prior to the public opening at 1:00 PM, the Society will host schoolchildren from across the state as they explore the exhibit. Special educational programs are planned.

Committee Updates

At its August 13th Board Meeting, the Society formed a new committee, Historic Sites, chaired by Isadore Lourie. The purpose of this committee is to produce a list of all Jewish sites in the state (synagogues, cemeteries, archives) - past and present - and make recommendations to the Society as to which sites are in need of attention.

The Council for Jewish Culture Committee, in the six months since it was formed, has created a cultural network throughout the state, involving over 50 people. The Cultural Committee will present its first annual arts award at the Fall meeting in Hilton Head. Contact chair Lyssa Harvey for further information (803) 787-7331.



The Membership Committee reports a 100 percent increase in new and renewing members as a result of a recent membership drive.

With Sadness We Note the Passing of Society Members

Herbert Rosefield, a longtime resident of Sumter and member of Temple Sinai, passed away June 29th. He immersed himself in the fine arts and community service; he and his wife, Virginia, each received The Order of the Palmetto in 1997.

Ben Stern, a native of Kielce, Poland, and a resident of Columbia, passed away December 1999. Together with his wife, Jadzia, he was tireless in speaking to groups of all ages on the evils of the Holocaust.

B.H. Kline, of Kline Iron and Steel in Columbia, was devoted to community and Jewish causes for many years. His leadership of the U.J.A. was especially noteworthy.

Peter Baumgarten of Aiken, passed away in July. He and his brother fled Berlin in 1940 as *kindertransport* and came to the U.S. He was a past president of Adas Yeshurun of Aiken and an active member of the Society.

For two generations, St. Philip Street was the center of Charleston's Eastern European Jewish community. Families typically settled in apartments above their stores on King Street, then moved into Charleston "single houses" along adjacent streets.

The Jews of St. Philip Street constituted a significant minority, but not majority of the neighborhood. They lived next door to black Americans and immigrant families, including Greek, Italian, German, Irish, and Chinese.

With the prosperity Charleston experienced as a consequence of World War II and the higher levels of education achieved by the second, American-born generation, the Jewish families of St. Philip Street moved to the northwest section of the city, and then across the Ashley River to the new suburban subdivision of South Windermere.

The Street of Streets

We were one short block away from famous St. Philip Street, the street of streets.

--Edna Ginsberg Banov

Living on St. Philip Street

Great place to grow up whether you were Jewish or not. We must have had, oh, fifteen, twenty Jewish families all living on St. Philip Street within a block. Rabinowitz on one side of us, the Appels across the street. Gershons down the street. I can almost name everybody. Trueres, Oxlers, Prystowskys—two or three Prystowsky families. Solomon, Sam Solomon. When you walked up St. Philip Street—we all went to *shul* on Friday nights and when you walked home you could smell the cooking from the Sabbath dinners. The kids all got together and played together. We had a good time enjoying each other. Of course, our recreation wasn't watching TV at the time. We'd run races from one block to the other—things like that that we did for ourselves.

--Robert M. Zalkin

Beth Israel

Beth Israel was on St. Philip Street between Radcliffe and Morris Street. It was in a house which had been in some way altered. They had a big room. I remember you used to go on high steps to go to it. And they had an open basement, nothing below. But on the second floor they had a side porch and they had this room, maybe two rooms or maybe three rooms, which had been stripped apart, that

had one long room there, and they had benches in there and they had a small ark, and I remember the reading area. To the side was an area for women on the second floor with a gauze curtain hanging in between or a lace curtain - you could see through it to separate the two sections there. And there was a third floor and I think that the *shames* stayed up on the third floor or maybe the *chazan* or *shokhet*, somebody stayed up on the third floor there.

--Solomon Breibart

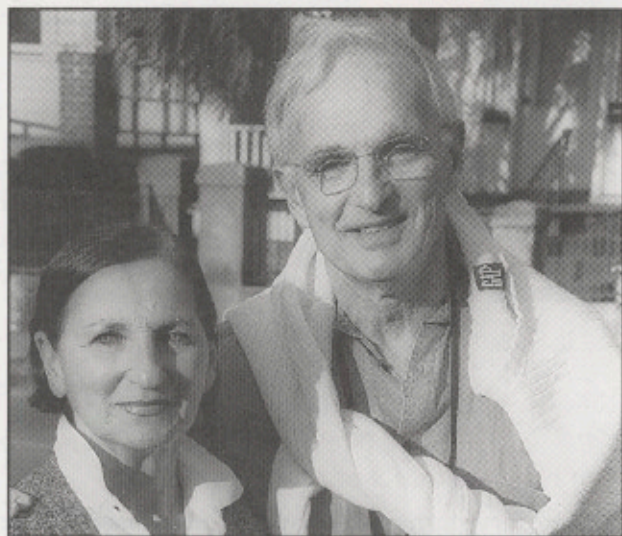
Patches

SA: I remember. We couldn't go in the living room. Just on special occasions. Maybe Saturday night to listen to "Inner Sanctum," right. I remember patches. We had slip covers over those. But we had patches because it would wear out for some reason. I don't know how because we never used it. But I guarantee you those patches were sparkling clean. Everything in there was sparkling clean. Those slip covers had patches but they were sparkling clean.

FR: Clean. Clean. And before I had a date—we had beautiful floors in the house—I used to put the wax down and I would put on heavy socks, my father's heavy socks, and I would skate around the room polishing up the floors.

--Samuel Appel and Fannie Appel Rones

These excerpts are from the oral history archives of the Jewish Heritage Collection. To read many more, visit our Web site: www.cofc.edu/~jhc



Fanny Appel Rones & her brother Sam Appel
Charleston, 1998

Photo by Keith Ball

Regional Meeting - Hilton Head, S.C.
Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina
October 27 - 29, 2000

Friday 10/27	8:00 PM	Services at Beth Yam Synagogue, 4501 Meeting St. Rabbi Aaron Koplin (Beth Yam, Hilton Head) Cantor Sheldon Feinberg (Beth Israel, Beaufort)
	9:00 PM	Oneg following services, jointly sponsored by Beth Yam and Beth Israel Congregation (Beaufort, SC)
Saturday 10/28	7:00-9:00 AM	Breakfast, Residence Inn (included in accommodation price)
<u>Free Morning - Optional Activities Available</u>		
	8:00-Noon	Golf; Reservations required, additional fee (<i>Contact Linda Harrison</i>)
	8 & 9 & 10 AM	Tennis; Reservations required, additional fee (<i>Contact Linda Harrison</i>)
	9:00 & 10:30 AM	Croquet; Reservations required, additional fee (<i>Contact Linda Harrison</i>)
	11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Torah Study at Beth Yam with Rabbi Koplin
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch - Residence Inn
	2:15 - 3:30 PM	Panel Discussion, Residence Inn "Creating a Jewish Home in Hilton Head" Beatrice & William Chait, Paula Flink, Mark Mayer, Hank Noble.
	3:45-4:45 PM	Slide Presentation, Residence Inn Bill Aron, photographer: <i>"From the Lower East Side to the Deep South"</i>
	7:30 PM	Evening Banquet, Residence Inn Havdallah by Cantor Feinberg Council for Jewish Culture Award Concert by Massa U-Mattan
Sunday 10/29	7:00-9:00 AM	Breakfast, Residence Inn (included in accommodation price)
	9:00-9:15 AM	Dale Rosengarten, Beth Yam Synagogue Update on exhibition <i>"A Portion of the People"</i>
	9:20-9:30 AM	Martin Perlmutter, Beth Yam Synagogue Update on Jewish Studies Center, College of Charleston
	9:45-11:00 AM	Panel Discussion, Beth Yam Synagogue "Jews in the Confederacy": Dan Carter, University of South Carolina; Marvin Dulaney, College of Charleston; Belinda Gergel, Columbia College; with a response by Robert Rosen, author, <u><i>Confederate Jews</i></u>
	11:00-Noon	Informal Lunch, Beth Yam Synagogue
	12:00 PM	JHSSC Business Meeting - Open to all Members - Beth Yam Synagogue
	1-2:00 PM	Council for Jewish Culture Committee Meeting, Beth Yam Synagogue

JHSSC reservations: **Residence Inn, 12 Park Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC, 29928 (843) 686-5700 or Fax (843) 686-3952. Please make reservations by September 29, 2000.**
(\$75.00 & \$85.00 per night, up to 4 persons)

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina
Regional Meeting - Hilton Head, SC - October 27-29, 2000

NAME(S) _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Registration for the weekend: includes meals, Saturday evening banquet, speakers, and reception. Does not include hotel accommodations. Banquet space limited to first 120 registrants. No partial registration. **\$65 per person** _____

For information on golf, tennis, or croquet, please contact Linda Harrison at (843) 689-9278 (phone); (843) 689-9279 (fax) or LHarri4738@aol.com (e-mail).

Make checks payable to JHSSC and mail to: Jewish Studies Program, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424.

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina 2000 - 2001

Officers

Jeffrey Rosenblum	President
Robert Rosen	Vice-President
David J. Cohen	Treasurer
Martin Perlmutter	Secretary
Richard Gergel	Immediate Past President
Isadore Lourie	Founding President

Board of Directors

Gerry Sue Arnold	Columbia
Jack Bloom	Greenville
H.J. Brand	Conestee
Sol Breibart	Charleston
Leah Chase	Charleston
Robert Dreyfus	Greenville
Belinda Gergel	Columbia
Ben Goldberg	Charleston
Ruth Jacobs	Charleston
Harriet Keyserling	Beaufort
Harold Kornblut	Latta
Mike Krupsaw	Anderson
Theodore Levy	Hilton Head
Mick Lourie	Columbia

Board of Directors...cont'd

Robert Moses	Sumter
Arline Polinsky	Columbia
Klyde Robinson	Charleston
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Paul Siegel	Walterboro
Helen Silver	Charleston
Barbara Stender	Charleston

Consultant

Dale Rosengarten Jewish Heritage Collection

Staff

Elizabeth Moses Administrator

Committee Chairs

Council for Jewish Culture	Lyssa Harvey
Heritage	Sandra Rosenblum
Historic Sites	Isadore Lourie
Nominations	Jack Bloom



Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina
Jewish Studies Program
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC 29424

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Council for Jewish Culture Committee - Fall Events Around the State

Ongoing

Through October 15th - Toni Elkins opens a new series, "Le Dor Va Dor", postcard exhibit at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

Through November - Lyssa Harvey exhibits "Earning a Place in Time" at the City Art Gallery in Columbia. Part of her Tzedekah Series.

September

18th - 8:00 PM - S.C. Public Radio Carolina Concerts - Greenville's Temple of Israel Jewish Music Series.

23rd - 8:30 PM - Jerusalem Lyric Trio - Simons Center for the Arts, College of Charleston. Call (843) 953-5682.

October

1st - 30th - Columbia Jewish Community Center presents, "Horizons": Israel at 50, aerial photography sponsored the Consulate General of Israel.

October 22nd - 7:30 PM - Temple Emanu-El Concert Series, Myrtle Beach, renowned fiddler, Jay Ungar and Molly Mason and their band, Swingology. Jewish folk music and more. Call Evelyn Abelkop (843) 448-5063 for place and further information.

November

November 19th - 4:00 PM - Temple Emanu-El Concert Series, Myrtle Beach, "A Jewish/Celtic Experience". Call Evelyn Abelkop (843) 448-5063 for place and further information.

November 10-12th, 15-19th, & 24-25th - Trustus Theatre, Columbia, presents "Gin Game" with Ruth Gottlieb Moore and Lou Kaplan.

November 14th - 7:30 PM - Koger Center - Columbia. "Happy Birthday Aaron", celebration of the Aaron Copland Centennial.

November 19th - 2-5:00 PM - Columbia Jewish Community Center, Workshop offered by Meira Warshauer on "The Healing Art of Music". Call (803) 787-2023.

To submit arts & cultural events for the Winter and Spring calendar, contact Lyssa Harvey, 3605 Greenleaf Rd., Columbia, SC 29206, (803) 920-0707 (phone), (803) 738-2591 (fax), SCartandplay@aol.com (e-mail).