Cover Story:
CJF & the Kahn JCC
install a new BOD
see page 4
Welcome to the NEW Jewish News
Cheryl Nail, Community Relations Director

Entering its 40th volume, the Columbia Jewish News has a new look! We hope you find this contemporary magazine format visually appealing. In addition to providing more color and higher quality photos, this format allows our contributing writers to share even more of the content you desire.

As we continue improving the reader experience, we welcome your feedback, as well as article ideas, at cheryln@jewishcolumbia.org.

State of the Federation and JCC
Barry Abels, CJF and JCC Executive Director

Midday on Friday, February 9, 2013 I arrived in Columbia. With the help of a friend who drove with me and some young men from Keith Babcock’s office, I unload a truck, got my goods organized, dropped my friend at the airport, and then took a short trip to the grocery in the rented truck. Ambitious thinking had my next step getting to a Shabbat evening service, but reality led to an early collapse and sleep.

However, the next night I met many of you at the opening of the Jewish Film Festival. It was a great event and I thought, quite the accomplishment for this small, but obviously vibrant Jewish community. I think that that whirlwind beginning set the stage for the next two years. During this time we have seen various changes and new activities, both at the Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC and the Columbia Jewish Federation.

We have faced a number of challenges, but all in all, I think both organizations have improved and matured. We have added programs, increased Jewish oriented activities at the JCC and also out in the community, and we are doing more. We have increased the number of collaborations with our other Jewish organizations, examples being our Mama Doni concert with our religious schools and the Day School, our lectures co-sponsored with Chabad and Beth Shalom, and helping to sponsor the Shofar-making workshop for all our children. With the help of Risa Strauss and others, our summer day camp has been successfully reinvented as Camp Gesher and it is enjoyed by many of our children. The Jewish content has greatly increased and is a critical component to all of our camp activities. The PJ Library® activities have also increased and have become more of a collaboration between the Federation and JCC.

I am pleased that beginning in January we have a new monthly program scheduled for these youngest members of our community.

(continued on page 5)
Distinguished Service Award

Meet the CJF Board:

John Baker, President

Jewish News: What motivated you to accept the position of President?
To serve in a capacity that I hadn't previously served. My motivation for service is to continue the legacy of Lee and David Baker.

JN: What leadership roles have you had in our community?
National Council of AIPAC, National Board of State of Israel Bonds NY, Federation Treasurer and Campaign Worker, and numerous other positions over the years.

JN: What’s your day job, and how did you get there?
I’m the Managing Partner of Baker & Baker Real Estate Developers, LLC. I try to follow the example I was provided in working to give back to the community.

JN: What would you say to someone who is hesitating to serve on a board?
“Service to humanity is the best work of life” (Jaycees Creed).

JN: What’s the best part of our community?
We have a very giving community, and one that cares about Israel and the local community.

STATE continued from page 3

Particular to Federation, we have increased the scope of our Community Relations activities under the direction of Cheryl Nail. I hope you enjoy the new look to the Jewish News. We would appreciate your feedback. We continue to support the Holocaust Education Commission and the Yom HaShoah observance, and both committees are working on plans for this coming year’s activities that I know will be meaningful to us all.

Under the direction of Laney Cohen, our Jewish Family Service continues to provide assistance to many in our community who need a helping hand with financial or personal issues, food assistance and referrals to services. The number of folks needing assistance has grown, and she is meeting that need. She continues to provide programs and opportunities to our actively aging and has enhanced the program by adding state licensure to her credentials.

I appreciate that the Federation board and our Annual Campaign Cabinet has allowed me to experiment with new or renewed strategies and tactics for our campaign the last couple of years. I am pleased that our 2014 campaign, although not getting quite to goal, was better than the prior year. The offer of matching donations from the Cutlers, Klines and Kultshers, helped us succeed in achieving that good result. Our 2015 campaign, launched just two months ago, was jump started through the Lion’s of Judah in our Women’s Division leading the way, along with your board who made their pledges in the October board meeting prior to our official launch at the Distinguished Award dinner. Our honoree, Lyssa Harvey, brought in a nice crowd; and for the first time in recent history, the event served as a pledge opportunity, and we received over $40,000 in pledges that night. We have an ambitious goal of $542,000, and to date we are almost halfway there.

I am also excited about recent developments regarding Jewish student life on the USC campus. Hillet and the AEPI fraternity are active. What is new is that the Jewish faculty are now organizing to take a more active role to also support our Jewish students. We are taking a leadership role in our Federation Community Relations Committee, and also help us return professionals from our community to the Campus Religious Workers Council, which will enhance our ability to support our students and provide official standing for us on campus. This will be a collaborative effort with Cheryl Nail taking the lead as our CRC director, along with Rabbi Sandy Marcus and Rabbi Yoel Epstein. We will also work closely with the Jewish faculty as we ramp up these efforts. Thank you to Adam Schor who is the convener of the faculty group.

The JCC has presented a number of interesting challenges this past year including staff transitions; maintaining our pool’s temperature and equipment; and the competition in the market place. Both of those last items take constant work and can definitely put us to the test. In the past few months we have become more educated about our equipment, found more responsive vendors and we have shortened the time from problem to solution. We are also nearing the end of our current cardio equipment lease and look forward to bringing in new and better machines for your use.

Our personal trainers and instructors are the best in the business, and we appreciate everyone who takes advantage of our personal training and group classes. We have recently brought on new massage therapists, and massages are now available during the week and the weekend. After the first of the year we are adding space to Columbia Rehabilitation Clinic, offering physical therapy services on site. A boost to membership, is our Chai Society. This special membership not only provides access to all of our services, but also a special opportunity to attend breakfasts with noted personalities, such as business woman Darla Moore, USC Athletic Director Ray Tanner, and Mayor Steve Benjamin, to name a few. Chai Society memberships are still available so contact me if you would like more information.

Our staff does a good job of managing our expenses, and you can imagine there is a lot to the upkeep of our wonderful facility. This year, we also refinanced the debt on our campus. Although expenses have been underbudget, even with the Chai Society, membership revenue has been down. This trend will result in a small deficit for the 2014 fiscal year. We continue to work to narrow that gap. Regardless, we will work during Fiscal Year 2015 to reverse this situation and absorb this gap to end 2015 in the black. One way we can do this is by successfully retiring our campus debt. By eliminating this debt, we eliminate our interest payments, which would immediately put us in the black and allow us to fund more programming and facility improvements. Most of you know that we have been working to design a capital campaign that will reduce or retire our debt and hopefully also provide more amenities to you, our members. We hope that everyone will find a way to support this campaign and ensure that this facility and campus will be here for future generations.

Last but not least, there is a new program that we launched in concert with veterans day. Project Welcome Home, a partnership between Jewish Family Service and the JCC, is a national demonstration project of the JCC Association of NA to help reintegrate our nation’s veterans who have separated from service within the last ten years into their communities. We are one of six pilot programs in the nation. We want to help ensure that all of these folks have access to programs and services that will help them feel at home in their community and demonstrate that we truly appreciate their service on our behalf. For our Jewish Veterans, this also means making sure they are made aware of our congregations, our Jewish educational system, and the services of the JCC and Federation. We will work to get them involved and comfortable within their community.

As I stated above, we have a lot going on, and I hope that the next years of my tenure sees further collaborations, more opportunities for our seniors, families and children to spend together in Jewish contexts, and that our JCC and Federation can be both a direct service provider and conduit for maintaining and increasing a high quality of Jewish life in the Midlands.
Second annual “Holocaust Remembered” Supplement in April
Lilly S. Filler, MD, Co-Chair
Columbia Holocaust Education Commission

I am pleased to announce that plans are actively underway for the second annual Holocaust Supplement, “Holocaust Remembered.” Authors have been selected and, again, the emphasis will be our local community and their experiences during the Holocaust. We will highlight several “eye-witness” accounts and survivor accounts. The State paper will again support us with layout, publishing, and distributing the Supplement. Although the cost is reasonable, we still need to be able to pay for this, and I am coming to our community to help defray this expense. Your contributions will be recognized in the Supplement (unless otherwise instructed) and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that we continue to explain and tell (and retell) the story of the Holocaust. As long as I am able, I am happy to spearhead this project with the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission. Please send all checks to Barry Abels at the Kahn Jewish Community Center and indicate “Holocaust Supplement” on the check. If you are unable to attend, please send your contribution to the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission, 305 Flora Drive, Columbia, SC 29223. Checks need to be made payable to Columbia Holocaust Education Commission. I thank you in advance for your interest and contributions.

Steve Terner
Jewish Camp Scholarship Fund

For children and young adults, overnight Jewish summer camp experiences are among the strongest influences on Jewish identity; however, the overnight camps can be expensive. To alleviate some of the burden, the Columbia Jewish Federation established the Steve Terner Jewish Camp Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the fund provided supplemental funding for 11 youths to participate in Jewish overnight camps last summer. Here, a scholarship recipient shares his camp experience.

This summer was my fifth summer at Camp Barney Medintz. It is the best part of my year. Growing up in a town where there are not many Jewish kids my age, I really enjoy being able to spend one month each year with so many Jewish kids my age. It has helped form my Jewish identity. I have also made lifelong friends. Thank you so much for contributing to my summer experience.

- Evan Gendil (pictured above, center with bunk mates)

New Playgroup for Parents and Toddlers forming at the JCC

A new year brings new programs, and we are thrilled to be offering a guided playgroup for parents and toddlers in 2015! Co-sponsored by the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center and the PJ Library®, each hour-long session will feature music, structured play, story time focusing on Jewish themes and values, free play, and snack. “Play at the J” will meet the first Wednesday of each month from June, July and August where we will break for summer) and everyone is invited! This program is ideal for children who can walk up to kindergarten age, but of course all ages are welcome and older or younger siblings are invited too. So please join us on Wednesday, January 7 for our first session. RSVPs are requested; please send how many children will be attending and if any children have food allergies/restrictions. Email lauries@jcccolumbia.org to RSVP or with questions. We look forward to playing with you! Free for JCC Members, $5 fee for those who have not yet joined the JCC.

Keep up with your local PJ Library!

Join our new PJ Library Facebook group to receive updates about books and programming and to connect with PJ Library parents and professionals.

Email cheryln@jewishcolumbia.org to join our Facebook group and/or email list.

PJ Library provides age-appropriate books to Jewish children in Columbia each month as a gift from CJF. To enroll your child, visit pjlibrary.org or call 787-2023 x.211.

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Jewish Family Service celebrates a successful year

Laney Cohen, LMSW, JFS Director

The January/February issue of the Jewish News is always a fun one for me to write. It enables me to take a look at the past year and take an inventory of where we have come from, as well as plan for the upcoming year, and where we want to be. I always like to think of the things that I want to accomplish, professionally and personally. Looking back on Jewish Family Service this past year, I am proud of several things that we have done. Our Food Pantry is the third largest in the city. Our Senior Transportation Network is thriving, allowing seniors to maintain their independence by helping them meet their needs. Culture Bus was successful in attending a hypnotical show in Charlotte which was enjoyed by all who attended, and we had an extremely successful Pesach Seder program for seniors (which will be duplicated this Spring). This year, JFS will look to more programming, more community involvement, and more volunteer opportunities!

On a personal note for the New Year, I encourage all to plan for growth and health. When the term “health” is used, think also to mental health (not just making it to the gym – though we could all benefit from that). Get organized in your life. Prioritize what needs to be taken care of first, and then cross it off your list. Help others. When you know someone is in need of help, whatever kind of help it is, try your best to help. This may be emotional, physical, or even (if you are able) financial. Sometimes, just sitting quietly with someone while they talk can prove to be immeasurable. Learn something new. Someone once told me (my fourth-grade Religious School teacher, of blessed memory) that if you don’t learn something new every year, you are dead. This is true. This may be as mundane as learning that smiling at a stranger can elicit a smile back. Try it. Last, but not least, enjoy life more. Can you imagine a world where we all help each other instead of tearing down? I generally think that if we all sat back and enjoyed our lives more, as well as our interactions with others, we would all be in a happier place. Slow down. Take a breath. Think about it.

Valentine’s Day Movie Screening

This Valentine’s Day, actually February 12 to be exact, join your friends at the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center to screen one of the “Top 15 Documentaries to Watch” of 2015. The Age of Love is a wonderful and poignant look into the world of speed-dating for people over the age of 70. Covering widowers to divorcées, men who haven’t dated for 50 years to women who call 71-year-olds “babies,” this film is one that will tug at your heart strings, as well as make you laugh.

Change in Trees for Israel!

Though we have lost Frances Levin here in Columbia (as she has moved to the West Coast), she has extremely generously consented to continue helping us in purchasing trees to be planted at home. All of which support vital causes there and at home.

Frances’s new contact info is Frannie11@aol.com and 843-886-5884.

We send touching personalized, colorful certificates to the recipients. There are certificates “in honor of” and “in memory of” and others that can be personalized for virtually any occasion of meaning to you: a birth, a bat/bar mitzvah, a graduation, a confirmation, or a marriage. There is also an “In the Holy Land” tree certificate which is perfect for non-Jewish friends. I (Penny) will still be the one you will send your checks to, made out to Hadassah. Thanks to Frances, we’ll be able to continue sending these meaningful tributes.

Maria Mondino-Kattan, CPA, MBA

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE (JFS)

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Shalom Baby!

Shalom Baby welcomes Leon Wesley Brodkin, son of Ashley & Brian Brodkin; Reena Gupta-Kagan, daughter of Avni & Josh Gupta-Kagan; Baby Girl Marom (who did not yet have a name at time of publication), daughter of Kelsey & Eric Marom; Kamila Sarai Moncada, daughter of Sara Oliva Simmons & Alan Moncada; and Elana Rachel Peterson, daughter of Michele & Justin Peterson.

Shalom Baby is a program of the Columbia Jewish Federation. As part of the program, parents of Jewish newborns or newly adopted Jewish children receive a Shalom Baby certificate for their new addition to the Columbia Jewish community. Contact cheryln@jewishcolumbia.org to submit a name to the Shalom Baby program.
**Columbia’s Jewish Heritage at Richland Library**

Debbie Bloom, Richland Library

Richland Library’s website is the go-to place for downloading e-books and music, however, tucked into all those digital resources is the Walker Local and Family History Center’s digital collection. The Walker Local and Family History Center is located on the second floor of the Main Library and features materials about the history of the Midlands of South Carolina, as well as materials for family history research.

Although the staff is often assisting genealogists it has also created an amazing online collection of images and documents highlighting Richland County history. Along with collections from the Columbia Army Airbase, historic photographs of downtown hotels and movie theaters from the 1950’s, and a SC Confederate roster are two collections highlighting Columbia’s rich Jewish heritage.

The Mayer Family Photo Collection features early members of the Tree of Life Synagogue who lived at 1824 Pendleton Street in Columbia from 1908 until 1957. The Mayer family included Monroe Mayer Sr. (1872 – 1957), his wife, Flora S. Mayer (1878 – 1947), and their two sons, Irving (1913 -1999) and Monroe Jr. (1923 – 1987). Monroe Mayer, Sr. was born in Albany, GA, but moved to Columbia in 1900. He worked for Pinkussohn Cigar Company and later Gayden Brothers Cigar Company. Flora was born in Atlanta to Isaac and Sophia Steinheimer. She taught in public schools before she married and moved to Columbia in 1908.

Others in the photographs include the Hennig and Strasburger families, African-American nannies, and nineteenth-century Atlanta studio photographs from the Steinheimer. The Mayer family photograph collection was donated to Richland Library by Julian Hennig (1922 – 2006). Mr. Hennig was a lifelong friend of Monroe Mayer, Jr.

The second collection is a delightful assortment of playbills published from 1956 to 1973 by the Columbia Chapter of Hadassah, a Jewish women’s philanthropic organization. These plays were staged to raise funds for the national Hadassah organization which sponsors health and humanitarian initiatives in Israel. The collection was donated to Richland Library by actor and patron of the arts, Louis Kaplan.

The digital collection is available from the Richland Library website, www.richlandlibrary.com or directly from, http://cdm16817.contentdm.oclc.org/ . Let us know if you have photographs or memorabilia that bring to life Columbia’s Jewish heritage by calling us at 929-3402.

Debbie Bloom is Richland Library’s Walker Local and Family History Center manager. She is also the author of the Dead Librarian blog.

**Blood Drive January 25th**

The Tree of Life annual Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, January 25. Visit the Tree of Life website at www.TOLSC.org to request a donation time. Walk-ins are also welcome. To be eligible for the January 25th donation, your last donation will have to have been before November 30th.

**Shalom, Y’All!**

The Columbia Jewish Federation welcomes Wendy & Ted Besmann, Debby Harrison, David Palkowitz, and Sara White & family to the Columbia Jewish community!

The Shalom Y’All program welcomes Jewish families that are new to the Columbia area, providing gifts to welcome them to their new home, as well as invaluable local resources to help make their transition easier. If you are new to Columbia or know a family who has recently moved here, please contact Cheryl Nail at cheryln@columbia.org or 803.787.2023 x. 211.

John Baker presents President and CEO of Israel Bonds, Izzy Tappoohi, with a Yaacov Agam original from the Kahn JCC and Columbia Jewish Community.
Columbia Rehabilitation Clinic Comes to the Kahn Jewish Community Center

Bruce Filler, physical therapist, owner and director of the Columbia Rehabilitation Clinic, proudly announces that on Tuesday January 6, 2015, his clinic will provide physical therapy services at the Kahn Jewish Community Center. These services will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to noon. Services will include traditional physical therapy, such as exercises, modalities and aquatic therapy for musculoskeletal problems. These services are covered by most insurance carriers, including Medicare. Patients can be seen with a physician’s referral or for 30 days without a referral.

Columbia Rehabilitation Clinic was the first private physical therapy clinic in Columbia, opening its doors in 1977. There are five convenient locations throughout the city including West Columbia, Irmo, Northeast, downtown Two Notch Road, and Blythewood. Each clinic is staffed with licensed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants, as will be the Kahn Jewish Community Center.

Please see the front desk for further information, or call the Northeast location of Columbia Rehabilitation Clinic at 803-736-4845 and ask for Lisa Bright, physical therapist. We look forward to serving you at the Kahn Jewish Community Center.

Dr. Josef Olmert to Lead Lunch and Learn on Current Israel Affairs

Dr. Josef Olmert is currently an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina, has served as director of the Government Press Office and advisor to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during the first Gulf War, has written a political column for Israel’s largest newspaper, Yedioth Aharonot, as well as the Jerusalem Post and the Huffington Post. He is a regular on Fox News Channel.

Join Dr. Olmert for lunch in the Whole Foods community room, 702 Cross Hill Rd, Columbia, SC 29205, on January 16 at 11:30 am. Please plan to purchase your lunch beforehand; we will begin the talk at 11:30. Space is limited as we will not have the entire room to ourselves; we will begin the talk at 11:30. Space is limited as we will not have the entire room to ourselves; please RSVP to lauries@jccolumbia.org to reserve your spot. This event is free and open to the public.

Native Plant Workshop with a South Carolina Master Gardener

It’s hard to believe, but spring is just around the corner, and soon the time to go play in the garden will be here. These cold, grey months beforehand are a great time to start planning for the upcoming planting season. As part of the Kahn JCC’s Tu B’Shevat celebrations, a South Carolina Master Gardener will be presenting a community workshop on plants native to South Carolina. Come enjoy this presentation on how to create a natural, sustainable garden using the greenery that naturally grows in this part of the country on Sunday, February 15 at 2 pm at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. Please RSVP to lauries@jccolumbia.org to reserve your spot. This event is free to JCC members; a $2 donation is requested of community members who have not yet joined the JCC.

Are you ready to Craft and Kvell?

Laurie Slack, JCC Jewish Programs Director

I don’t know about you, but I have a laundry list of craft projects that I want to create, but I never seem to find the time to get them all done. It’s so hard to find a quiet moment at home between attending to children, taking care of chores, answering the phone, and the dozens of other distractions that follow us from day to day. My to-make list grows, as does my Pinterest board. Well, enough is enough! I invite you to join me on Sunday, January 11 from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm at the Kahn JCC for a full day of crafting, kvelling, laughter and friendship. Bring whatever supplies you need to work on your project. I’ll be bringing photos and paper to work on my scrapbook. Do you knit? Scrappbook? Make jewelry? Make wreathes? Have you been dying to work on your latest quilting project but just can’t get it at home? Take this day for yourself and join me! It’s $5 for JCC members, $5 for community members who have not yet joined the JCC to help cover the cost of refreshments. Please RSVP to lauries@jccolumbia.org so I can make sure to have enough table space for us all. Stop by the JCC’s front desk to see the awesome basket of scrapbooking goodies that one lucky crafter who pre-registers will win. I can’t wait to craft with you!

Jews and the Civil War: Dr. Adam Mendelsohn to Speak at JCC

The Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center is honored to host Dr. Adam Mendelsohn, associate professor of Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston, on the evening of Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 pm. He will give a talk entitled “What Did Jews Think About Slavery at the Start of the Civil War?” A treat for both those interested in Civil War history and Jewish History, Dr. Mendelsohn will lead a discussion on how and why the views on slavery shifted dramatically during the Civil War by the Jewish population.

Columbia Jewish Film Festival:

SAVE THE DATE!

The Columbia Jewish Film Festival will be celebrating its 15th year in November 2015, and we are gearing up for a wonderful event. Please mark your calendars for our Opening Night Party and Movie at the JCC, Sunday, November 1, 2015. This year will be EXTRA fun as we will also be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Kate and Irwin Kahn Columbia Jewish Community Center!

Dr. Adam D. Mendelsohn specializes in the history of Anglophone Jewish communities in the period prior to eastern European mass migration. He is the author of The Rag Race, which will be published in 2014 about Jewish involvement in the clothing trade in the United States and the British Empire in the nineteenth century.

This event is free and open to the public, however space is limited and RSVPs are requested. Please RSVP to lauries@jccolumbia.org by Friday, January 16 to reserve a seat.

In Celebration of our 10th Anniversary

The Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center announces our 10th Anniversary Cultural Series

This series of events will provide a variety of entertaining experiences in special venues throughout the year.

Join us February 1, 2015 at the home of Jocelyn and Robert Burg for a fabulous piano concert presented by the internationally renowned duo of Marina Lamozov and Joe Rackers. Enjoy drinks and heavy hors d’oeuvres Hosted by Jocelyn and Robert Burg at 112 Cowdray Park | Columbia, SC Couvert – $85.00

Please RSVP by January 27, 2015 to Debby Mullen, 803-787-2023 x202 or debitmyjcc@columbia.org

Addtional events coming this spring:

A pre-Passover Wine Tasting and an Evening of Israeli Jazz at the Amos Hoffman Trio Thursday April 30 Join us for a pre-show reception and presentation of Other Desert Cities at Trustus Theater An Evening of great Jazz with Marci and John Baker Look for more details on these and other future events coming your way soon!
Our Legacy Project

How will the future needs of Jewish Columbia be met? Who will plant the trees to bear fruit for the future generations?

After years of dialogue but no significant action, a committee has been formed with the mission of creating a legacy society that will help endow our future. Fred Seidenberg and Rob Kriegshaber have agreed to co-chair the committee. The committee’s ‘A Promise To Our Community’ that follows explains why a legacy society is needed and our promise to the future generations.

A PROMISE TO OUR COMMUNITY

For thousands of years, Jews have enriched humanity. For more than 350 years, we’ve enriched America. For decades, our Federation and JCC have enriched and strengthened Columbia. Now, as we move into the 21st century, community leaders are embarking on a vision: an historic effort to lay the groundwork for Jewish life in Columbia over the course of the coming century. The question facing us is this: Will our Jewish Community continue to grow and prosper Jewishly or, like some Jewish communities in our region, will we shrink and wither?

Today, our community strives to be more viable and visible than ever before. Our new campus building which houses the JCC along with our Federation serves as a central physical hub for Jewish life and learning.

We believe the time has come for Jewish Columbia to think boldly about the future – and make a promise to our next generation of Jewish families that just like in our Talmud story, As my ancestors planted for me, so I plant for those who will come after me. Our new Legacy Society is our response. This historic undertaking will directly affect and enrich the lives of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for decades to come. It will ensure that as the challenges of the coming century unfold, the Columbia Jewish Federation and the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center will be well-positioned to meet them, creatively, compassionately and effectively. Together those who value these two organizations and the impact that they have everyday in Jewish Columbia and the community at large will be invited to join this effort.

This continuing project will enhance a foundation of support that will serve to benefit a number of vital and innovative programs, services and initiatives; as well as our other Jewish institutions with which we partner and help fund. They will include:

» Ensuring that Jewish life in Columbia is accessible to all.
» Maintaining superior facilities and expanding participation.
» Strengthening Jewish education and culture and sustaining Jewish continuity.
» Providing a safety net for senior and vulnerable Jews in our community.
» Ensuring our Jewish Community continues to play an important role in the welfare of the broader Columbia community.
» Ensuring that Columbia Jewry remains meaningfully connected with Israel and Jews worldwide.

As we move to implement our legacy project, we believe that we have the privilege to answer the question, If not us, who? We can achieve this by reaching out and engaging members of our community to create their legacy in a way that is meaningful to them and beneficial to others.
Why CJDS?
Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D., CJDS Principal

"Because it is fun and I love my teachers and friends," said a Cutler Jewish Day School student explaining what he likes about CJDS. When asking adults why they decide on CJDS some say they are looking for a school with small class sizes, nurturing environments and positive peer groups, while others seek an early second-language program. Still, some want an inquiry based academic experience steeped in the Jewish tradition of critical thinking and ethical behavior. As CJDS does not advertise many are drawn by another family’s recommendation.

There is also national data from What Difference Does a Day School Make? Impact of Day School - a comparative analysis, by the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education:

- Day School graduates express a strong sense of responsibility towards addressing the needs of the larger society by influencing social values, helping those in need, volunteering their time to social change efforts and finding careers that allow them to be of service to the larger community.
- A day school education cultivates a strong engagement to Judaism and a strong connection to Israel, which results in positive involvement in Jewish life.
- Nationally alumni of Jewish schools gain admittance to colleges and universities that represent the full spectrum of institutions of higher learning including the most highly selective.

The Cutler Jewish Day School has begun registration for 2015-2016. The current registration is 142 students, and the school projects that enrollment will be upwards of 150 this coming school year. The infant, toddler, twos, threes, fours, first grade, second grade, and fifth grade classes will most likely fill within the next month. Whether you are considering CJDS because of its love of children, progressive education, national accreditation, or "because it is fun" we welcome your call for more information (782-1831) and to set up a tour!
Tuesdays with Friends
Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road
Senior Program—Everyone Welcome
Come Enjoy the Fun, Food & Friendship
Tuesday, January 6, 2015
11:30 am-1 pm

Featuring Musician, Amos Hoffman
Amos Hoffman is an Israeli Jazz guitarist known worldwide as a pioneer in fusing the rhythms and melodic themes of the Middle East with Modern Jazz. Hoffman started playing guitar at the age of 6, and oud a few years later. He studied guitar privately, and later attended the prestigious Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem.

Fun Fitness & Birthday Celebration!
There is no charge to attendees thanks to the generous donation made by Nancy & Gerald Sonenshine - In memory of their fathers: Martin Leffler and Irving Sonenshine.

Tuesday, February 3, 2015
11:30 am-1 pm

Mini Concert Performance, featuring Morihiko Nakahara, Music Director SC Philharmonic
Morihiko Nakahara has served as music director of the South Carolina Philharmonic since 2008 and is known for his charismatic presence on and off the podium, innovative and audience-friendly programming skills, and thoughtful interpretations of both standard and contemporary repertoire. A passionate believer in audience development and music education for all, Nakahara is a popular clinician, guest conductor, and lecturer at various educational institutions. As a personable ambassador for classical music, he is regularly featured on local media outlets, and speaks about wide ranging topics including arts advocacy, leadership skills, and economic development at local businesses and service organizations.

This program is funded in part with a grant from the BHJ Foundation for Senior Services, the Daybreak Adult Care Services, and the SC Respite Coalition, in conjunction with the Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging.

We are happy to try and arrange transportation upon request. We can now also offer the use of a handicapped van, if needed. Requests for transportation must be made one week prior to the program. To RSVP or make transportation requests, please call the office at 782-2500.

BSS Shabbat Playtime
11:30 am in the Chapel
January 17
Tu B’Shevat
February 14
Doing Mitzvot

Shabbat Mispacha
(Family Shabbat)
BSS would like to invite all religious school families grades 3-7 to experience a new Family Shabbat Service. Services are led by our kids and their families.

January 3 | February 7
11 am - 12:15 pm.

BSS Torah Tots
January 25
February 8

Busy Times at Tree of Life
Risa Strauss, TOL Education Director
After such a long winter break it’s comforting to come back to routine, and that means Tree of Life Congregation and all the activities that are part of our TOL program. However, before we take you out of hibernation mode, we must say thank you to everyone who contributed to all of our successful December activities and festivities. Yasher Koach to our Kidz Shabbat crowd; to all of the people who worked on the Chanukah Happening and the Chanukah Dinner, including the Brotherhood, the 4 Fathers, and Brian Lewis-Smith; to those who joined us at the Waterford to help their Jewish residents celebrate Chanukah; and to all of our teachers, substitutes and Religious School staff for their dedication and love for Jewish education. Todah rabah, as well, to Jean Ginsberg and the Religious School Board for their support of the Families Helping Families collaboration with the Family Shelter.

January and February are the months when families often begin making plans for their children’s summer. There can be no argument about the benefits that Jewish summer camps in America, and specifically sleep-away camps, have on Jewish children and families. For many children, a Jewish summer camp can be their first real experience of living Judaism to its fullest, where there is no separation between their “Jewish life” and their surrounding secular life. Children return from a Jewish summer camp experience with a strengthened identity, better understanding of their community and enhanced pride in their religion and heritage. We cannot encourage parents enough to consider the wonders of overnight Jewish camping as an option for their children. And if a sleep-away camp is not a possibility, then please consider having your child be a part of the Kahn JCC’s Camp Gesher Summer Day Camp Experience for children and teens from age 7-14. For more information about these camps and making camp a reality for your child, please do not hesitate to call the Temple Office and speak with Rabbi Sherman or Risa.

The Annual TOL Religious School Barton’s Miss Chocolate Fundraiser: January 8-February 20
Please help support TOL Religious School by purchasing your Passover Chocolate from a Religious School student. This is the Religious School’s main fundraiser of the year! Look for the packet in the lobby at Temple.

Tree of Life Green Team Does It Again!
Mazal Tov to Carolyn Hudson, David and Ellen Potter, Alice Adams, Zack Helman and family, and all the members of the Tree of Life Green Team. Since 2011, Tree of Life has been considered a “Midlands Green Congregation”, and this year, for our efforts with our rain garden, recycling, energy efficient lighting, and composting, we have won the 2014 Midland Green Neighborhood award!

A very important aspect of Jewish Life is Tikun Olam, repairing the world. Tree of Life’s Green Team helps our congregation care for the world by making our facility and grounds more environmentally friendly, and by educating and encouraging our members to live greener lives. Collectively we can say, Todah rabah to the Green Team for helping us find ways right here at Temple to combat the consequences of not caring the way we should have in the past about our environment.

January-February 2015 Calendar
Jan. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28: 6pm Adult Education Hebrew Classes
Jan. 9: Kidz Shabbat, 6:45pm Regular Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm
Jan. 11: Welcome Back to RS, 9am
Jan. 18: No RS, MLK Weekend
Jan. 25: RS, 9am and Temple/Brotherhood Annual Red Cross Blood Drive
Feb. 1: RS, 9am and Tu B’Shevat Seder
Feb. 7: Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Wassermann, 10:30am Mazal Tov to Hannah and the entire Wasserman Family.
Feb. 8: RS, 9am
Feb. 13-17: NFTY Youth Convention, Atlanta, GA
Feb. 15: NO RS – President’s Day Weekend
Feb. 20: Kidz Shabbat, 6:45pm Regular Shabbat Services, 7:30 pm
Feb. 21: Bat Mitzvah of Gracie May, 10:30am Mazal Tov to Gracie and the entire May Family.
Feb. 22: RS, 9am.
Feb. 27: Kitah Dalet Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper, 6pm.
Feb. 28: Sisterhood Fundraiser! Contact Ilene King for details.

For more information about any of our programs, services, Religious School, or Adult Education, please call the Temple office at 803 787 2182, or go to www.tolsc.org

B’Shalom with wishes for a happy and a healthy 2015.
BBYO also has a program for middle school students called BBYO Connect. An advisor plans meaningful and fun social action, athletic and education.

The governing body, the Columbia chapter of BBYO, AZA and BBG, are actively seeking new members. The committee helps with fundraising, allotting scholarships to conventions and other programs and helping secure safe transportation to and from out-of-town activities.

BBYO is a youth-led, adult supervised group who program in many areas including community service, Jewish identity, social action, athletic and education.

With more than 24,000 teens world-wide BBYO is the largest pluralistic Jewish teen movement. For more than 90 years AZA and BBG chapters have been providing exceptional leadership programs and identity enrichment experiences through local, programming, summer travel opportunities and summer camps.

BBYO also has a program for middle school students called BBYO Connect. An advisor plans meaningful and fun programs for members who meet on a regular basis.

For further information please contact Jerry Emanuel at jemassoc@juno.com.
Veterans enjoy Project Welcome Home at JCC
Shelley Kriegshaber, CJF Board

Veterans and their families enjoyed spending the afternoon at the Kahn JCC at its first Project Welcome Home event.

The Kahn JCC is one of six Jewish Community Centers in the country selected to participate in a pilot program called Project Welcome Home, an outreach to men and women who are returning from military service and are transitioning into civilian life.

The afternoon featured a bounce house and hot dogs with fixings. Professionals were on hand to talk to veterans about medical- and employment-related issues and transitioning back into the community. Veterans also enjoyed photos from recent Honor Flights from the Midlands.

Members of the JCC also participated in the Veterans Day parade on November 11 in downtown Columbia.

YAD in 2015
Brian Brodkin, YAD President
Robyn Bader, YAD Secretary

YAD’s year began this Yom Kippur with the newly elected YAD board. Brian Brodkin is now the elected President of YAD, and Dave Polen is our Vice President. Dave’s passion and excitement brought Columbia it’s very own YADdie kickball team last year!

The Torah-nadoes
We made it into the Playoffs this year, and we were not in last place for the league (like last year!) YAD’s kickball team, the Torah-nadoes (pictured below), had an amazing season on the scoreboard and with friends. We have grown in momentum, size, and a little skill too. Kickball is a game we remember playing in gym class growing up. It is a fun, easy game that is meant to be enjoyable. YADdies of all athletic “skills” join the team for that purpose: to have good time. The kickball group is more than just a group of people out on the field in silly t-shirts; it’s a way to meet new people and an easy way to meet Columbia’s Jewish Young professionals!

Masquerade Party 2015
In other news, we are putting together a Masquerade Ball in March to raise money and awareness for Historic Jewish Columbia and the Federation. This year should be even better than last year with an exciting new venue and twist on Purim. Everyone is invited, but be sure to wear your best looking mask!

Relay for Life
In other news, we are putting together a Relay For Life team to raise money for the American Cancer Society. We are calling on all community members to join our team. Email Robyn Bader at yadcf@gmail.com for details on how to sign up or go to relayforlife.org/greatercolumbiasc and join the YAD team!

Jewish Cooking
Do you have a Jewish dish you’d be willing to teach YAD how to make? We are looking for community members to help develop our Jewish culinary skills. Email yadcf@gmail.com if you are interested.

Irmo and Lexington Communities Celebrate Chanukah
Cheryl Nail, CJF Community Relations Director

In addition to its annual Chanukah celebration at the Gerry Sue and Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus, the Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC, along with the Columbia Jewish Federation, took its latkes and dreidels to Irmo for the first time. Convening at the Harbison Recreation Center, members of the Irmo and Lexington Jewish communities lit the menorah together, ate latkes, played dreidel, and enjoyed crafts, songs, and one another’s company.

Relay for Life
Ben Rosenberg, JCC Sports & Fitness Director

The Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC’s basketball season is in full swing! With nine teams and 90 players, this is the biggest season in recent years. We are also excited that the Kahn JCC now has a girls’ team again.

Top to bottom: Rob Scully greets a professional from the Dorn VA Medical Center; JCC Executive Director Barry Abeil and JCC Treasurer Harvey Helman ride in Dr. David Kulbersh’s car in the Veterans Day parade.

Hayden Cohen leads the West Columbia Jewish Community in the menorah lighting blessings.

Maurice Wailier coaches the third-grade team during a practice game.

Tessa Cohen leads the Irmo Jewish Community in the menorah lighting blessings.

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Tuesdays with Friends Senior Lunch & Social - 2015 Season
Minda Miller
We are excited to announce our 2015 season. We have some spectacular entertainment scheduled for your pleasure. Tuesdays with Friends is a monthly luncheon open to all seniors in our community. The program is FREE and is held the first Tuesday of the month from 11:30 am to 1 pm at Beth Shalom Synagogue. Tuesdays with Friends is funded in part by a grant from the BJH Foundation for Senior Services, along with individual sponsorships. For more information call 782-2500.

January 6, 2015
Amos Hoffman, Israeli Jazz Guitarist

February 3, 2015
Morihiko Nakahara – Music Director SC Philharmonic Mini Concert Performance

March 3, 2015
Solomon Elchanin, Pianist
No April program due to the Jewish Holiday of Passover.

May 5, 2015
Bob Knox’s Blue Serenade Orchestra

June 2, 2015
Name That Musical
Featuring Larry Needle and Michael Corvi accompanied by Ellen Monahan at the piano

July 7, 2015
Marina Alexander, Guitarist

August 4, 2015
Program to be announced

September 1, 2015
Rosh Hashanah Celebration

No October program due to the Jewish Holidays

November 3, 2015
Ballroom Dancing Exhibition with Durlach & Breedlove

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It's never too late to date.

The Age of LOVE

Thursday, February 12th at 11:30 am
at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center
RSVP to jfs@jewishcolumbia.org or call 787-2023