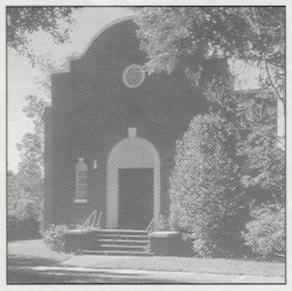


Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Spring 2001



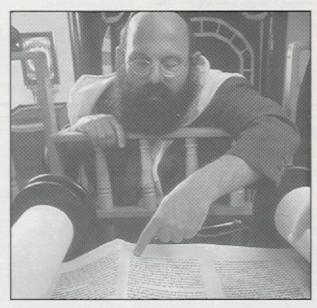
Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown, SC All photos by Bill Aron, October 2000



Temple Beth Elohim - interior - clockwise from top left: Philip Schneider, Meyer Rosen, Alwyn Goldstein, Rita Fogel, and Debby Abrams.



"The Jerusalem," a glatt (strictly) kosher Israeli restaurant in Myrtle Beach, with owners Nina & Yossi Elmalih, and Nina's nieces, Hanni Logasy and Hanni Zohar.



Rabbi Doron Aizenman, director of Lubovitcher chabad, an Orthodox day school in Myrtle Beach.

Annual Meeting - Georgetown & Myrtle Beach June 22 - 24, 2001 See pages 10-11 for Agenda and Registration!

From the President.....

Dear Fellow Members,

I want to take this opportunity to report to you on some of the Society's activities over the past several months. First, the one-hour TV documentary on South Carolina Jewish history is progressing well; Big Pictures Inc. will soon begin interviewing members of the Jewish community in the South Carolina and beyond. The video will be completed before the end of 2001.

Second, McKissick Museum's exhibition, "...A Portion of the People," originally scheduled to open in Columbia in September 2001, has a new opening date: Sunday, January 13th, 2002, with the Gala on Saturday evening, January 12th. Acting in the interest of the Society and lenders to the exhibition, the exhibit oversight committee postponed the opening date to help us obtain the best national venues that McKissick can secure.

Third, for our spring meeting, we will join our fellow Grand Strand members and visit Georgetown and learn about its historic Jewish community, now in decline. We will also hear about the fast-growing Myrtle Beach Jewish community.

Fourth, progress is continuing on the Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston. The building has received initial City of Charleston approval, has been presented to the Board of Architectural Review, and is now moving into its final design stages with groundbreaking set for July 2001. I mention this because the Center will be the permanent home of the Society only if the Society meets its commitment to raise funds for the Center. It is important that the Society have a permanent home, so I urge all of our members to make a generous gift to the Jewish Studies Center.

These are exciting times for the Society and I look forward to seeing you at Georgetown & Myrtle Beach in June.

Sincerely,

Dia.

Jeffrey Rosenblum, President

News Notes.....

Receiving duplicate mailings from the JHSSC? We apologize and appreciate being notified. However, it is a big task to maintain our mailing list, especially as many of you belong to several lists already (JCCs, federations, synagogues). We do our best, but please feel free to pass along your extra copies to someone who might be interested or take them to your local JCC or synagogue.



The South Carolina Humanities Council recently awarded the JHSSC's video documentary project a \$15,000 grant. The project applied for a \$10,000 grant and was awarded an additional \$5,000, an extremely unusual and wonderful honor. The SCHC, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, helps preserve the state's cultural heritage, fosters lifelong learning, and encourages civic involvement among South Carolinians.

The Jewish Community of Georgetown, South Carolina

The town of Georgetown was founded in 1730 by the Rev. Elisha Screven. Its Jewish community was established in 1762, although Jews may have arrived earlier. The Jewish cemetery was established in 1772, making it the second oldest Jewish cemetery in the state.

Georgetown's Jewish community was an outgrowth of the Charleston Jewish community. Among the first Jews to relocate up the coast were Abraham Cohen and Mordecai Myers, who became merchants, opening businesses in Georgetown in 1762 and 1772. Around 1800, Georgetown's Jewish population numbered 80 ten percent of the town's white population. Jewish leaders founded the town's banks, library society, and fire departments, and many held political office. The Jewish community of Georgetown produced six mayors. Solomon Cohen was elected in 1818 and 1837, Abram Myers served from 1826 to '28, and Aaron Lopez from 1876 to '78. Three Jewish mayors are buried in the Georgetown cemetery, Louis Ehrich (1886-88), Harold Kaminski (1930-35), and Sylvan L. Rosen (1948-61).

Heiman Kaminski emigrated from Poland in 1854 and, after serving in the Confederate army, settled in Georgetown. By 1900 he had become one of the town's most prominent businessmen. He and his wife Charlotte Emmanuel had three children. Several years after she died he married Rose Baum, and they had one child, Harold Kaminski. Harold married Julia Pyatt in 1925. They had no children. Harold died in 1953.

The original Kaminski House was built in

1769 by Paul Trapier. Subsequently it passed into the Keith family and in 1934 was bought by the Kaminskis. Julia Kaminski gave the house to the City of Georgetown for use as a museum upon her death in 1972.

Another prominent citizen was Bernard M. Baruch, who was born in Camden and reared in New York. He became a part-time member of the Georgetown community when he purchased several old rice plantations on the Waccamaw Neck and created Hobcaw Barony. Here Baruch entertained world leaders, including Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and George C. Marshall.

Georgetown's congregation Beth Elohim was founded in 1904 with a membership of over one hundred people. For half a century the congregation enjoyed the services of visiting rabbis – notably Rabbi Jacob Raisin – from Charleston's Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim.

Today, the Georgetown Jewish community is in serious decline. There are no living descendants of the first Jewish families. Younger members of the community have moved away, and Jewish newcomers tend to affiliate with one of several Myrtle Beach congregations. Even though Georgetown's Beth Elohim no longer has a minyan of ten, members still meet twice monthly on Friday evenings, with services conducted by one of the congregants.

Information for this article was compiled from the writings of Charles Joyner, unpublished papers of Cornelia Thomas Bull, and Kaminski House publications.





Left: Alwyn Goldstein and Philip Schneider at "Alwyn's" on Front St. Right: Rita Fogel in Temple Beth Elohim.

Photos by Bill Aron

Committee Reports

The JHSSC <u>Council for Jewish Culture</u> has been very busy. Here are some highlights from Chairperson Lyssa Harvey: The Council held its First Annual Arts and Cultural Achievement Awards on Sunday, October 29, 2000 in conjunction with the Jewish Historical Society's fall meeting in Hilton Head. The ten nominees for the award were: Sheri Farbstein, Bernard L. Friedman, Willard Hirsch, Harriet Keyserling, Morey Lipton, Martin Perlmutter, Dale Rosengarten, Jim & Kay Thigpen (Trustus Theatre), Meira Warshauer, and John Whitehead. Meira Washauer, PhD., a composer who has dedicated much of her creative output to Jewish themes, was this year's award winner.



Award Presentation - L to R: Lyssa Harvey, Lee Malerich, and Meira Washauer, with art work. October 28, 2000

She received a beautiful piece of original work by fabric artist Lee Malerich of Orangeburg, SC.

Jewish Cultural Events Around the State

May 5th - 9th - First Annual Jewish Film Series for South Carolina - Sponsored by the Columbia Film Society and Nickelodeon Theatre, Columbia.

May 9th, 7:00 PM - World War II Veterans' Commemoration Celebration, remembering the Russian and American armies who met to mark the end of WW II. Sponsored by the College of Charleston Russian Club. Call 843/ 953-1359 or 843/ 953-5776 for further information.

July 16th - Story hour featuring Jewish folk tales for children. Marvin Bienstock, storyteller - Richland County Public Library, Columbia.

August 16th - Trustus Theatre will host HOOK and EYE, the Annual Playwright's 2000 Festival winner about four Jewish sisters.

Sunday, November 4th, 3:00 PM - the American Arts Trio with Donald Portnoy, violin; Robert Jesselson, cello; and Charles Fugo, piano - music by Jewish composers. Tree of Life Temple, Columbia.

For further information contact Lyssa Harvey, Council for Jewish Culture Committee P.O. Box 12089, Columbia, SC 29211 803/787-7331

A chapter from history...

THE JEWISH INFLUENCE IN CLARENDON COUNTY Presentation to the Clarendon County Historical Society January 18, 2001 by Sylvia Hanna Weinberg, Ph. D.

The story of a community is the story of its people. Manning was settled by strong individuals and families like those who settled across South Carolina in other frontier towns of the 1850s. Families here prior to creation of the new county and its capital were joined by new families who came to seek their fortune. The people cleared the wilderness, built houses and businesses, raised families. Jewish families were integral to the growth and development of the

town, in business, banking, law, education and property development.

Jews came to America as early as colonial days and many fought in the American Revolution. They came from all over the world, to escape religious persecution and provide a better life for their families - the same reasons that propelled most immigrants to this new land. At the time of the Revolution, there were an estimated 3000 Jews in this country, with the largest community being in Charleston, SC. The South Carolina constitution, written by the English philosopher John Locke, promised toleration for "Jews, heathen, and dissenters." This was the first constitution in history to guarantee religious freedom to Jews. Beth Elohim (House of God) Congregation was established in 1749 in Charleston, third oldest in America after New York and Newport.

There were three waves of Jewish immigration:

1. From Spain and Portugal, prior to 1815. Jews in Spain were highly regarded for centuries and attained great wealth. Jews helped finance the voyage of Christopher Columbus, who used the knowledge of Jewish scientists and cartographers. The Spanish Inquisition of the early 1500s forced all who would not profess Christianity to flee for their lives, leaving possessions behind. Many fled to Holland and later to America. These are Sephardic Jews, and the name Tobias is found among them. The Tobias family was one of the earliest to settle Clarendon County, well before it was a separate entity. Thomas Tobias, who farmed in the Wilson's Mill area, is cited as a Revolutionary War hero.

2. From 1815 to the end of the century, from Germany and other Central European countries. Thousands of Germans - of all faiths - fled. Great poverty and religious oppression were widespread. The biggest influx was from 1840-1850, and most Jews who settled in the

South were from this wave.

3. In 1881, the Russian Czar enacted specific anti-Semitic laws which caused Jews to flee Russia, Austria, and Roumania. The play "Fiddler on the Roof" portrays this period. Entire

communities of these more Orthodox Jews immigrated, mainly to New York.

It is in the second wave of immigrants, from Central Europe, that we find most of the Jews who settled in Clarendon County. Having fled Germany and other European countries with little if anything in the way of worldly goods, many began life here as peddlers selling doorto-door. They walked until they could buy a horse and wagon, then built a small store and then a larger store. Nearly every small town in South Carolina and across the South had Jewish families who built mercantile businesses. Few were scholars or professional men in Germany, and German schools were not opened to Jews until about 1850. Laws in many parts of Europe forbid Jews from owning real estate, and barred them from professions. Prior to 1808 Jews in Germany had no family names, nor were their births and deaths recorded.

The story of Moses Levi parallels the story of Manning for its first half century. He arrived just as the town was beginning, established a business, built a fine home, and made a

fortune which he lost during the Civil War, and re-built by the end of the century.

Remarkably we have a copy of Moses Levi's birth certificate. He was born in the village of Bosenbach, Germany, at 7 A.M. August 11, 1827, son of Jacob Lovy, age 44, a butcher, and

(Continued on page 6)

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Johanna Grunewald. The occupations of his father and the two witnesses to his birth (a mason and a worker for the town government) show a stability and status most unusual in Jews of that period. Moses at age 21, in 1848, probably came to this country to avoid the persecution following the 1840 revolution when anyone not Catholic was persecuted.

Five years later, in 1853, Hannah Jekel (Jacobs), born in Bavaria, Germany, December 30, 1830, arrived in Charleston where she married Moses Levi. We can speculate that they had met previously and that Moses sent for her, but I can find no reference to that. Hannah was a beautiful young woman as we see from the portrait of her in the archives building next door. According to their marriage contract, which was required by law to be filed with the Secretary of State, Moses gave her a marriage settlement of two thousand dollars to be used to her benefit, not spent on household expenses. They moved to Sumter where Moses was in the mercantile business, and three years later moved to Manning, which was being established at that time, where they lived the rest of their lives, greatly influencing this community.

Jews were at home in the South, experiencing less anti-Semitism than in many parts of the country. Robert Rosen, a Charleston lawyer who recently published the book <u>The Jewish Confederates</u>, attributes this to the fact that Jews were never in large numbers in Southern towns and quickly assimilated into the culture. Jews, like most European immigrants, were grateful for the opportunity to build good lives in a new country and became part of the country. They believed in the causes of their neighbors, and were willing to fight for what they believed in. When the South left the Union and became the Confederate States of America, Jews became part of that country.

Moses entered the Confederate Army as a private with the Sprott Guards, which later became Company I, Twenty-third Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Harry L. Benbow, where "he shared the hardships and privations with his comrades, with that cheerfulness characteristic of a true and brave soldier." Lieutenants in the Guards were H. H. Lesesne, R. B. Harvin, T. N. Slawson. Company members included the names of Eadon, Ridgill, Clark, Aycock, Cutter, Gamble, Stukes, Shorter, Thames and many others.

During the last attacks on Petersburg, Virginia, which included the Battle of Five Forks, on April 1, 1865, Moses and probably many of his group were taken prisoner. He was Regimental Quartermaster. These last major battles of the war were part of the Federal initiative to regain Petersburg. Five Forks was key to General Robert E. Lee's supply line, and he sent Confederate General George Edward Pickett to check the Federal advance. Pickett arrived late for the battle because he was attending a shad bake, much to Lee's annoyance. Pickett made a stand at Five Forks but was finally forced to withdraw, and many Confederates were taken prisoner. Moses and the others were sent to Point Lookout, a Union prison camp in Maryland where they lived in a tent city.

According to the foreword in the Moses Levi Institute yearbook of 1899-1900, "It was here where his spirit shone out like a beacon light; for not long after reaching prison he set his business ingenuity to work, not with a purpose of self-aggrandizement, but for the noble purpose, to lighten the burdens of prison life upon his comrades. By some means he communicated with the outside world and secured such necessaries of life which prison rules would not supply, and these were sold and the proceeds used for the purchasing of dainties and comforts for his fellow prisoners."

Although Lee surrendered just eight days after the Battle of Five Forks, April 9, 1865, Moses and the other prisoners were not released until June 11, 1865. He made his way back home to find his cotton, most of his buildings, and virtually everything he owned burned. Total losses for the town of Manning were about \$103,000. Moses Levi lost \$40,000. He, with everyone else here, set about re-building the town.

Many Jews who came to this country abandoned Jewish affiliation, largely by default. (Continued on page 7)

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They married Christian neighbors and raised children as Christian. This happened immediately in some cases and sometimes took a couple of generations. The Appelt family is an example.

Louis Appelt, editor and publisher of the *Manning Times* during the latter part of the 19th century, and a state senator for 15 years, was a self-made man. He was born in 1857 in Troy, NY, and moved to Lydia, South Carolina as a lad of 13 years, apparently on his own. He moved to Manning a few years later, getting a job with a local merchant. He read a great deal, and the early editions of the *Manning Times* attest to his extensive vocabulary and use of the language. He was judge of probate for the county, and also postmaster, obviously a man of influence. According to his biographer, he was of Jewish descent but married Eliza Clark, a Presbyterian, and reared his children in that faith.

Aaron Weinberg operated his first store at Hodges Crossroads and in the early 1880s moved into Manning where he built a 16-room mansion for his family and operated a mercantile business. He married Rosa, daughter of Moses Levi and had 13 children, ten of whom reached adulthood. The newspaper notes that on November 19, 1890, Mr. Aaron Weinberg left Monday for Charleston where he carried his little son Julien for medical treatment. The next week, it was reported, he returned from Charleston with his little son Julien. An operation was performed on the child's leg and he was somewhat improved.

Jewish leaders greatly influenced the economic development of Manning. Retail businesses of every kind -- mercantile, drug, furniture, saloons, bootmaker, millinery -- were operated by Jewish families. Moses Levi owned huge cotton warehouses and shipped local goods to northern markets. The editor of the newspaper, dentists, druggists, and lawyers were of the Jewish faith. Abe Levi and Jake Weinberg were instrumental in organizing the first two banks in Manning, with Levi president of the Bank of Manning and Weinberg president of the Bank of Clarendon at the turn of the 20th century.

Many small private schools operated in Manning and surrounding areas from its earliest days, but the Manning Collegiate Institute was the first one established for the entire town. The Institute struggled for years and was about to close because of indebtedness. The family of

Moses Levi paid off the debt and provided operating funds for the school, renamed the Moses Levi Institute in 1899. A true public school, this was the precursor of Manning High School. The first public library in Manning, and in fact the only one until the Harvin Clarendon County Library was built in the 1980s, was given to the town in memory of Hannah Levi by her family. They gave the land and \$1000 toward the building. Today this building appropriately houses the county archives.

Jewish citizens participated in civic organizations of the early days, Knights of Pythias Masons, and the like, and served on committees such as the one to raise money to build a monument to fallen Confederate soldiers. They built substantial homes, especially along Brooks Street. Many have been torn down to be replaced with businesses, notably the Aaron Weinberg, Simon Iseman, and the Moses Levi homes, where we now find the shopping center with B-Mart and First Palmetto Savings and Loan. Houses standing include the Haygreen



Sylvia and Julien Weinberg, at their home in Manning, SC, October 3, 1996. Photo by Dale Rosengarten

house built by Jake Weinberg, the Goldsmith house built by Nettie Weinberg Geiger and her

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina - Membership 2001

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Irving & Helen Lipsky Stanley & Mary Littman A.M. "Mick" & Nancy Lourie Isadore & Susan Lourie Harriet & Harold Lurey Suzanne Rae Lurey Spencer & Liz Lynch Lee Malerich Rabbi Sanford & Ruth Marcus Harry Margolius Rose Y. Mark Morris & Marcie Mazursky Bryan McCanless Jane & Burnet Mendelsohn Rhetta & Joe Mendelsohn Nancy & Bernard Mendelson Robert Merenbloom Henry Miller Ruth Miller Herman & Annabelle Mischner Emily & Davis Moise Blanche Morgan I. Harby Moses Robert & Harriett Moses Lynne & Larry Nachman Harry & Ann Needle Kenneth & Myra Nelson Henry & Suzanne Noble Bonnie Rosen Nurick Alan & Neda Nussbaum Eric & Ruth Oser Paul Paskoff Stanley & Sonja Pearlman Hanna Pearlstine Edwin Pearlstine, Jr. Marty & Jeri Perlmutter Gerald & Arline Polinsky David Popowski Lawrence Praeger David & Jean Pustilnik Rachel Raisin Raymond & Barbara Reich Ruth & Bert Reinhold Nathan & Judy Rephan Lenny Reznik Harold & Sydney Richman Gerald & Sheran Rittenberg Henry & Sara Rittenberg Jan & Solomon Rivers Klyde & Claire Robinson Sam & Beatrice Rogol Fannie & Buddy Rones Virginia Rosefield Brenda & Samuel Rosen

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> This list is as of March 20, 2001. If there is an error with your name, or your name does not appear, please contact Elizabeth Moses, 843/ 953-5682 or by e-mail: mosese@cofc.edu or by fax. 843/953-7624.

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Annual Meeting - Litchfield Beach, SC June 22 - 24, 2001

Agenda

Friday Evening, June 22 7:30 PM

Saturday Morning, June 23

Saturday Afternoon, June 23

Sunday Morning, June 24

Services at Temple Emanu-El, 406 65th Ave. N., Myrtle Beach 843/449-5552

Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

(Transportation will be available).

Tours of the Kaminski House*, the Jewish cemetery, & Temple Beth Elohim (Georgetown)
Or:

Tour of the Bernard Baruch Foundation*, (Winyah Bay, just north of Georgetown)

Lunch (on your own - see suggestions next page)

Tours of the Kaminski House*, the Jewish cemetery, & Temple Beth Elohim (Georgetown)

Tour of the Bernard Baruch Foundation* (Winyah Bay, just north of Georgetown)

5:30 PM Reception - Hampton Inn

Dinner (on your own - see suggestions next page)

9:15 - 10:30 Panel Discussion Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown

10:45- 11:45 General Society Business Meeting (Open to all members - Election of new officers)

12:00 - 1:00 PM Cultural Committee Meeting

Special Hotel Rates are available at the Hampton Inn, 420 Marina Drive, Georgetown, SC, until June 1st. Please call 1-843-545-5000 for reservations. \$76 per 1-2 person room, includes breakfast. Mention the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina meeting.











*Tours of the Baruch Foundation are SIZE LIMITED. One tour is from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon and the second one is from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Twenty-eight (28) people maximum per tour. Tours filled on a first registered, first available basis. It is a 3 hour tour, mostly driven (transportation provided), some walking involved in a tour of the house. Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice on the registration form and you will be notified.

Tours of the Georgetown Jewish cemetery are unrestricted and on your own.

*Tours of the Kaminski House are about 1 hour in length and they start on the hour at 10, & 11:00 am and 12, 1, 2, 3, & 4:00 pm. Maximum group size is 15 per group. Tours fill up on a first come, first serve basis. Please arrive at the Kaminski House 15 minutes prior to the tour you wish to take.

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Litchfield Beach, SC - April 27-29, 2001 Annual Meeting - Registration

ADDRESS		
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00 - 4:00 pm 1 2		
wish Studies Program, College of		

Dining Suggestions for Georgetown

There are many restaurants located on Front Street in Georgetown. These include:

Kudzu Bakery, 120 King St., 843/546-1847

Rice Paddy, 819 Front, 843/546-2021

River Room, 801 Front St., 843/527-4110

Thomas Café, 703 Front St., 843/546-7776

However, June 22-24 is also Harborwalk Weekend in Georgetown and it is likely to be crowded. Your best bet for eating is the Land's End Restaurant located right next to the hotel on Marina Drive.

Land's End Restaurant, 444 Marina Ave 843/527-1376

Maps will be provided with your registration receipt.

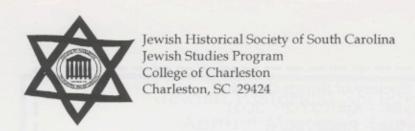
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husband, the Robert Ridgeway home, built by Moses Levi, and the Julien Weinberg house built by Leon Weinberg.

Politically, there were fewer Jewish names mentioned in the early days. Louis Appelt, state senator for 15 years, also served as postmaster and probate judge. Julien Weinberg was mayor in the 1960s and served several terms on City Council before becoming probate judge. Jewish citizens have fought in all the wars of this country.

Obviously, it is impossible to name all the Jewish families who ever lived here, and as was pointed out earlier, many abandoned their religious affiliation. By the end of the 19th century there were probably about 30 families who had lived or were living in Manning but not necessarily at the same time. Names of individuals and families in this area who likely were Jewish at some point included: Abrams, Appelt, Cohen, Eichelberger, Feintuck, Furstenburg, Hirschmann, Iseman, Jacobs, Kalisky, Karesh, Krasnoff, Levi, Loryea, Loyns, Machem, Moses, Ness, Podowsky, Richman, Riff, Schirm, Schwartz, Sigwald, Stern, Tobias, Weinberg, Wolkoviskie, and Yassney.

Jewish families here traditionally worshiped at Temple Sinai in Sumter, but planned to build a synagogue. On a 1937 town map, the lot beside the Haygreen house is designated the Synagogue Lot. A congregation was never formed here and people continued to worship at the Temple in Sumter. Jewish families became fewer and fewer as the years moved on. As far as I know, when he died in 1999, Julien Weinberg was the last practicing Jew in Manning. ~



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Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina 2000 - 2001

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