## Register now for THE fall meeting at JEWISH Hobcaw Barony HISTORICAL Georgetown Society of SOUTH CAROLINA

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Dale Rosengarten editor Alyssa Neely assistant editor and designer

The IHSSC newsletter is published twice a year.

Current and back issues can be found at *ihssc.org* 

On the cover: Getting ready for the hunt at Hobcaw Barony, ca. 1907. Bernard Baruch is seen mounted with daughter Renee on the saddle in front of him; Bernard's father, Dr. Simon Baruch, is crouched in the center; Edwin W. Kaminski, is standing, far right; in the right foreground, kneeling, is Hobcaw superintendant Harry Donaldson. Courtesy of the Belle W. Baruch Foundation, Hobcaw Barony.

## In this issue

The Baruchs of Hobcaw Barony ~ Alyssa Neely and Dale Rosengarten ~ In 1905 Camdenborn Bernard Mannes Baruch began piecing together a 16,000-acre coastal estate just north of Georgetown to use as a winter residence and hunting retreat. His daughter Belle Wilcox Baruch acquired Hobcaw Barony from her father; at her death in 1964, her will created a foundation to 

The Kaminskis of Georgetown ~ Alyssa Neely and Dale Rosengarten ~ Heiman Kaminski immigrated to South Carolina, from Posen, Prussia, in 1854. After serving in the Confederate Army he settled in Georgetown and went into business. His enterprises soon included a hardware store, medical dispensary, boat and oar company, steamship line, the Bank of Georgetown, and the 

"Between the Waters" ~ JHSSC meets at Hobcaw Barony & Georgetown, Oct. 14–15, 2017......8

The Rosen Family: Good Citizenship 101 ~ Benedict Rosen ~ From modest mercantile beginnings, members of the Rosen family have risen to high positions in law, politics, and business, 

Albert & Sons: The Schneiders of Georgetown ~ Deborah Schneider Smith ~ Albert Schneider founded a business that became one of the Southeast's biggest department stores, specializing in appliances. Two of his sons joined him in The New Store, and a third went into law and politics. The author recounts the ease with which the family—and all of Georgetown's Jews bridged social and spiritual boundaries.....11

The Fogels of Front Street ~ George Sidney Fogel ~ Young dry goods merchant Harry Fogel built a small empire on Front Street, including a clothing store, a 50-room hotel, and the original River Room restaurant. The second generation outstripped their parents in schooling, and the 

Ebb and Flow: Georgetown's Jewish History ~ Martin Perlmutter ~ Georgetown boasts an old and important Jewish community whose population began to dwindle in the second half of the 

#### Jewish History Exhibit to Open at Temple Sinai in Sumter

Big plans are underway in Sumter. Temple Sinai, the Reform Jewish congregation, has entered into a new partnership with the Sumter County Museum. Over the years, dwindling membership has prompted temple leaders to consider plans for new uses of the historic sanctuary, should the day come when the congregation is no longer viable. The project is spearheaded by Roger Ackerman and Jay Schwartz, with the members' support.

In this new partnership, the congregation will continue to use the sanctuary for Friday night and holiday services, and the museum will take over the adjoining social hall to create a permanent exhibition, expected to open in early 2018. The exhibit will feature displays about Jewish history in South Carolina and Sumter, with a prominent section on the Holocaust and Sumter's ties to this unprecedented tragedy.

We are seeking objects about Sumter Jewish families and community life for the exhibition. Financial donations to the project are always welcome! Please visit our FAQ page, linked from the museum's homepage, www.sumtercountymuseum.org. Feel free to contact us by email or phone: Executive Director Annie Rivers, arivers@ sumtercountymuseum.org; Education & Outreach Coordinator Elizabeth Moses, emoses@ sumtercountymuseum.org; Tel. 803-775-0908.



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president of the Jewish Historical Society for the past two years. As you might

roots while living for 41 years in Washington, D.C., has been challenging. Leading the Society has helped me to stay connected and renew ties to "home." I have enjoyed working with many interesting, accomplished people among the membership, board, and staff to produce conferences on topics that are important to me, including southern Jews and civil rights, Greenville's urban planning guru Mayor Max Heller, and most recently, the merchants of King Street and Summerville, who mirror my own families' experiences in retail.

Over the past few months we have been working towards a smooth transition as Marty Perlmutter, JHSSC's founding executive director and maven of all things Jewish at the College of Charleston, retires at the end of the Spring 2018 semester. A recent "reset" of our nominating committee assures that we will have rich human resources to draw upon and greater geographic diversity. While our ongoing initiatives continue apaceincluding oral history interviews, historical markers, website, and cemetery survey-in May we inaugurated a new project to document Jewish "store stories" across South Carolina. All of it is made possible by a steady increase in membership, which just topped 500, and the generosity of our 38 pillars.

Our Spring 2017 meeting, "The 'Kingdom of Israel' in this Town": Jewish Merchants of Charleston and Summerville," began with informationpacked walking tours along King Street led by historian and archivist Harlan



**IHSSC unveiled a new historic marker** on Central Avenue in Summerville on May 21, 2017. Photo by Laura Moses.

### **SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR** 2018-2019

Greene and board member Rhetta Mendelsohn. Next, College invited to visit the Kaminski House, Rice Museum, and Kaminski of Charleston business professor Steve Litvin described how Hardware, for a total immersion in local history. King Street has evolved into an upscale retail and restaurant While I am stepping down as president, I look forward to continuing to work with JHSSC and nurturing my friendships district. Harlan, Shari Rabin, and Dale Rosengarten presented a preview of *Mapping Jewish Charleston*, which traces the Jewish with you all. Zel Ernest L. Marcus geography of the city over three centuries. Panels featuring long-



# Letter from the President

As I close out my term, I want to thank time King Street merchants and representatives of Charleston's burgeoning food scene rounded out the day.

Visiting Summerville's vital, historic downtown on Sunday was an eye-opener for most of us. Hats off to the Summerville/ imagine, holding on to my South Carolina Dorchester Museum, and to Robyn Wittenberg Dudley

**President** Jeffrey Rosenblum, Charleston, SC

**VP Fundraising and Membership** Steve Savitz, Columbia, SC

**VP Archives and Historical Sites** Alan Reyner, Columbia, SC

**VP Education and Publications** Lilly Stern Filler, Columbia, SC

Treasurer David J. Cohen, Charleston, SC

**Secretary** Garry Baum, Columbia, SC

Archivist Sandra Lee Rosenblum, Charleston, SC

and Spencer Lynch, who organized a full afternoon of activities, including the dedication of a historic marker on Central Avenue, a remarkable panel of merchants and customers, tours of Jewish heritage sites and homes, and High Tea at the former residence of philanthropist Saul Alexander.

Our Fall 2017 conference takes us to Hobcaw Barony and Georgetown on October 14 and 15. Hobcaw-an Indian word meaning "between the waters"-was the winter retreat of Bernard Baruch. Born in Camden, South Carolina, Baruch made millions on Wall Street and gained renown as advisor to presidents from Woodrow Wilson through Harry Truman. On Hobcaw's sprawling 16,000 acres, he and his daughter Belle hosted such luminaries as Winston

Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt. We will spend Saturday touring the property, now a world-class center of marine biology and forestry research, and listening to Lee Brockington, senior interpreter at Hobcaw, and the SCETV team that created the award-winning Between the Waters website.

On Sunday the meeting will convene at Temple Beth Elohim in Georgetown, third oldest town in South Carolina and the second (after Charleston) where Jews settled. Dale will present a virtual tour "From First Families to Front Street," followed by a panel discussion including the children of former Front Street merchants, as well as several of the newcomers who have revitalized the congregation, which now numbers more than 40 families. After lunch attendees are

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# The Baruchs of Hobcaw Barony

"In this hectic age of distraction, all of us need to pause every now and then in what we are doing to examine where the rush of the world and of our own activities is taking us. Even an hour or two spent in such detached contemplation on a park bench will prove rewarding. . . . I naturally grasped the opportunity that came to me in 1905 to acquire a veritable Shangri-La in my native South Carolina—famed Hobcaw Barony, whose sandy beaches and salt marshes once offered the finest duck hunting in the United States, with four rivers and a bay abounding in fish; vast stretches of almost primeval forest, and—no telephone."

> BERNARO M. BARUCH III BROADWAY NEW YORK

I have your latter of the 5th inst. and shall keep you in mind.

Very truly yours,

It is my intention to patronize as much as possible local interests. I only hope that the local interests will be as friendly disposed towards me as I

-Bernard M. Baruch

### by Alyssa Neely and Dale Rosengarten

"I always observed the Jewish holy days—as I still do. My wife attended her own church. . . . We agreed that our two daughters, Belle, who was born in 1899, and Renee, who was born in 1905, should be baptized and brought up in the faith of their mother. With my son, we decided to let him make his own choice of religion when he grew up." —Bernard M. Baruch

Isabelle Wolfe

Bernard Baruch, presented with a portrait of his father, Dr. Simon Baruch, by the artist, Irwin Sussman, 1953



Bernard Baruch, ca 1946

"One reason I established a second home in the South was that my mother had asked me not to lose touch with the land of my forebears. She also had urged me to try to contribute to its regeneration and, in particular, to 'do something for the Negro.'"

—Bernard M. Baruch

Bernard M. Baruch was very much a self-made man, intent on controlling his image in both pictures and words. His three quotes above come from the

first volume of his autobiography, Baruch: My Own Story, 1957.

Georgetown,

Sir:-

C. L. Ford & Sons, 713 Front Street, Georgetown, SC, sold groceries first, with many of its suppliers and customers arriving at the building's back door by boat on the Sampit River. In the early 1930s, the business expanded into the space next door at 711 Front Street, adding hardware and marine to the inventory. "A large part of the business was with plantation owners. Mr. Ford was given credit for enticing many northern capitalists to this area. It was not unusual to see the Huntingtons, Vanderbilts, Emersons, Baruchs, or DuPonts come through the store."

> -A Walk Down Front Street, published by Georgetown County Historical Society, November 2011.

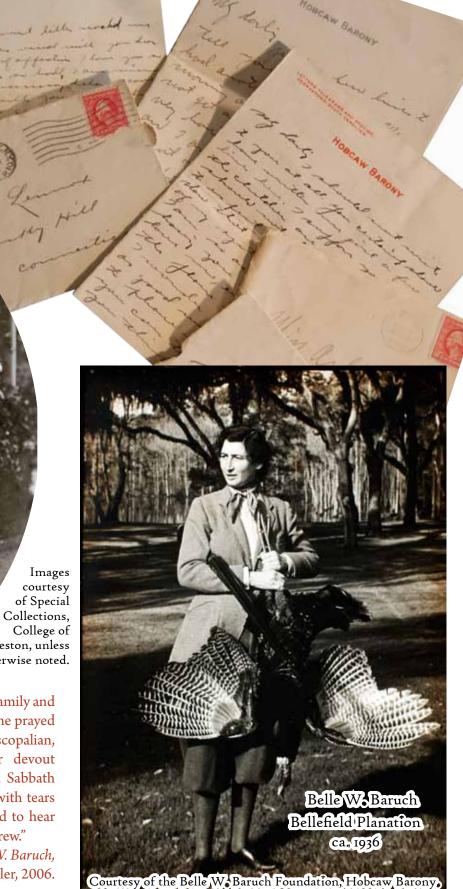
Charleston, unless otherwise noted.

"Belle identified strongly with the Baruch side of the family and felt great inner peace and a sense of rightness when she prayed with her Jewish relatives. Although raised an Episcopalian, Belle occasionally attended synagogue with her devout Jewish grandmother. She especially loved to spend Sabbath eve at her grandparents' home. Her eyes would fill with tears at the lighting of the Sabbath candles, and she loved to hear Grandfather Baruch speak the ritual blessings in Hebrew."

—Baroness of Hobcaw: The Life of Belle W. Baruch, by Mary E. Miller, 2006.



Love letters written by Hartwig Baruch, Sr., Bernard's Baruch's brother, to his future wife, Arline Lennox, 1915



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"Heiman Kaminski arrived in Georgetown at the age of twenty-six with two silver

dollars in his pocket, destined to become not merely the most important man in Georgetown Jewry in the late nineteenth century, but perhaps the most important man in all of Georgetown."

# The Kaminskis of Georgetown

### by Alyssa Neely and **Dale Rosengarten**

"Heiman and his first wife Charlotte Emanuel had four children: Edwin, Nathan, Joseph, and Linah. Charlotte contracted tuberculosis, and during her illness the family summered on an estate along the Hudson River. After Charlotte's death in 1880, the family continued their tradition of summering in New

York. Five years after Charlotte's death, Heiman married Rose Baum (1861-1937). Their only child, a son, Harold, was born February 24, 1886."

-from Kaminski House Museum brochure, published by The Creative Company, 1996.

"The rise of Heiman Kaminski is nicely summarized in the terse credit reports of the R. G. Dun Company.... In 1867, the Dun reporter described Kaminski as 'prompt.' By 1870 he pronounced Kaminski's credit 'excellent'. In 1871 he described him as being of TERMS 'excellent character and credit.' The following year he wrote that Kaminski was 'believed to be getting rich.' By 1875 his report only said 'rich."

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'The marriage of Heiman and Rose Kaminski's son Harold to Julia Pyatt marked the first intermarriage between Georgetown's Jewish community and Georgetown's old plantation aristocracy. There is no way to ascertain whether the two families supported or opposed the young people's choice. But there is a way to tell what Georgetonians in general thought of it. Shortly thereafter, they elected Harold Kaminski to be their mayor."

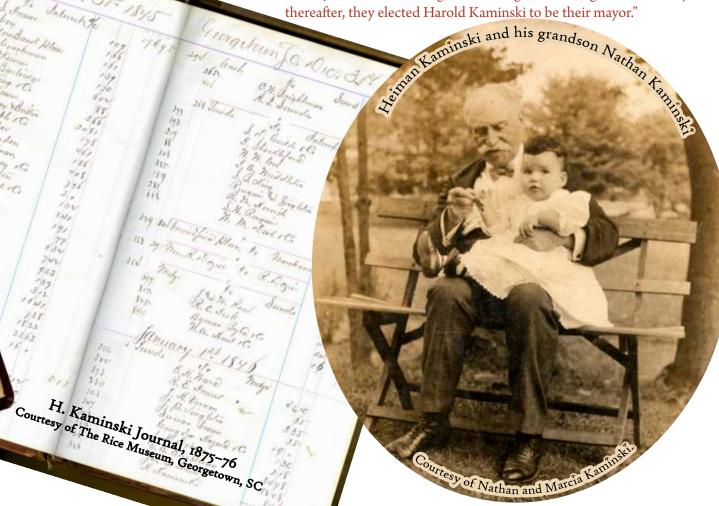
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-Quotes, except where otherwise noted, are from "A Community of Memory: Assimilation

and Identity among the Jews of Georgetown" in Shared Traditions: Southern History and Folk Culture, by Charles Joyner, 1999.

Bible, 1805, of Isaac Gomez, Jr., great-grandfather of Charlotte Emanuel Kaminski Images courtesy of Special Collections, College of Charleston, unless otherwise noted.

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# "Between the Waters"

### October 14–15, 2017 | Hobcaw Barony and Georgetown, South Carolina

#### Saturday, October 14 ~ Hobcaw Barony

9:00 а.м.	Discovery Center at Hobcaw Barony opens, 22 Hobcaw Road, Georgetown
10:30	Shuttle service begins to Hobcaw House from Clemson's Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, 177 Hobcaw Road (parking location)
11:00	Registration at Hobcaw House
11:30 – 12:15 р.м.	Box lunch
12:15 - 1:00	<b>Native Americans to Native New Yorker, Hobcaw Barony From 6000 BCE–1964</b> presentation by Lee G. Brockington, Senior Interpreter, Hobcaw Barony
1:00 - 3:00	Bus tour of Hobcaw property
3:15 - 4:30	<b>Between the Waters</b> – presentation by Betsy Newman, SCETV producer, and Patrick Hayes, Hayes Media, Clemson's Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science
4:30 - 6:00	Reception at Clemson facility
	Dinner on your own

#### Sunday, October 15 ~ Georgetown

	Saturday morning events and lunch will take place at Temple Beth Elohim, 230 Screven Street.
9:00 - 10:30 а.м.	Open JHSSC board meeting – everyone is invited!
10:30 - 11:15	<b>From First Families to Front Street</b> – presentation by Dale Rosengarten, curator and historian, Special Collections, College of Charleston
11:30 – 12:30 р.м.	<b>Making Their Mark on Georgetown</b> – panel discussion Moderator: Elizabeth Moses Panelists: Marilyn Abrams Friedman, Richard Dimentstein, George S. Fogel, Roz Goldstein Greenspon, Nathan (Kim) Kaminski, Jr., Benedict (Dick) Rosen, Deborah Schneider Smith, Gene Vinik
12:30	Box lunch
1:15	Tour of Marcia and Nathan Kaminski's house, 622 Highmarket Street
2:00 - 4:30	Tours (each tour is approx. one hour; locations have requested no more than 25 people per hour): Kaminski House Museum, 1003 Front Street Rice Museum and Kaminski Hardware Store, 633 Front Street

**Hotel reservations** 

Hampton Inn Georgetown Marina 420 Marina Drive, Georgetown, SC 29440 (843) 545-5000

*Special rate:* \$109 per night + tax

To get the special rate, make your reservation by September 20 and mention the group name, "JHSSC."

#### **Meeting registration**

Online at: jhssc.org/events/upcoming OR with Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express

By check, payable to **JHSSC** c/o Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program – 96 Wentworth Street, Charleston, SC 29424

Meeting fee: \$50 per person

Questions: Enid Idelsohn, idelsohne@cofc.edu Phone: (843) 953-3918 ~ fax: (843) 953-7624



## The Rosen Family: Good Citizenship 101 by Benedict (Dick) Rosen

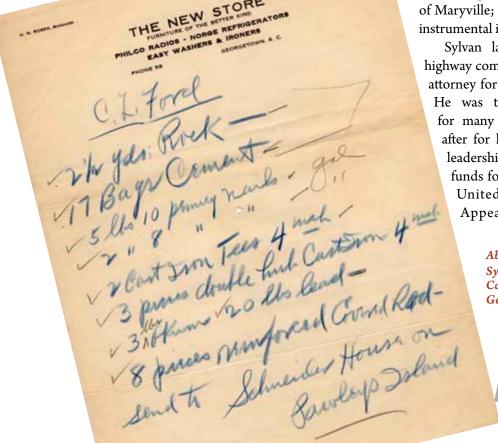
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1887 when my great-grandmother Sallie Weinberg Lewenthal, and her husband, Philip Lewenthal, relocated from Darlington, South Carolina. Sallie opened a store on Front Street selling baked goods, china, fine linens, and other merchandise. Within a few years she had built a brick building adjacent to the bakery for Dr. Myre S. Iseman's drugstore.

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Born in Prussia, Philip and Sallie Lewenthal had four children: three in quick succession-Fannie, my grandmother Dora, and their brother Isaac-followed by another boy, Benedict, 11 years Sallie Weinberg later. Fannie and Dora both attended Salem College, a Lewenthal, the liberal arts women's college in Winston-Salem, North author's great-Carolina, founded as a primary school in 1772. The grandmother. sisters married two gentlemen from New York: Dora married Harry Nathan Rosen and Fannie married Albert Schneider. The brothers-in-law started The New Store in Georgetown in the 1920s, initially selling men's and ladies' clothing, and later furniture and appliances.

Fannie and Albert Schneider had three sons; two went into the business and one became an attorney. My grandparents Dora and Harry Rosen had two sons, Sylvan, born in 1913, and Meyer,



born in 1919. Both became attorneys, both served in political My family's history in Georgetown begins around office, and each was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's top civilian honor.

> My dad, Sylvan, married Erma Levkoff in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1935, when he was in law school. Her brother Irving Levkoff was a classmate. The couple moved to Georgetown in 1936, soon after I was born. Sylvan started his law practice that same year, and my younger brother, Larry, was born a year and a half later.

Growing up, Larry and I attended religious services in the Winyah Indigo Society Hall. We had no synagogue until Temple Beth Elohim's sanctuary was dedicated in 1950. We had religious school in people's homes and later in the synagogue. I was the first bar mitzvah in Georgetown that anyone remembered. My brother and I had many friends but no Jewish friends.

We were not aware of any anti-Semitism in Georgetown-that was true for our parents as well as for us. I remember spending Jewish holidays with my grandparents and parents.

Our father was considered to be an excellent lawyer and well respected in Georgetown. First elected mayor in 1948, he served 13 years. Georgetown was struggling financially when he took office-the seventh Jewish mayor in Georgetown's history—and he led the city through difficult times. As mayor he was responsible for annexing the neighboring community of Maryville; as a member of the development board he was instrumental in bringing the steel mill to Georgetown.

Sylvan later served as head of the highway commission and was county attorney for more than 40 years. He was the go-to person for many people, sought after for his advice and leadership. He raised funds for the state's United Jewish Appeal (UJA)

> Abe Fogel (1) and Svlvan Rosen. **Courtesy** of George S. Fogel.

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and served as president of the South Carolina Association of B'nai B'rith and of Georgetown's Temple Beth Elohim. The year of his death, the bridges over the Sampit River as you enter Georgetown from the south were named for him.

My mother, Erma, was also very active in the community. She started the Red Cross blood drive, headed the program for many years, and was honored as the organization's "woman of the year." She worked hard for the temple and served as president of its Sisterhood.

Meyer joined Sylvan's A law practice soon after World War II and they remained partners until Dad died in 1996. The law firm Rosen & Rosen was considered to be first-rate.

Meyer married Lillian Rubin and they had three children—Mark, Phyllis, and Beverly. From 1963 to '66 Meyer served in the South Carolina House of Representatives and was always well thought of. He is still around at age 97 and his daughter Beverly makes sure he is well cared for in an assisted living home in Charleston.

Beverly works for MUSC in Charleston and

Mark with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Phyllis is retired from the<br/>IRS and lives in Chicago with her husband and son, Nathan.Jewish causes, and we in turn have been supporters of Temple<br/>Emanu-El in Myrtle Beach, as well as Temple Beth Elohim in

My brother, Larry, lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Roberta, an educator. After moving to Austin more than 30



Hanukkah, 1950, at Beth Elohim, Georgetown, SC. Left to right, back row: Roslyn Goldstein, Brenda Bodian, Dickie Rosen, Leffy Schneider, Sandra Abrams, Larry Rosen; middle: Susan Baker, Steven Goldstein, Tad Fogel, Alicia Gardner, Sammy Abrams; front: Robert Schneider, Susan Schneider, Marilyn Abrams, Sarah Ellen Baker, and Michael Schwartz.

#### Images courtesy of Special Collections, College of Charleston, unless otherwise noted.

Three generations of the Rosen family gathered in November 1995 for the dedication of the new bridge crossing the Sampit River, named in honor of former Georgetown mayor Sylvan Rosen, seen here standing beneath the sign, flanked by sons Larry and Benedict.



Emanu-El in Myrtle Beach, as well as Temple Beth Elohim in Georgetown. We feel this is important and what our parents would have wanted.

school for children who needed help. When he retired as an accountant, Larry went to work with his wife in their school. They have two daughters, one in the Peace Corps and one in education in Charlotte, North Carolina. Each has one daughter.

years ago they opened a

My wife, Brenda, and I live in Myrtle Beach. In 2000 I retired as CEO of AVX Corporation and officer of Kyocera, a Japanese company that produces electronic components and other products. I continue to serve on the boards of Brookgreen Gardens and the Belle W. Baruch Foundation Trust, as well as the mortgage company of Carolina Financial Corp.

With three children and six grandchildren, we recently attended our 12<sup>th</sup> college graduation, including three graduate degrees.

Brenda has been very active in Myrtle Beach, working for years with Belk, serving on many committees at the Dunes Club and other volunteer boards, and taking superb care of my parents in their last years.

Brenda was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, to Rose and Joe Wekstein from Russia and Poland. She and I both grew up in families who were advocates of

## Albert & Sons: The Schneiders of Georgetown by Deborah Schneider Smith

My grandfather Albert Max Schneider arrived in Georgetown around 1906 at the invitation of J. M. Ringel, who asked him to clerk at one of Ringel's several department stores on Front Street. Albert had come to the United States

from Russia at the age of seven, arriving in New York in 1892. The family settled first in Brooklyn, and even after moving to South Carolina the younger generation continued to spend summers in New York. Albert went south as early as 1902; family lore claims he worked his way to Charleston on a ship. Whether arriving as passenger or crew, he first worked as a cotton mill clerk in Summerton and then for a Charleston merchant, before being recruited by Ringel.



The Joseph H. Rainey House, 909 Prince Street, Georgetown, SC, now a National Historic Landmark, was home to the Schneider family from 1906 to 1969.

*Everybody worked for Mr. Ringel when they first came to Georgetown*....[I]*f they needed a job and they were Jewish, he would give them a job*....*Jewish merchants would get the young men to come to work for them*...[*because*] *anybody that had anybody that had* 

daughters wanted to make sure that they'd marry a Jewish man. —Philip Schneider, 1995 \*

On New Year's Eve, 1910, Albert married Fannie Lewenthal of Darlington, South Carolina. In 1911 they opened Hyman-Schneider Co., a dry goods store on Front Street, with help from Fannie's uncle Abe Hyman, who provided a letter of credit. The story goes that the first month or two, when they totaled up the receipts, there were healthy profits. Albert

goes that the first month or two, when they totaled up the receipts, there were healthy profits. Albert Dorothy Schneider, and Cecil, Harold, and Philip Schneider. The Schneider family celebrated Albert and Fannie's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 1960 at Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown, SC. Left to High Holidays the virtually "shut down." For a time in



with their father, and the youngest—my father, Cecil would become an attorney. The Schneiders purchased a house on Prince Street that had been the home of Joseph Rainey, the first black man elected to the U.S. Congress, now a National Historic Landmark owned by the Camlin family.

The business grew into adjacent buildings and was renamed The New Store. Expanding into appliances and furniture, adding more locations, it became one of the



they sold Zenith farm radios: they made the sale, cut poles, dug holes, and ran wires, all for \$39.50.

In the 1930s all the Front Street merchants stayed open late on Saturday nights for shoppers from as far away as Awendaw, 40 miles down the coast. Bar mitzvah-age boys studied Hebrew in the back of Alwyn Goldstein's shop on Sundays. So many stores were Jewish-owned, on the High Holidays the town virtually "shut down."

rold, and Philip Schneider. For a time in the 1950s, the Schneiders endeavored to sell the first home e microwave ovens, which were the size of a modern dishwasher.
New Store employees would demonstrate them in the main

<sup>\*</sup> Philip Schneider and Alwyn Goldstein, audio interview by Dale Rosengarten, 30 January 1995, Mss. 1035-004, Special Collections, College of Charleston. Audio and transcript available online at: http:// lcdl.library.cofc.edu/lcdl/catalog/lcdl:11802

window. A former employee recalls the staff sitting in the big display windows to watch the annual Christmas parade. Many Georgetonians saw their first TV shows through those windows as they gathered there on summer evenings. I recall my fascination with the colorful straw hats for sale and the

Cecil Schneider's wartime portrait; Schneider with his JAG Corps colleagues in Switzerland at the end of World War II.

huge back doors open to the wharf. My brother, Michael, and Harold Schneider's son, Robert, have vivid memories of Albert drawing advertisements on the sidewalk in the summer, a white handkerchief tied around his neck. On the front window he painted, "If you take my money, you take trash. If you take my good name, you take all."

In the 1960s the store consolidated at 730–733 Front Street. Albert remained active until his death in 1967. Harold and Philip finally closed the store in 1988, at the time, the oldest continually operating business in town.

Albert is remembered as a leader at Temple Beth Elohim, exerting his influence over the visiting rabbi from Charleston, Allan Tarshish (1907-1982). If a High Holiday service ran long, Albert would rise, walk in front of the bimah to a window, and gaze out-his sign that it was time to wrap up.

Grampa Albert certainly fancied himself master of his universe. He decided to bulldoze the dunes in front of the family's two-story house on Pawley's Island so they would have a better ocean view. New walkways were then built to the beach. My cousin Robert recalls: "The same year the dunes were bulldozed, Hurricane Hazel struck. We came to see the house after the storm. The house had become one story, and the downstairs was covered in sand and water. The lower level was never used again except to accommodate a ringer washing machine."

In our parents' and our generation, social and spiritual life was thoroughly interdenominational. Catholic children came to Purim parties and I sang in the Episcopal Junior Choir. Michael is notorious among his Episcopal childhood friends for his performance during a children's program at Prince George's. Reverend Irwin Hulbert asked the assembled youngsters, "Who can tell me about Jesus?" Six-year-old Michael's hand shot up. He stood and proudly stated, "My daddy says, Jesus was a Jew!" Amidst giggles from his friends, Rev. Hulbert said, "That's right, Michael. You may be seated."

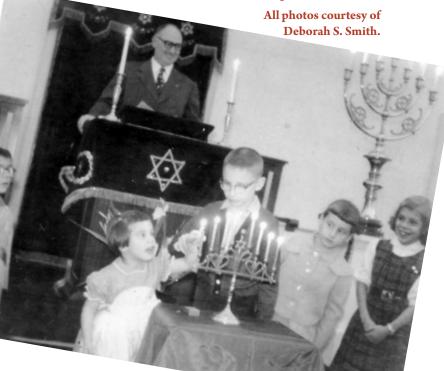
A final word about the son who didn't go into the family business. When my father, Cecil, returned from World War II, he opened a law office on Front Street. A typical smalltown lawyer, he handled a variety of cases for all sorts of people, many of whom brought payment to our house in the form of vegetables or freshly caught fish.

For 30 years, until his death at the age of 61, Cecil was a bulwark of Georgetown's civic life, serving 24 years on city council and two terms as mayor pro-tem. If not for

failing health in early 1977, he might have been the eighth Jewish mayor of Georgetown. He was the youngest circuit judge in the state's history, chaired the Winyah Indigo Society, and became the president of Temple Beth Elohim in 1948, as the congregation prepared to build its first synagogue.

Two of Albert's seven grandchildren now live in Georgetown County. I am happy to be one of them, to visit the revived temple, and to share memories with old friends and new.

Cecil Schneider presiding over a Hanukkah service at Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown, SC, 1961.



## The Fogels of Front Street by George Sidney Fogel

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The history of the Fogel family in Georgetown, South L Carolina, begins with Harry Fogel, who emigrated in 1900 from the Austro-Hungarian province Galicia in what is today's Poland. By 1904 Harry was in Georgetown operating a dry goods business. The woman who would become his wife, Clara Hepler, emigrated from Odessa, Russia, in 1905, arriving first in Charleston, South Carolina, where her family was in the jewelry business. On November 19, 1908, a

Abe had joined the U.S. Navy in the late 1930s and was on active duty with Fleet small blurb in Georgetown's Daily Item Air Wing 8 when the United noted: "Mr. Harry Fogel, a young States declared war in 1941. dry goods merchant of this city, is in He told of being shipped Charleston, and will be married this to Pearl Harbor in the first evening at 8 o'clock to Miss Clara convoy, arriving a few days after the Hepler of that city. Accept the *Daily* attack, only to have his group ordered Item's congratulations, Harry." back to California. He served the rest By 1920 Harry and Clara had of the war in the Pacific Theater, three children: Beatrice, age ten; primarily in New Guinea and Abraham, age six; and Ruby, age the Philippines. Harry Fogel's four. Interestingly, the census also relatives in Europe all were killed reports living in the home one by the Nazis, except for one Isadora Hufflin, age 22, who had cousin who survived and later emigrated from Austria in 1910. moved to Palestine. Harry The Fogel family store himself did not outlive the war. He occupied three different died on April 28, 1943, soon after learning locations during its years on Front of his sister's death. Ruby and Abe both said that he died of a broken heart.

Street, and by the 1930s had moved to the 800 block in the front of the Standard Opera House. The Opera House had Beatrice and Fred managed the store been built in 1894 after a fire destroyed part of the downtown during the war years. Afterwards the area. In 1932 the building burned to the ground and Harry lost family reaped the benefit of Georgetown's everything; however, he was able to buy the land and erect a new bountiful postwar economy, fueled in building that housed the clothing store and the Lafayette Hotel. part by the opening of International From 22 rooms, the hotel, renamed Prince George Hotel, was Paper's Kraft Paper Mill—the largest in expanded in 1950 to 50 rooms in a renovation that added a third the world—in 1936. floor and the original River Room Restaurant. On March 29, 1941, Abe married The 1940 census recorded Harry, Clara, their children— Elizabeth (Bette) Rose Greenwald now young adults—and Bea's husband, Fred, all living in a from Baltimore. Their eldest son, house on Broad Street. All family members were employed by Harry Robert Fogel (Tad), was born the store and hotel. Fred was from the Bronx, New York, and on May 4, 1944-Abe met him for the first time when Tad was 18 According to the census, Harry had a fifth-grade months old. Mustering out of active

had arrived in Georgetown about 1935.

education and Clara had completed seventh grade, but their duty in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1945, Abe offspring outstripped them in schooling. Abraham and Ruby returned to Georgetown but remained in the navy reserves and both graduated from college, while sister Bea had two years of sometime in the 1950s attained the rank of full commander. college to her credit. Abe attended The Citadel in Charleston, This page, clockwise from left: Fred and Bea Fogel Kaufman, but transferred to University of South Carolina when he broke Abe Fogel and his father Harry; Clara Hepler Fogel; Ruby Fogel Levkoff. his leg in his junior year and was not able to drill with his

class. He graduated from USC in 1935; Ruby graduated from Duke University, where she was voted class poet; and Bea attended Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia, graduating in 1929.

#### PAGE 14 **JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

and was a copy writer in New York when she met Jack Levkoff, who worked as a controller at Macy's. Their two Jewish mothers in Georgetown had set them up: Ruby's mother, from an early age. He worked at the local station WGTN and, Clara, planned it with Jack's mother, Sophie, who had moved

to Georgetown after the death of her husband, Lazarus Levkoff, to be near her daughter Dorothy (Dot) Levkoff Schneider (Mrs. Phillip Schneider). With their children both in New York City, the mothers conspired with some cousins to arrange a blind date! Ruby and Jack were married in 1947.

Ruby continued her writing career with some acclaim. A collection of her poetry titled Of Apes and Angels was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1966, and two years later one of her poems received the James Joyce Award from the Poetry Society of America.

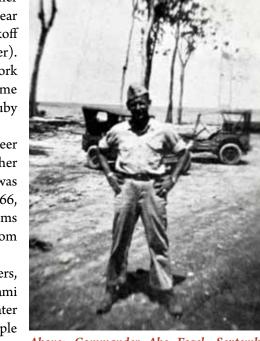
Jack and Ruby's two daughters, Lizabeth and Mary, were born in Miami Beach: Jack's career in retailing and later in financial analysis had taken the couple first to Birmingham, Alabama, and then to Florida. The family returned to visit Georgetown over the years, their trips immortalized in Ruby's poem "Perhaps Some History." Ruby inherited Harry's

store building at the corner of Front and Broad, which was rebuilt in a low, modern style after a devastating fire. Her daughters eventually sold the property, along with the house on Broad Street where Ruby was born. Bea had inherited the Fogels' larger house on Prince Street.

Ruby's daughters would enjoy success: Liz with remarkable innovations in real estate that enabled her to retire at the age of 40 and fulfill her dream of living in Jerusalem, and Mary in the world of museums. A specialist in French Renaissance art, Mary Levkoff also wrote books on Auguste Rodin and William Randolph Hearst. In 2014 she left her job as sculpture and decorative arts department head

Ruby enrolled in graduate school at Columbia University at the National Gallery of Art to become museum director of the Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California.

> Bette and Abe's son Tad was interested in radio broadcasting after attending the University of South Carolina, moved to



Above: Commander Abe Fogel, September 1944, stationed with the U.S. Navy amphibious forces in New Guinea.

Below: Abe Fogel (1) with Bernard Baruch in the lobby of the Prince George Hotel. Photo by W. H. Burney of Georgetown.



Miami and worked in radio there until later returning to Georgetown. He and Abe purchased local station WGOO and went on the air on May 1, 1967, having changed the call sign to WINH. In September 1971, keeping up with the times, they added an FM station. Tad was elected president of the South Carolina Broadcaster's Association (1973-74) and in 2001 was inducted into the Broadcaster's Hall of Fame. The stations were sold in 1984. Tad now lives in Brevard, North Carolina; he has four daughters, one in Virginia, one in Texas, and two in Columbia, South Carolina.

Born in 1955, I was Bette and Abe's second son. Growing up I worked in the store and assumed management in the late 1970s. In the mid '80s the family decided it was time to close the business. Competition from outlet stores in Myrtle Beach, a general economic downturn, and changes in regional and national market conditions

eroded the viability of small retailers, even before the advent of online shopping. Today there are few family-owned department stores in the South.

I switched careers: at 42 years old, I became a freshman at Coastal Carolina, then earned a master's degree in counseling at Webster University and started work as a mental health therapist—the only Fogel remaining in Georgetown to this day. My wife and I have four children, a daughter who is a veterinarian, a daughter in the master's program of social work at USC, a son in retail management in Summerville, and a son in the hospitality industry in Washington State.

All photos courtesy of George Fogel.



## Ebb and Flow: Georgetown's Jewish History

by Martin Perlmutter The Jewish community of Georgetown is a fascinating study of **L** the old and the new—an historically important population that dwindled in the past half-century and is now in the early stages of renaissance. Temple Beth Elohim mirrors the trajectory of Jewish life along the South Carolina coast and the upstate, as tourism, industry, and an influx of "snowbirds" have revitalized the economy and bolstered social and religious institutions. Traditional Jewish dry goods stores and groceries have disappeared from main streets across the state, but the Sunny South has become a destination for manufacturers of automobiles and jet planes, IT companies, and retirees. The Grand Strand has been a prime beneficiary of this latter contingent, attracted by the temperate climate, white sand beaches, Georgetown claims the second oldest Jewish population in South Carolina and a Jewish cemetery dating to 1772. By 1800 the town's 80 Jews made up roughly ten percent of the white population;

golf courses, and modest property taxes.

over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Georgetown elected seven Jewish mayors. In 1904, relatively late in the span of the town's Jewish history, Congregation Beth Elohim was established as a sister to Charleston's Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim. Having worshipped in homes and communal spaces such as the Winyah Indigo Society for nearly two centuries, Georgetown's Jews dedicated a synagogue in 1950 on the corner of Screven and Highmarket streets. Front Street was dotted with Jewish merchants.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, Beth Elohim's membership began an inexorable decline. In Georgetown, as in small towns across the nation, Jewish children came of age and pursued education and economic opportunities elsewhere. By the mid-1990s the dozen or fewer congregants who remained considered selling the temple and using the funds for cemetery maintenance. Still, a small group of "Elders" continued to hold services, and their loyalty was rewarded when, in 2001, Elizabeth Moses moved to Georgetown and led an effort to revive the congregation. She reached out to new residents of the Grand Strand and built the temple's membership, which today boasts 43 families, who hold regular Friday night services, have renovated the social hall, and take pride in the long history of Georgetown's Jewish life.

JHSSC has played a role in this transformation. Elizabeth was one of the Society's first employees (she also worked for the College's Jewish Heritage Collection and Jewish Studies Program); we began recording oral history interviews in Georgetown as early as 1995; and JHSSC met there in 2001, 2004, and 2009.

While our 500 dues-paying members provide essential support, we need Pillars—benefactors who contribute \$1,000 per year for five years-to sustain our ambitious projects. Become a Pillar and help keep the Society's engines humming!

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Register now for the October 14-15 meeting at Hobcaw Barony and Georgetown. See page 8 for more information.