

Columbia Jewish News

Issue 2 | Volume XLI | March & April 2016

**Columbia's
Solomon Eichner
heads to
Carnegie Hall!**
see page 6

*photo courtesy of
Wasin Prasertlap Photography*

**Columbia
remembers the
Holocaust**
see page 8

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Ruth Marcus wins 4th annual Mah Jongg Tournament

Shelley Kriegshaber, Jewish News Editor



Twenty-four mah jongg enthusiasts competed in a daylong tournament to see who would get their name on the coveted plaque in the lobby and the glory of winning. At the end of the day, it was a tie between Ruth Marcus and Minda Miller. According to the tournament rules, in case of a tie, the person with the most mah jonggs wins. Ruth won by one mah jongg! Irene Jablon and Shelley Kriegshaber were close behind in 3rd and 4th place respectively.

The sponsor and creator of the event, Ruth Rast, provided door prizes, special mah jongg cookies and a beautiful lunch, with the help of her many friends. The best part is that the event raised \$1,750 to benefit the JCC!

Ruth Marcus (*pictured above with Ruth Rast*) joins past winners of the JCC Mah Jongg Tournament: Lynda Shoen Giddings, Barbara Drucker and Margo Goldberg.

Thank you to everyone who participated. It was fun for a good cause!

A special message about our Jewish Community Mikvah

Dear Friends,

The Hanna Schwalbe Jewish Community Mikvah needs and depends on your support. The Mikvah belongs to the entire Jewish community. It does not belong to any one congregation; for this reason it is often overlooked for donations and financial support. The Hanna Schwalbe Mikvah Committee is always struggling to meet funding requirements for operating costs and repairs. Our Mikvah is the only one in the Columbia and surrounding area for Weddings, Family Purity, Kashrut and other occasions as prescribed in the Torah.

The Hannah Schwalbe Jewish Community Board of Trustees met on the 28th of October 2015. The Board of Trustees consists of Rabbis from each congregation, the president of JCC, the president of the Jewish Federation and the committee board members. In the future we will need to address the sand filter, plumbing, heating and air conditioner. In order to meet winter operating costs and needed services we have initiated a membership drive.

Funds received from annual members and individual use fees are not enough to cover annual operating and maintenance cost. Your donation of any amount will help us to continue operating and keep the doors open for use.

Fees:
Individual Use Fee - \$25
Annual membership Fee - \$250
Donations of any amount are always appreciated.

Checks can be mailed to:

ATTN: Hanna Schwalbe Mikvah Committee
Beth Shalom Synagogue
5827 N Trenholm Rd, Columbia, SC 29206

Geraldo Cruzado
Mikvah Committee President

The *Columbia Jewish News* is a bi-monthly publication of the Columbia Jewish Federation.



Columbia Jewish Federation

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The views and opinions expressed in the *Columbia Jewish News* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect endorsement by the Columbia Jewish Federation or the editorial staff of this publication.

We welcome all voices from our community. If you would like to contribute an article, life cycle announcement, photos, or advertising, visit www.jewishcolumbia.org/cjn for submission guidelines and advertising rates.



L'dor V'dor

Barry Abels,
CJF and JCC Executive Director

"If we do our best to support the Federation Annual Campaign, and all of our Jewish organizations, we will see our community grow in strength and vibrancy. L'dor v'dor, from generation to generation. Together we will make it so!"

Recently I attended an annual executives institute with my colleagues from similar sized communities around our nation. In all cases, their organizations not only raised and allocated funds, they also provided social services, cultural and educational programs, worked with their local JCC or managed their local JCC if they had one, supported a summer day camp and provided a community relations function. Some were fortunate to have endowed funds and others did not. All worked with JFNA to work on fund raising challenges and advocate for and support people to people programs in Israel. It was great to be with them for a few days and share our challenges and successes. We general spent 12 to 14 hours a day in meetings, workshops and discussions. It was exhausting and energizing, all at the same time.



Pictured above: Natan Sharansky speaking about egalitarian space at the Western Wall, BDS on college campuses, and his Hillel tour with Michael Douglas

On our last day together, one of our presenters asked a simple question: "Fill in the blank, 'I am proud to represent my Federation because I believe...'" The room grew quiet for a moment and then hands began to go up. Mine went up fairly quickly and I was called upon first. The answer was simple, "Federation allows me the best way to give to my community, a community that has given me my values, friendships, support and meaning. In many small ways I can make a difference in people's lives, and I can do that at home, around the world and in Israel. It is so personally meaningful to have such a positive impact." Many of my colleagues offered similar answers.

All had to do with impacting lives, love of Israel, the role of Judaism in their lives and a great sense of purpose. All of us at this session were from smaller Jewish communities and all of us wear many hats. As we gave our "testimonies" it quickly became clear that who we are connected us deeply into our work. The emotions and occasional tears on faces in the room gave credence to that sense.

My Federation involvement began in the late 70s, volunteering to make calls in Super Sunday in Austin, TX. My professional roles began in the 90's when I was recruited to run the JCC in Corpus Christi, then the physically smallest in the network. I also ran the local UJA campaign. Israel started taking a more important role in my life when my younger brother made aliyah and began to raise a family. I also led a small mission trip and like so many, I had a transformational experience. I knew that I would be involved in impacting or improving Jewish communities and Jewish lives into the future. That has proven to be true. I have just completed my third year in Columbia as the joint director of our Columbia Jewish Federation and Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC, over 40 years in non-profits and almost half of that in Jewish communal work. I arrived in Columbia facing many challenges, both fiscal and operational, leading two organizations and working with two boards of directors. This is a very unusual, but not unique situation. Yet, the challenges were easy to embrace, very much due to the nature and people of our community. Both boards were interested in getting to work. Keith Babcock and Naomi Farber, as presidents, were excellent partners in leadership for a "newcomer." But ultimately it was all of you within our Jewish community, through your hospitality, your own involvement within our community, that helped to fuel my enthusiasm for my work in Columbia. It has been a privilege to participate in the life of all of our congregations. I have to come to know so many families through their simchas and their sadness. It says so much for a community, especially with all of the challenges, that we have Tree of Life Congregation, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Chabad Aleph, the Cutler Day School and on our Gerry Sue & Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus, we have Jewish Family Service, the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center and the Columbia Jewish Federation.

from previous page



The amount of Jewish activities and programs generated on the Arnold Campus has increased dramatically. So whether it's lighting our community menorah with your family during Chanukah, enjoying the smooth music of Israeli Jazz artist Amos Hoffman, learning about the Jews of China (pictured left), or sending your child or grandchild to Camp Gesher, there is something for everyone on our campus. We are even more accessible

through the launching last fall of our Culture Club Membership at the Kahn JCC. If the fitness component of the JCC is not your interest our Culture Club covers the rest. Off campus, recent programs the Federation and JCC co-sponsored with Chabad of SC, Tree of Life and Beth Shalom, point to an even more active Jewish Future. If we do our best to support the Federation Annual Campaign, and all of our Jewish organizations, we will see our community grow in strength and vibrancy. L'dor v'dor, from generation to generation. Together we will make it so!

The Steve Turner Camp Scholarship Fund Is Back!

Applications are available now for Jewish overnight camps this summer. Jewish children who live in Columbia and will be rising third graders to rising ninth graders this summer are eligible to apply for the supplemental funds. Award amounts will be based on the number of applicants and the funding available. Applications are available from your religious school, the front desk at the JCC, or by email to cheryl@jewishcolumbia.org. All applications must be received by the Columbia Jewish Federation by April 1. For more information, contact Federation Executive Director, Barry Abels at 787-2023.

Donations for Summer Camp are Appreciated!

Summers at Jewish overnight camps turn Jewish youth into spirited and engaged Jewish adults, laying the groundwork for strong Jewish communities. However, the camps can be expensive. The Steve Turner Camp Scholarship Fund hopes to alleviate some of the burden with supplemental funding. But we need your help to ensure its financial success. If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one, please send a minimum donation of \$10. We will acknowledge your donation to the recipient and in the Columbia Jewish News.

Send your donation to: Columbia Jewish Federation
306 Flora Drive | Columbia, SC 29223



**DO YOU HAVE
WHAT IT TAKES?**

Are you the next MATZAH IRON CHEF?

You have one hour,
all the matzah you can handle,
and a hot plate.

Can you create a dish
that will leave the audience
begging for seconds?

Find out at
the Columbia Jewish Federation
and the Katie & Irwin Kahn
Jewish Community Center's

MATZAH IRON CHEF
Sunday, April 3

Cooking starts at 2 pm,
final bell and tasting at 3 pm.

Interested chefs should contact
Laurie Slack at 787-2023 for an entry form.

The Columbia Jewish Federation is proud to present Mazal Tov Mondays on social media. Know someone who deserves a Mazal Tov? Email cheryl@jewishcolumbia.org.
facebook.com/jewishcolumbia
twitter.com/jewishcolumbia
instagram.com/jewishcolumbia

Solomon's Keys to Success

Cheryl Nail, CJF Community Relations Director

Carnegie Hall is a venue in which most musicians aspire to perform. Solomon Eichner, a Jewish concert pianist residing in Columbia, SC, achieved his goal at the young age of 16, playing at the American Fine Arts Festival.

Ten years later, Solomon is headed back to Carnegie at the end of April. Chosen as one of three winners of the Golden Key Music Festival's Debut International Piano Competition in the Professional category, Solomon looks forward to his joint recital with a winner from Warsaw, Poland. Returning to Carnegie means that the Jewish student completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of South Carolina, under the guidance of Dr. Marina Lomazov and Dr. Joseph Rackers, is accomplishing his goals. "It's rewarding," Solomon said. "I think it will be just as intimidating [as it was when I was 16]. It's such a beautiful hall. And the history of who has played there? You try not to think about it when you go on stage."



Pictured above: Solomon's D.C. Debut Recital at the Polish Embassy Washington, D.C. for the Paderewski Scholarship Foundation Concert on April 18, 2015; photo courtesy of Solomon Eichner

Residents since 2013, Solomon and his wife Rebecca have made Columbia's Jewish community their home. Playing a number of salon concerts in community members' homes, Solomon is appreciative when he performs within his own Jewish community. "They respect hearing and knowing a Jewish pianist in the community; a lot of people here are happy that I represent them."

Debbie Cohn, a host of one of Solomon's most recent salon concerts said, "My husband Rick and I are great fans of Solomon and his wonderful talent. We are very excited to follow his meteoric career and look forward to his continued success as a virtuoso pianist. His passion and love of music are inspirational and he's also a really nice guy!"

"Being Jewish and growing up in Baltimore, I've always had Russian Jewish teachers. It's made a big impact on my style of playing – which is very Russian oriented – and the pianists I listen to." Solomon explained that he grew up listening mostly to pianists of The Golden Age, such as Arthur Rubinstein and Vladimir Horowitz.

Robin Waites of Historic Columbia kvelled, "Solomon Solomon is a piano virtuoso whose family history beautifully and movingly informs his work. In his performance for a benefit concert for the Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative in December his skill, vitality and passion mesmerized the audience. Solomon clearly is a student and master of his craft."

Like many professional pianists, Solomon's favorite piano is a Steinway "because they have a tradition of being dependable, and you're always going to get something satisfying out of it. It has such a human aspect to it; it's very personal, the sound... The sound is warm and rich. You can tell right away if you're playing a Steinway or another piano."

In his relatively short career, Solomon has received almost as many awards and honors as his piano has keys. Most recently, he was one of ten Americans selected to a prestigious competition in Hastings, England. Also this past year, Solomon was a finalist in the 2015 Coeur d'Alene Symphony Young Artist Competition in Spokane, Washington and was accepted to compete in the 2015 Vladimir Horowitz Competition in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Amidst his doctoral studies, his graduate assistantship in accompanying, his competitions, and his many performances, Solomon somehow found time to start a trio, known as Ivory Trio, with two Taiwanese string musicians, who play in the Greenville and Charleston symphonies. They most recently played in Hilton Head and will be performing in Hendersonville, NC on March 20.

If you haven't had the pleasure of seeing Solomon play live, your next opportunity locally is April 17 for the Sundays at Four Concert Series at Lutheran Church by the Lake in McCormick, SC (<http://lcbtl.org/news-events/sundays-at-four>). Solomon is also happy to play private salon concerts in your home. Visit his website at <http://www.solomoneichnerpianist.com> for more information. You can watch videos of Solomon's performances anytime you wish at <https://www.youtube.com/user/solomoneichner1>.

This Spring at JFS

Laney Cohen, LMSW, JFS Director

Beginning March 1, Jewish students who will be attending college full-time in the Fall are encouraged to check out JELF for financial assistance. JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) helps students with interest-free loans. These loans are based on financial need and are also last dollar. Please check out Jelf.org, or call Laney for more information. Applications are due April 30.

Thank you all who supported our Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive. Boxes were located at the front of the JCC. Even though the Carolina Panthers did not win the Super Bowl, they won our food drive! Yay, Panthers! Remember, too, that even though the boxes are gone, Leo the Robot will always accept your non-perishable food items for the Jewish Food Pantry.

Our 3rd Annual Senior Seder Program is April 26 at 11:30 am. Please consider joining us for this beautiful event, complete with Seder plates for all, matzah ball soup, and other Passover delicacies. It's always a beautiful program, and all have a great time. Space is limited, so please call Laney at 787-2023 ext 220 to reserve a seat.

Coming in early May, look for information regarding Midlands Gives. Hosted by Central Carolina Community Foundation, Midlands Gives is a 24-hour online giving event that brings the region together as one community, raising money and awareness for local nonprofits in 11 Midlands counties. Jewish Family Service is proud to be partaking in this one day of giving in May. Keep your eyes open!

Finally, don't forget that the Community Garden is up and running! Reserve your fruit/veggie bed for \$40. All we ask is that a portion of your harvest go to the Jewish Food Pantry to help our hungry community members have access to fresh fruits and veggies. If you want a bed, but don't have that green thumb (which would be my case), we have people here who will help you or take care of your space for you! Please call Laney at 787-2023 ext 220 or email jfs@jewishcolumbia.org for more information.



JELF application for interest-free educational loans available March 1

Applications for interest-free loans for post-secondary education (college, graduate school and vocational programs) will be available to Jewish students in your area for the 2016-2017 school year from JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund). The loan application will be available March 1–April 30 (and from September 1–30) on JELF's website at www.jelf.org.

JELF loans are need-based and offer "last-dollar" financing, meaning that JELF provides the final dollars that bridge the gap between a student's total financial resources and the cost of attending school. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a program leading to a degree or certificate at an accredited institution located in the United States, be a U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status in the U.S., and be able to demonstrate financial need (FAFSA required).

For more information, contact application@jelf.org or info@jelf.org, or call 770-396-3080.



"Even though the Carolina Panthers did not win the Super Bowl, they won our food drive!"



"There are a wide array of activities and events for all of those interested in hearing and learning about the Holocaust."

Holocaust Remembered Events & Activities

Dr. Lilly Filler, CHEC Co-Chair

The Columbia Holocaust Education Commission (CHEC) is proud to announce the dates of the "Holocaust Remembered" exhibit. It will be on display at the South Carolina State Museum (SCSM) from March 19-April 16 in the Palmetto Gallery on the 4th floor. Following this showing, the exhibit will be moved and displayed at the Kahn Jewish Community Center from April 18-May 8, 2016. The ability to find venues in the appropriate areas for public viewing has been our goal in trying to continue to educate about the lessons of the Holocaust.

This year, there will be several other events entwined with the showing of the exhibit. While at the SCSM there will be a panel discussion, "Confronting the Holocaust... and the Aftermath" sponsored by the SCSM, CHEC, and Historic Columbia Jewish Initiative on Sunday, April 3 at 2 pm in the Gervais Street Room, 2nd floor atrium. This panel will feature children of Holocaust Survivors, Dr. Lilly Filler, Dr. Henry Miller, Mr. Henry Goldberg and Liberator Major T. Moffatt Burriss and will be moderated by Ms. Robin Waites, executive director of Historic Columbia. The discussion will center around the personal experiences of the Survivors, the eye witness account of the liberator and the lessons that the Holocaust should teach.

Once the exhibit has been moved to the JCC on April 18, the CHEC has decided to show appropriate movies related to the Holocaust. There will be nightly movies shown, alternating the times of 6 pm and 8 pm. These movies were collected by the Simon Weisenthal Center and comprise the Moriah Films. There are 10 different films, all feature length and expose the viewer to multiple aspects, experiences, opinions from those that experienced or studied the Holocaust. Please visit www.jewishcolumbia.org for a full listing of movies and showtimes.

On Sunday, April 24, please check your Sunday State paper for the 3rd edition of the "Holocaust Remembered" supplement.

The theme, The Medical Madness of Hitler, medical experimentation, medical genetics, medical ethics, will be explored in depth. Additionally, four personal stories of survivors and a liberator will be told through the children of these brave souls. The Columbia Holocaust Education Commission is proud to announce its first corporate sponsor, Palmetto Health for this edition. Thank you to Mr. Charles Beaman and the entire Palmetto Health organization for their generous support in helping us bring to the midland community the stories and lessons of the Holocaust.

Yom Hashoah, the Day of Remembrance, will be on Sunday, May 1, 5 pm at Beth Shalom Synagogue. (program TBA) There will be the new portable exhibit, which contains the same information as on the permanent exhibit, shown in the social hall for those that have not yet had the opportunity to see "Holocaust Remembered" exhibit.

As you can see, during March-May, there are a wide array of activities and events for all of those interested in hearing and learning about the Holocaust. Please join us in educating others about this dark time in the 20th Century.

The Columbia Holocaust Education Commission is pleased to announce a Paypal option for supporting Holocaust Education.

Please visit the CHEC web site www.columbiaholocausteducation.org
We need your support!

Did you know that you can make a donation to the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission in honor or in memory of someone? Contact Cheryl Nail at 803-787-2023 or cheryln@jewishcolumbia.org for details.



Mah-Jongg

the tiles that bind

Bam! Dot! Crack! The ancient game of Mah-Jongg has been played by the Chinese since the time of Confucius, yet is beloved by thousands of Jewish-American women. How did this happen?

Mah-Jongg: The Tiles that Bind is a light-hearted yet deeply moving portrait of the women who play this centuries-old game. It explores the shared experiences of the players and their families, and chronicles the very social aspect of the game - food, camaraderie, gossip, and most importantly, the life-long bonds that form between its players. Along the way, the game proves again and again to be a bridge connecting seemingly unlike individuals, spanning generations, continents and cultures.

FREE FILM SCREENING

at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

Tuesday, March 8 at 11:30 am

RSVP to lauries@jcccolumbia.org or call 787-2023



Senior seder

Passover learning, celebration, and luncheon

The Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center & Jewish Family Services invites you to join us for a Passover Program with food, music, and friendship. Everyone is welcome.

Tuesday, April 26th at 11:30 am

at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center
306 Flora Drive | Columbia, SC

Reserve your spot by calling Laney at 803-787-2023 x220



Tuesdays with Friends

Tuesdays with Friends

Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road
www.BethShalomColumbia.org

Senior Program—Everyone Welcome
Come Enjoy the Fun, Food & Friendship

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
11:30 am - 1 pm

Featuring Mazen Cotran is back by popular demand singing some of your favorites by artists such as Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond and Elvis

There is no charge to attendees thanks to the generous donation made by Jane & David Kulbersh
In loving memory of their parents: Judge & Mrs. Aaron Cohn and Mr. & Mrs. Dave Kulbersh

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
11:30 am - 1 pm

Featuring Kevin Bush, local musical theater celebrity, will delight us with a taste of Broadway.

There is no charge to attendees thanks to a generous donation made by Arnold & Bonnie Rosen Nurick, Joe Rosen, and Janet Brownstein
- In loving honor of Harvey and Joe Rosen on their birthdays. Congratulations for the Board of Judaism on Campus.

Tuesday, May 3, 2016
11:30 am - 1 pm

Featuring Rachel Silver at the piano with songs we all love to hear.

There is no charge to attendees thanks to the generous donation made by Sue & Jerry Kline, Peggy & David Jacobs and Cathy Kline
- In loving memory of their parents, Sarah & Bernard Kline.

This program is funded in part with a generous grant from the BJH Foundation for Senior Services.



The BJH Foundation for Senior Services is a non-profit foundation exclusively committed to enhancing the lives of Jewish elderly residing in North and South Carolina through programs, activities and organizations that share their mission in accordance with Jewish practices and beliefs.

Need a Will? Not sure how to get one?

Attend Will University!

Join us for this interactive workshop that addresses the importance of having a will. Instructed by an estate planning attorney and a financial advisor, session participants learn about preparing a will, common mistakes in setting up a will and how to find a professional that can help.



These events are free of charge and open to the public but advance registration is recommended. Refreshments will be served.

REGISTER AT YOURFOUNDATION.ORG/WILLU

Why You Need A Will

Kahn Jewish Community Center hosting free will planning workshop on March 28

Amazingly, only 44 percent of Americans have a will. In fact, studies show that women and young people (ages 18-24) are more likely to be concerned about maintaining their weight than protecting their financial assets.

Some people mistakenly feel they don't have enough wealth or own enough property to require planning. While there may be many reasons for not yet having a will, there are plenty of reasons why everyone should have one. When we remember that a will is not for us, but for the ones we love, it becomes easier to take the steps and create a lasting plan.

If you haven't thought about planning for the future or if you have been procrastinating making these important decisions, there is no better time than the present to get started. Preparation is important because we all want to protect and provide for our loved ones after we are gone.

The Kahn Jewish Community Center is pleased to be partnering with Central Carolina Community Foundation to help you begin creating your will by hosting Will University, a free will planning workshop that addresses the importance of having a will, how to prepare a will, how to find an attorney to help you and common mistakes to avoid when creating a will. The workshop will take place on March 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will be led by estate planning professional Marshall Tinsley with Turner Padgett.

For more information or to register for the event, visit www.yourfoundation.org/willu or call 803.254.5601.



The Greening of Religion

Dr. Jonathan Leader and Rabbi Arthur Waskow speak about the link between religion and climate change

Cherry Hill Seminary and the University of South Carolina will collaborate once more to offer a symposium and workshop on April 1-3, 2016, The Greening of Religion: Hope in the Eye of the Storm.

Increasingly, voices from a variety of religious and spiritual traditions are bringing the link between religion and climate change to national and international notice.

The keynote address will be given by scholar Bron Taylor, author of *Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future*. In addition to keynoter Taylor and paper presenters, special speakers include Wendy Griffin, Ph.D., Academic Dean of Cherry Hill Seminary, Jonathan Leader, Ph.D., University of South Carolina Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and Head of the S.C. Office of the State Archaeologist, Will Moreau Goins, Ph.D., Chief, Eastern Cherokee and Southern Iroquois of S.C., and Rabbi Arthur Waskow, founder and director of The Shalom Center.

Special guest Will Moreau Goins, Chief of the Eastern Cherokee and Southern Iroquois United Tribes of S.C., will open the conference with a ceremony at 9:00 AM on Friday, and lead drumming at 5:15 PM on Saturday.

Executive Director Holli Emore applauded her USC collaborator, Jonathan Leader: "Our partnership with USC allows enrichment for university students and faculty from several departments - anthropology, religious studies, environmental studies and more. Dr. Leader's strongly supportive role has made possible both the upcoming conference and our 2013 symposium, Sacred Lands and Spiritual Landscapes."

Registration for Greening is now open at <http://cherryhillseminary.org/>. \$125 fee includes box lunches on both Friday and Saturday.

We'd also like to invite anyone in the Jewish community who would like to hear Waskow speak on Friday at 1PM to come to Gambrell Hall Room 153 at USC at no charge. RSVPs to CHS@cherryhillseminary.org appreciated.

For more information, visit www.cherryhillseminary.org, or contact CHS@cherryhillseminary.org.

The Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education joins the Midlands & Low Country Giving Day on May 3

Minda Miller, Foundation Chair

Giving Day is a 24-hour online giving event that advances public awareness of local nonprofits and offers a unique one day fundraising opportunity for the Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education. We are excited about participating in this event and ask you to consider making a contribution to the Foundation. You will be able to find the Foundation and more information about Giving Day at the following websites.

www.midlandsgives.org
www.lowcountrygivingday.org

Please follow us on Facebook in April for more Giving Day information.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We need your help. Please join us in our efforts to combat hatred and intolerance on May 3, 2016.

The Foundation functions as a private source of funding for support of Holocaust education and community awareness events in South Carolina and has a 501(c)(3) status. We work closely with the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust. The Foundation is staffed by volunteers and less than 1% of funds raised goes to operating expenses.

The purpose of the Foundation is to strengthen activities in memory, history and education. The Foundation honors survivors who moved to our state and South Carolina soldiers who liberated the concentration camps. It addresses related issues of genocide, prejudice and intolerance. Funding is provided to schools, colleges, churches, synagogues, civic groups and individuals. Projects include teacher grants and training, classroom supplies, student field trips, Holocaust speakers, exhibits and related educational programs.

With your support, the Foundation can continue and grow the important Holocaust and tolerance education programming it has helped bring to the state over the years. This programming includes such exciting projects and events as:

- An internationally traveling Anne Frank exhibit. We are proud to help sponsor this incredible teaching tool showcased at middle schools across the state. The exhibit features a chronological panel display of events in telling Anne Frank's story as well as a documentary and book. Student docents are trained to lead student groups through the exhibit, and the exhibit is also made available to the community for viewing.
- Digitization of previously recorded testimony given by survivors in South Carolina. The Foundation has partnered with the S.C. Council on the Holocaust to bring testimony from our state's survivors out of the shadows and onto the web. Online public access to survivor testimony will soon be available through both the Foundation and Council websites.
- Holocaust supplements. Both The State Newspaper in Columbia and The Post and Courier in Charleston will again feature a special Holocaust supplement in April 2016.
- Weeklong Holocaust teachers' workshop. This annual event will again be held in July at Columbia College, in addition to a day-long workshop in the fall.

It is extremely important to continue teaching and reminding both children and adults the lessons of the Holocaust, especially now, since so few survivors and liberators are alive to give firsthand testimony. We want to thank all of our past contributors for making these worthwhile projects a reality.

Please visit our website:
holocausteducationfoundation.org

The Selden K. Smith Foundation
 for Holocaust Education
 PO Box 25740
 Columbia, SC 29224

Board Members: Minda Miller-Chair, Dr. Lilly Filler-Treasurer, Margaret Walden-Secretary, Eileen Chepenik, Marlene Roth, Leah Chase-Advisor, Dr. Selden Smith-Chair Emeritus



*"Please join us
 in our efforts to
 combat hatred and
 intolerance."*



KOL HAKAVOD כל הכבוד TO OUR 2016 CAMPAIGN DONORS*

TODAH RABAH תודה רבה TO OUR 2016 CAMPAIGN DONORS*

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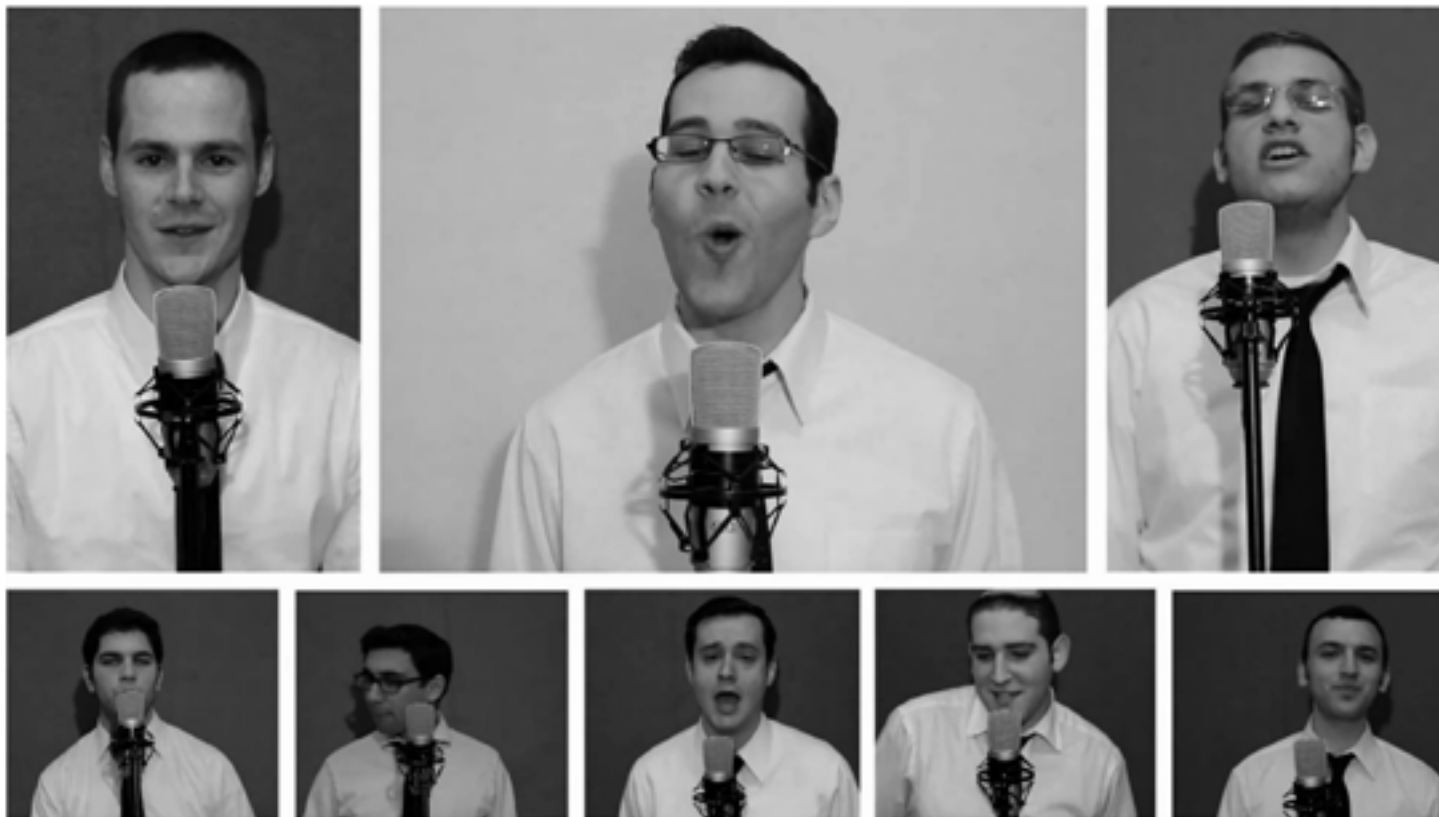
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Save the Date

May 15th
@ the Chabad-Aleph House

The Maccabeats
will be performing in Columbia!



The magic at CJDS

Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D., CJDS Principal

"You have inspired our school so much that we are changing everything!" the director at the Fort Mill Preparatory Cooperative Preschool mentioned in a recent phone call. This school was part of a group of forty teachers who toured the Cutler Jewish Day School. In the past month about 75 educators, policy makers, university professors, and state leaders visited to see best practices. They spent time in every class from infants to the fifth grade.

I asked the director from Fort Mill to provide examples of areas that they found inspiring. She said her staff marveled at the way the teachers interact with the children, the amazing hallway displays, the academics, and the goals of the PTO but one point that they want to capture is "the focus on the community of learners." Another visitor, the Executive Director of the South Carolina Early Childhood Association, shared that her group were impressed with, "the positive learning environment, the way you (CJDS) link nature to the children's learning, project-based curriculum and the most liked was the clipboards used to showcase student work!" A final group was 18 educators from the preschool through second grade at St. Joseph's school. Throughout their tour they mentioned that they have to arrange for the third through fifth grade teachers to visit our school!

When asked by the groups to what do I attribute the school's success I mentioned the great community. I truly believe that the 160 children and their families coupled with our 44 staff members along with our school board, each add to the great experience that makes up CJDS. The director from Fort Mill is sending her entire staff to spend a full day at our school in hopes of recreating the magic that they saw at CJDS!



"When asked by the groups to what do I attribute the school's success I mentioned the great community."

CUTLER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL



Pictured above: Fifth graders create a centimeter city using advanced math skills along with amazing creativity!



WITH BETH SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

Spiritually

1. Join us as we continue our Family Shabbat tradition on March 4 with a "Friday Night Light" Shabbat candle challenge with service, dinner, art work by Lyssa Harvey, and a special Sabbath gift.



2. On April 1 and 2, we welcome Scholars-in-Residence: Jewish-renewal Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phylliss Berman of the Shalom Center as they help lead us in prayer and share their stories of Jewish faith, prayer, and renewal.

Educationally

1. Enjoy Thursday evening Adult Education with Rabbi Jonathan Case presenting on "Rabbinic Perspectives to 21st Century Questions" on March 3 and March 17 at 7:15pm. Dr. Steve Serbin will lead us on March 10 with a discussion on ethical wills, also at 7:15pm.

2. Hebrew Education Happens: Wednesdays, Beyond Beginners at 6:15pm after minyan and Thursdays, Introductory Hebrew at 6:15pm after minyan.

Culturally

1. Purim Rocks with Megillah Reading and More on Wednesday eve, 3/23.

And a joint Religious School Purim Extravaganza the Sunday prior on 3/20 at Beth Shalom with Tree of Life beginning at 10:30am.

2. Sunday School for Adults continues with: "Prepping for Passover" on April 10 from 11:30am- 12:30pm.

3. Congregational Passover Seder, Friday eve April 22.

Kids and Teens

1. BSS Religious School, Sundays 9:30am-12:30pm and Wednesdays for grades 3-7 from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

2. Shabbat Play and Learn, Junior Congregation, Torah Tots, Teen Madrichim Program.

3. Passover Model Seder, Sunday April 17.

Family Shabbat Programming

March 4: "Friday Night Light"

5:45pm: Candle lighting, and Nosh

6pm: Service followed by dinner and dessert

Join us as we surround ourselves with Sabbath light and the beauty of Lyssa Harvey's Shabbat Candle Collection entitled, "Watercolor Blessings".

Her engaging works will inspire all to share in the joy of welcoming Shabbat with the lighting of the Sabbath candles.

Everyone attending will receive their own personal candle set.

Cost: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (under 12). Menu to be announced.

RSVP: by calling the office at 782-2500, or by email BethShalomColumbia@att.net

Superhero Purim

~Calling All Super Kids~

Join Beth Shalom Synagogue & Tree of Life Religious Schools as we celebrate the Purim holiday together at Beth Shalom on

Sunday, March 20th

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Please come in your "super" costume, a simple mask will do. We'll parade, make hamantaschen and say to Haman, "boo"! There will be skits and laughs, and music and more crafts, face painting, and games galore!!

Lunch will be served

Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to JFS to give to those in need in our area.

For more information, please contact BSS at 782-2500 or TOL at 787-2182



We need your presence at
Harvest Hope Food Bank
2220 Shop Road

March 24 & April 28
5 p.m.

Come and volunteer with Beth Shalom to help distribute food to the needy in Columbia.

Providing for the needs of hungry people by gathering and sharing quality food, with dignity, compassion, and education.

The Purim-Passover Dis/Connection

Rabbi Linda Joseph, Tree of Life

In the midst of the yearly Purim festivities, as I am faced with plates of traditional Purim hamantashen and baked goods from my kitchen, as well as mishloach manot (the gift packages of the season), the panic sets in: Oh my, all this chametz... and Passover is four weeks away! How will I consume all these carbs in time to get my kitchen clean for the Passover week?

A month apart, these festivals are connected. They contain stories we are obligated to listen and tell. It is a commandment for men and women to hear the Megillah of Purim. We are also obliged to tell the Haggadah story and speak and elaborate on its' themes.

The central characters of the stories of these festivals – Esther and Moses – have hidden identities that ultimately get revealed and lead to the stories climaxes. Esther hides her religion to become part of a royal household as Ahasuerus's second wife, and only reveals her Jewish identity when her uncle Mordechai pressures her to reveal herself and save her own people. Moses, is a Jew surreptitiously bought up in the the royal house of Pharaoh. It is only after he runs away from his privileged home that he discovers and reluctantly embraces his true identity at the burning bush. There Moses is pressed by God into the role of being the one who will ask "to let my people go".

Both festival tales conclude with deliverance. On Purim, we celebrate with mardis gras style our salvation that comes through the bravery of Esther and Mordechai who foiled the dastardly plotting of Haman. We celebrate our freedom with unfettered behavior. At Passover, it is God who redeems us with signs and wonders from the narrow-place Egypt and its' leader/god Pharaoh, through the guidance of Moses, Aaron and Miriam. We celebrate our freedom by singing songs, retelling stories, reminding ourselves of history, and thinking about contemporary examples where freedom is needed – intellectually and spiritually processing redemption as a foretelling of the ultimate messianic time.

As much as there is a thematic connection, the festivals too are disconnected.

Purim is a minor festival. The rabbi's debated including the Megillah in the bible uncertain as to whether the story was a holy one. Passover is a major festival, one that is biblically ordained, and a foundation story to our identity as Jews.

Purim and Passover are also in contrast when we think about our behavior during these celebrations. Purim is a time of joyous play, dressing up in costume, attending melodramatic Purim Shpiels, drinking alcohol to excess, sending gifts and self-abandon. We are allowed to work and there are no restrictions on our activities. In contrast, Passover is a major festival, one that is biblically ordained, whose first and last day contain rules against working, but further limits what we can and cannot eat as part of our Jewish diet.

The Purim story is one of joyous parody and farce. Notably, Megillat Esther does not contain the name of God. The Passover story is an important paradigmatic story that is the basis of our identity. The traditional Haggadah does not contain the name of Moses, but God is ever present.

Purim and Passover connect and disconnect. As we enter these times of celebration, I hope you will find ways to connect rather than disconnect to the celebration of both holy days. I and all the members of Tree of Life Congregation wish you for both Purim and Passover, in every way you celebrate – a Chag Sameach (happy festival)!



"Oh my, all this chametz... and Passover is four weeks away! How will I consume all these carbs in time to get my kitchen clean for the Passover week?"

TREE OF LIFE CONGREGATION

Blood Drive

The Tree of Life Brotherhood is happy to report that our annual Red Cross Blood Drive took in 27 pints this year. We had a number of people from Tree of Life and Beth Shalom sign-up as well as people from the community and a number of walk-ins. I would like to thanks those who came out and donated. I would also like to give a special thanks to Ed Hertz for setting up the event with the Red Cross and to Ed, Eric Feuerstein and Jerry Emanuel for being there Sunday to assist the Red Cross with set up and break down.

Hillel at USC is going to Israel!



If you're between the ages of 18 and 26, that could be YOU watching the sunrise at the top of Masada in Israel.

Birthright Israel – Summer 2015
Hillel @ USC
with College of Charleston, Clemson & Elon
Departure: May 22 from JFK
Return: June 2 to JFK

Register by visiting www.freeisraeltrip.org/go or
<http://www.birthrightisrael.com/visitingisrael/Pages/Campus-Trip.aspx>
(choose Campus Trip: University of South Carolina).

Contact Cheryl Nail
at 803-787-2023 x.211
or cheryl@jewishcolumbia.org
for more information.

Learning from our brothers

Danny Caplan, AEPi Scribe

Each year, brothers of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity meet up at a regional convention called Conclave. This past year, there were six different conclaves to choose from, and the Gamma Chi chapter went to the Mid-Atlantic Conclave for the first time in chapter history. The Omega Epsilon chapter of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia hosted the convention from February 5th to the 7th. This was a wonderful opportunity for our chapter to meet brothers from across the east coast.

The weekend started off with a Shabbat dinner funded by James Madison University Chabad. Saturday consisted of several informative sessions. One specific session was on the rush process (the time when chapters recruit potential new members of the fraternity). Brothers from the Gamma Chi chapter learned about different methods to teach others about AEPi. Freshman Zack Merlin was particularly impressed and said, "I had no idea that there were so many ways to get college students interested in AEPi." Other sessions helped brothers prepare for the college and business world, networking, and building relationships with Alpha Epsilon Pi alumni. It is fair to say that the Gamma Chi chapter gained so much from this unforgettable and special weekend. We can't wait to spread what we learned in the future!



Pictured above: Brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi participate in the annual Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk at River Bluff High School on Sunday, February 21, with the goal to turn type one diabetes into type none! To this point we have raised around \$11,000; another event later this month will probably raise another couple of thousand.

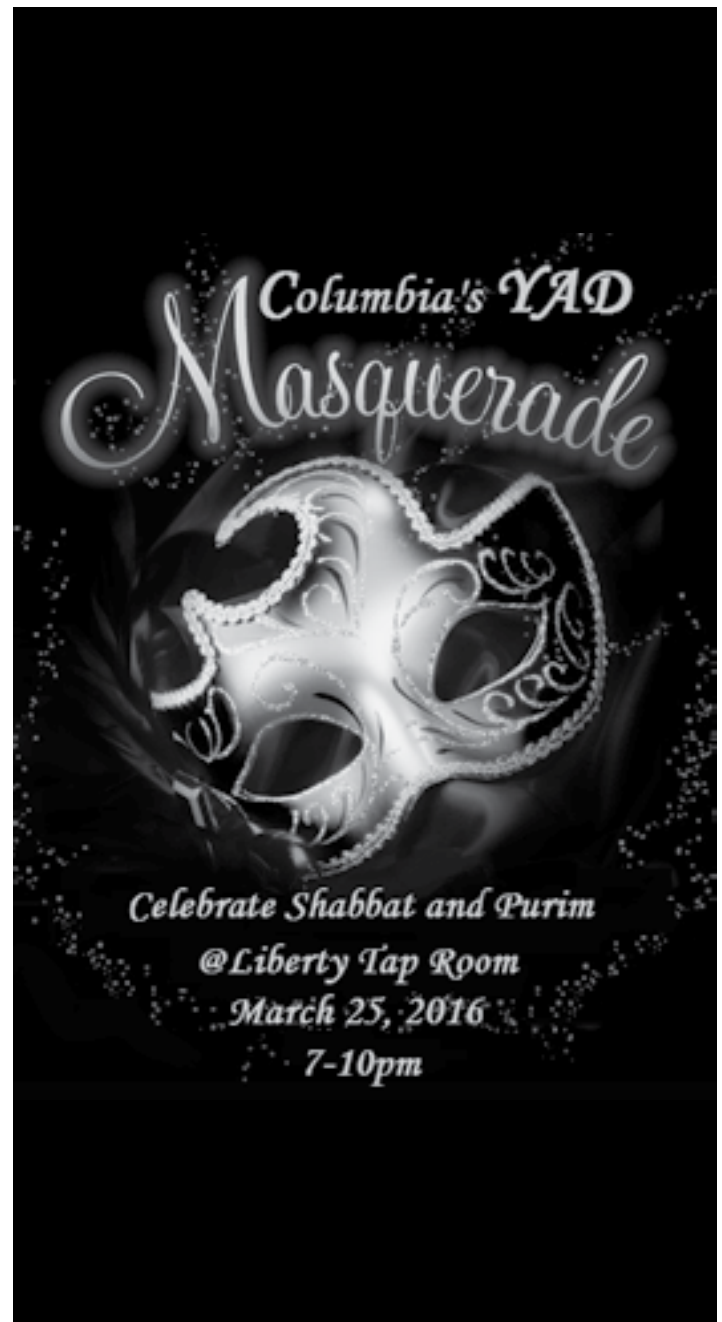
What Tu B'Shevat taught us about our daily lives

David S. Palkovitz, YAD

The Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation (YAD) and the Beth Shalom Congregation celebrated Tu B'Shevat on the evening of Monday, January 25th in a unique and refreshing style – no "pun" intended. Risa Strauss, Robyn Bader O'Donnell and I organized a happy hour for the Jewish community that celebrated Tu B'shevat with a local focus. In Tu B'shevat fashion, drinks featured wine and beer that ranged from light to dark as well excellent tapas prepared by Larissa Aginskaya and Debby Harrison. The people in attendance had the pleasure of hearing two guest speakers, Mr. Alan Kahn and Mr. Henry Rothenberg, who collaborated to bring us an educationally stimulating conversation about the place we call home. Mr. Kahn, a prominent real estate developer, and Mr. Rothenberg, a meteorologist for WACH Fox News in Columbia, had an open discussion about environmental issues facing Columbia and considerations that all of us should keep in mind as we mold the city into its next stage of growth. The evening was a great success, bringing three generations of Jews together and even one gentleman who was brand new to Columbia. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved. I'm hoping that we continue to build on the collaboration between groups within the Jewish community, not only to celebrate our holidays, but to integrate their important messages into our daily lives.



You are invited to join
the Jewish Young Adult Division
for a celebration of Shabbat & Purim
Friday, March 25 from 6 pm to 10 pm
Liberty Tap Room in the Vista



Nosh on Challah as we welcome Shabbat
and Hamantaschen (a triangular-shaped
cookie) as we celebrate Purim

Masks are highly recommended
for the festive mood!

Dress is business/casual.

Cash bar for those over 21 years of age

**14TH ANNUAL
GOLF CLASSIC**

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016
MEMBERS CLUB AT WILDEWOOD

FOOD-DRINKS-PRIZES-CONTESTS

*The only Golf Tournament in the Midlands with
Corned Beef and Pastrami worth bragging about!*

12:30 PM SHOTGUN START

**FUN CHALLENGES LIKE CLOSEST TO THE PIN,
DRIVER CHALLENGE, PUTTING CONTEST, AND
GET A HOLE-IN-ONE TO QUALIFY FOR A SHOT
AT ONE MILLION DOLLARS!**

REGISTER TODAY!
\$100 PER PLAYER • \$400 PER TEAM
Includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, driving range, pizza
lunch and kosher deli dinner, fun challenges and contests,
player gift, prizes, and unlimited snacks and beverages.

VISIT JCCCOLUMBIA.ORG/GOLF OR CONTACT LISA DAFFERN
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER.
(803) 787-2023 EXT. 209 | LISAD@JCCCOLUMBIA.ORG

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KIDS CLASSES AT YOUR JCC!

RUNNING CLUB
MONDAYS @ 5:30 PM

TENNIS GAMES
TUESDAYS @ 6 PM

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JCC MEMBERS: FREE
COMMUNITY: \$40 FOR A 4 CLASS PASS!
JOIN US 4 TIMES TO YOUR CHOICE OF
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Aquatics
You belong here.




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Personal Training - Rehabilitation - Yoga

jcccolumbia.org

**Mom's
morning out**



We'll provide your children a safe, nurturing and fun environment while Mom (or Dad) can run errands, have brunch with friends, or just enjoy some quiet time.

Where: JCC Babysitting Room
When: 8:30 am - 12 noon
Third Wednesday of every month!
January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20

Ages: 0 - 7
Rates: \$20 first child, \$10 additional [members]
\$30 first child, \$10 additional [community]

Registration is required in advance.
Register at the JCC Front Desk.
Contact Melanie Pace for more information:
(803) 787-2023 ext. 206 / melanier@jcccolumbia.org

JCC 
You belong here.

Camp Gesher is the place to be this summer!

Camp Gesher at the JCC provides a safe, vibrant, and enriching day camp experience for ALL Midlands area children ages 2 ½ -14. Our innovative program successfully blends value based character education and community leader presentations with traditional summer camp activities. Each camper enjoys a range of creative programming, sports activities, drama and dance, music, arts and crafts, indoor tennis, gardening, fitness, all-camp events, and swimming, in our "state of the art" gym and indoor pool facility. We educate daily about Jewish life and culture - here and around the world through music, text, the use of Hebrew, social action initiatives, personal experience, and our weekly celebration of Shabbat – the Jewish Sabbath. Our Galaxy Leadership Program is specially designed for our campers in rising 6th grade through rising 9th grade - focusing on skills development and career exploration. This tract also includes a weekly field trip component. Our weekly rates are competitive and we offer early bird as well as sibling discounts. Subsidies are available.

Risa Strauss and Elissa Westfall have happily directed this summer endeavor for 4 years. They are proud of the staff, their creative programming, and love spending the summer with the children in our community. This year we are once again teamed with the USC Physical Education Department to help bring beneficial and healthy activities each and every day to our campers.

We Look to Seeing YOU! For more information, please call Risa Strauss or Registrar Claire Becraft at 787-2023.



KATIE & IRWIN KAHN JCC





"To date, a handful of Jewish merchants remain on Main and Assembly streets reflecting the legacy and prominence that Jews had on Columbia."

Jewish Merchants in Columbia's City Center

Robert Olguin, Historic Columbia & Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative

In the first two decades of the 19th century, Columbia's central business district featured several stores carrying general merchandise, including a Jewish-owned grocery store run by one of Columbia's earliest Jewish merchants, Jacob Barrett. Besides groceries, Barrett's employee Edwin J. Scott recalled selling dry goods—shoes, hats, saddles— and liquors, among other things. By 1822, Jews were numerous enough in Columbia to organize a burial society, and four years later, they founded the Columbia Hebrew Benevolent Society.

Columbia's growth benefited from the business skills and commercial connections of Jewish merchants, especially those with connections to Charleston. Humphrey and Frances Marks, who opened an upscale bar named Marks Porter and Relish House, and Levi Pollock and Phineas Solomon, who together opened an auction business, all moved from Charleston to Columbia and had successful businesses.

By the start of the Civil War, Columbia had become a major commercial hub, until the city suffered significant destruction during the Union occupation. On February 17, 1865, fire destroyed the heart of the business district as the flames engulfed over 400 buildings and destroyed an area of 36 blocks. Newspaper reports from the South Carolinian newspaper indicate that the city began rebuilding immediately after the fire and within a year, the post office reopened, and railway service between Columbia and Charlotte resumed. Further, during Columbia's recovery, some of the old Jewish businesses were rebuilt and new ones were established on Assembly and Main streets.

The number of Jewish businesses grew with the arrival of immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe beginning in the late 1800s. Columbia also received a few new improvements including electricity, the telephone and streetcars by the 1880s. In 1908, sixteen blocks of Main Street, from Union Station to Elmwood Avenue, were paved.

The heyday of Columbia's Jewish merchants came in the mid-20th century, as many merchants expanded into the suburbs thanks to the development of shopping malls, such as Dutch Square, Richland Mall and Columbia Mall, in response to suburbanization. To compensate for flagging numbers of customers, many Main Street property owners and business proprietors updated their earlier buildings to reflect tastes that are more modern. By the late 1960s, much of Main Street's early character lay behind facades of sheet metal, glass, or stucco. These stopgap measures ultimately did not stem the flow of shoppers to points outside the immediate downtown as hoped.

To date, a handful of Jewish merchants remain on Main and Assembly streets reflecting the legacy and prominence that Jews had on Columbia.

Join Historic Columbia for a guided walking tour **Jewish Merchants Past and Present in Columbia's Commercial District** on May 15 at 2:00pm to learn more about this important story.

1 Edwin J. Scott, *Random Recollections of a Long Life*, 1806 to 1876 (Library of Congress, 1884), 19–21.

2 Belinda and Richard Gergel, *In Pursuit of the Tree of Life: A History of the Early Jews of Columbia, South Carolina, and the Tree of Life Congregation* (Tree of Life Congregation, 1996), xii; "Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities – Columbia, South Carolina," Institute of Southern Jewish Life, <http://www.isjl.org/south-carolina-columbia-encyclopedia.html>

3 Belinda F. Gergel, "The Israelites of Columbia, South Carolina: The Development of an Antebellum Jewish Community," *The Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association*, (1996): 38.



Pictured above: In 1949 Berry's on Main and Reyners Jewelers stood side-by-side on the 1600 block of Main Street. Image courtesy the John Hensel Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Play at the J



Prince and Princess Purim Party

Wednesday, March 2 at 10:30 am

Passover-palooza!

Wednesday, April 6 at 10:30 am



Let's Celebrate Israel

Wednesday, May 4 at 10:30 am

Enjoy songs, snacks, books and
games at the JCC's monthly
preschool playgroup!

Open to everyone!



AGES 2.5 - RISING 9TH GRADE
JUNE 6 TO AUGUST 12



Building Bridges through Values and Leadership

Weekly themes based on Jewish values,
extensive and dynamic programming, swimming and
swim instruction, sports, crafts, GaGa and much more!
Everyone is welcome.

KATIE & IRWIN KAHN JCC

306 FLORA DRIVE, COLUMBIA SC 29223

(803) 787-2023 | JCCCOLUMBIA.ORG | CAMP GESHER



March 13

Hamentaschen & Purim Mask Making

April 26

Passover Palooza

May 15

A Taste of Israel Dinner and Fun

All programs in the Irmo area. Details TBA at
facebook.com/groups/PJWow



Save The Date LULAV LVAV

with



October 23, 2016



Have a joyous Passover. And share what it means to you.

#PassoverPublix

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