

Columbia Jewish News

Issue 3 | Volume XLI | May & June 2016

**Columbia's
Mike Dojc
Braves Golf's
Scariest Hole**
see page 7

*photo courtesy of
Mike Dojc*

**Summer's
Best-Kept
Secret**
see page 19

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Thursday, May 12
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Everyone welcome!
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Founder and Music Director Maestra Suzanna Pavlovsky

All Mighty Baroque

Neruda. *Trumpet Concerto* in Eb Major
Andrew Loeffler, Trumpet

Purcell. *Chaconne* in G minor

Vivaldi. *Concerto for Two Celli* in G minor
Meredith Miller and Kenneth Pruitt, Celli

J.S. Bach. *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* in G Major

May 15, 2016, 3:00 PM

Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC
306 Flora Dr, Columbia, SC 29223

The concert is free, donations are welcomed

The orchestra is grateful to the administration of the JCC and Jewish Federation for sponsoring this event.

LAG B'OMER

BBQ

— PARTY —

THURSDAY

MAY 26 | 6 - 8 PM

AT THE KATIE & IRWIN KAHN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER | 306 FLORA DRIVE, COLUMBIA

Come enjoy a kosher hot dog dinner at the JCC on Lag B'Omer, a Jewish day of joy and celebration! We'll have a bounce house, play field games, and roast marshmallows over a fire.

\$5 per meal for JCC members with a \$20 family cap.
\$8 per meal for JCC Guests. Please RSVP to lauries@jccolumbia.org or by calling 787-2023 so we have enough food for everyone.

To Torah!

Sunday, June 12th at 2 pm

Join us for a retelling of Moses receiving Torah using a giant ice cream Mount Sinai!

You won't want to miss this family favorite only at the Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC



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The *Columbia Jewish News* is a bi-monthly
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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 for submission guidelines and advertising rates.



"There is more daily meeting up of friends within our Jewish community at the JCC than anywhere else in town."

You Belong Here!

Barry Abels,
CJB and JCC Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone experienced a joyful and meaningful Passover and your Seders were blessed with family and friends. If there is one home ritual within our community that brings more family and friends together it is the Seder. Often, non-Jewish friends or neighbors are invited, following the lines in the Haggadah, "All who are hungry, let them come in and eat." We share our common bonds together, and we share our traditions with others. We celebrate our liberation, and we celebrate who we are as a people.

Throughout the rest of the year, we gather from time to time for family simchas that often will bring members of our different congregations together, and many of us gather together each week to celebrate and observe Shabbat at a Friday night meal or at services Friday night or Shabbat morning. Parents of our younger children might grab coffee on Sunday morning while the children are attending religious school. But another option that is available to everyone in our community is spending time at our Jewish Community Center. The programs and services offered at our Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC are numerous and diverse. Many are open to anyone in the community, and some are available through being a member of the JCC. Membership is open to all, and we now have several ways you can take advantage of our services.

As a Community Center, as opposed to your neighborhood gym, you can join us for Jewish holiday activities, like our annual Hannukah candle lighting, sifganiyot and cocoa or drinks in our Sukkah. We recently held our annual Senior Seder, and soon many will be gathering to have a glass of wine and enjoy the new trend of adult coloring, this time coloring images with Jewish themes. Later this month, you can enjoy some great chamber music from the Palmetto Chamber Orchestra, a new orchestra put together by Suzanna Povlovsky, a member of our community who is also the conductor of the group. The JCC will function as their primary performance venue. Our monthly "Play at the J" is great fun for parents and grandparents and their toddlers, featuring Jewish-themed activities and reading PJ Library books, as well as enjoying time on the playground. These are just a sample of the cultural and Jewish activities available through the JCC. Some are free and open

to the entire community, but some do require a JCC membership. Many of you may recall receiving information about our new Culture Club membership. This membership provides access to all non-fitness activities for adults but also allows your children access to all organized JCC youth athletics. As a cultural member, your children can take part in kid's yoga, running club or tennis, as well as receive member rates for the Jaws Swim Team and the Interfaith Basketball League.



For adults, we have several active Mah Jongg games, as well as bridge and chess each week. Participants find meeting at the JCC a convenient place to spend time with friends. Of course there are all of the fitness activities. Yoga, Zumba, Pilates and other group classes bring many of our community members together every morning. Others see each other and converse while on the treadmills or elliptical machines several times a week. Then there is the after-exercise conversation and coffee that you will see every weekday morning. We also recently hosted a regional Fencing tournament as a kick-off to becoming the new home for the Columbia Fencers' Club, organized by Jane Littmann, also a member of our community. Yes, there are Jewish fencers, including yours truly.



There is more daily meeting up of friends within our Jewish community at the JCC than anywhere else in town. Concerts, lectures, films, swimming, cardio exercise, meetings, holiday celebrations and Bar & Bat Mitzvah parties are just some of the ways our Jewish community members socialize, learn and just spend time together any day of the week. The opportunities are limitless. The time is now. The JCC – You Belong Here!

"Jewish Columbia" is on the map!

Cheryl Nail, Community Relations Director

Some lessons we learn as children stay with us better than others. I distinctly remember being told that bragging was impolite (probably because I was bragging), so this is something that I try to avoid doing – EXCEPT when it comes to talking about our community. I can't help it. "Jewish Columbia" is wonderful, and I *may* have told a lot of people this in the last two months.

In mid-March, Lyssa Harvey, Marlene Roth, and I had the privilege of training a roomful of volunteers who wished to docent our Columbia Holocaust Education Commission's *Holocaust Remembered* exhibit at the SC State Museum. Ranging from graduate students to retirees, the volunteers learned the amazing stories of our community's survivors and our community's efforts to educate SC students about the Holocaust.

Later in the month, I was honored to speak at Catawba Trail Elementary School's Career Day. Fourth and fifth graders had a lot of interesting ideas about what a Community Relations Director does, including "having to do something with making movies." I worried that the real answer would be less impressive, but the students loved hearing about the great things our community does – especially how we helped during the flood – and asked really good questions.

Perhaps the highlight of this year thus far happened just a few weeks ago when I presented at the national PJ Library Conference in Maryland. Over 200 PJ Library professionals, volunteers, and donors gathered to share their successes. The PJ Library Director of Community Engagement asked me to present, alongside a colleague from Austin, TX, to share our Federation's PJ Library Without Walls program, which brings Jewish families together in the Irmo/Lexington area. My PJ Library colleagues were amazed to hear how vibrant our community is, given its comparatively small size. They were surprised at the number of families involved and how many programs we offer. A few might have even looked at job postings in the Columbia area.

Our social media has taken off, introducing our community to other Jews near and far. We've been retweeted by several national organizations, such as Jewish Federations of North America and PJ Library, as well as many local ones. Our Instagram photos have been liked by people across the country and in Israel; and our Facebook posts, especially our #MazalTovMonday campaign, are reaching over 500 people.

While it can sometimes feel as though we're alone here in the South, the past few months have taught me that we're not as unknown as I thought we were. "Jewish Columbia" is on the map. Our community has a lot to offer and so much to be proud of – is it really a wonder that I brag about us every now and then?



"Our community has a lot to offer and so much to be proud of..."

COLUMBIA JEWISH FEDERATION (CJF)

The Columbia Jewish Federation is proud to present Mazal Tov Mondays on social media. Know someone who deserves a Mazal Tov? Email cheryln@jewishcolumbia.org.

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YAD looks forward to May events

Our Young Adult Division (YAD) has enjoyed getting together several times a month for Shabbat dinners, Havdalah, Torah on Tap, and social activities, such as our annual ski trip (pictured right).

We look forward to the following events in May:

May 5th - *Son of Saul* at the JCC in observance of Yom HaShoah

May 13th - Israeli Shabbat Dinner

May 21st - Havdalah

May 25th - Lag B'Omer Bonfire

For more information, visit us on Facebook.





"What a wonderful way to give back to our community, as well as help children who could not help themselves."

Richland Two Back Pack Program

Laney Cohen, LMSW, JFS Director

Last summer, I was approached by a young man who was trying to figure out a good use for monetary gifts that he received for his Bar Mitzvah. After long discussions about places in our community that needed help, I told him about the students at E.L. Wright Middle School and how some had no food once they went home. Realizing how lucky he was in the many gifts that he had, he decided that an extremely meaningful way to give tzedakah would be to help fund the Backpack Program at the school. I had previously been contacted by someone who asked if JFS could help, and beginning in September of 2015, we did. The following is a letter written by the School Social Worker for E.L. Wright Middle School:

"Many factors affect a child's success at school. Richland Two staff members assist families and students in a variety of ways to meet their needs. Social workers, administrators, teachers, school counselors, and nurses provide assistance daily to help families and students.

The Richland Two Back Pack Programs, Food Pantries and Clothing Closets assist families and students throughout the District. These programs and services are a direct result of partnerships with churches, organizations, clubs, civic groups, companies, agencies, school staff and individuals. Partners sponsor school back pack programs, hold fundraisers, conduct food drives, award grants, and provide donations of money, hygiene items, clothing, and school supplies. Richland Two staff relies heavily on the time, organization, and finances of these partners to sustain and implement each of these programs.

In 2014-15, school social workers documented almost 25,000 services to students and families. Of those services, 10% were direct resource services such as food, school supplies, hygiene and clothing assistance provided by the resources available within our own District. Also in 2014-15, an average of 550 students participated weekly in the Richland Two Back Pack Program. An estimated 19,000 back packs were provided.

This year Jewish Family Services (JFS) partnered with E. L. Wright Middle School to provide assistance for the back pack program. With their continued support, ELW was able to provide 40 back packs a month to students who otherwise may not get enough to eat. Weekly deliveries of non-perishable food allowed students to go home with 2 breakfast and lunch items in addition to 2-3 dinner options as well as snacks.

E. L. Wright Middle School is grateful for the all the support that Jewish Family Services have provided the students and families."

What a wonderful way to give back to our community, as well as help children who could not help themselves. If you are interested in learning how you can help and get involved for the 2016-2017 school year, please call Laney at 787-2023 x 220.



EVERYONE can be a philanthropist • May 3, 2016 • midlandsgives.org
Please help Jewish Family Service help our community by donating to JFS through midlandsgives.org on May 3. Five \$20 donations would provide 33 meals for 11 families in need.

Nightmare on No. 17: Columbia's Mike Dojc Braves Golf's Scariest Hole

Mike Dojc, Columbia Jewish Community

Mike Dojc, an active member of the Columbia Jewish community and Federation Board of Directors, pens a guest column for this issue of the Columbia Jewish News. The Players Championship team invited Dojc to experience TPC Sawgrass to get a taste of the PGA TOUR's flagship event.



"How were your eggs this morning? Were they fluffy; were they good?" My caddie Scott Corliss, who moonlights at TPC Sawgrass when he isn't carrying PGA TOUR veteran Billy Mayfair's clubs, is trying to distract me from the 12-footer at hand. There's not a big payday riding on the outcome. But I've asked him to counsel me the same way he would talk with Billy if he was nervous about a million dollar putt. Corliss' psychological tomfoolery completely takes my mind off the magnitude of the task at hand and my ball plunks into the hole. The PLAYERS Championship team has graciously invited me down to Ponte Vedra, Florida for a few days to get a taste for the tournament, which takes place May 10-15, by playing the famous Stadium course and staying at the gorgeous Sawgrass Marriott, which is just finishing up a \$48 million facelift.

Corliss has vanquished my recurring case of the yips just in time. My group is approaching the beating heart of the "The Gauntlet," the course's nefarious trio of finishing holes.

Despite the calmed nerves when I step into the tee box on No. 17 a cold shiver of sheer dread runs down my spine. This is it, the island green that routinely thrashes leader board topping dreams. It's the Freddy Krueger of golf holes where double bogeys are easy to honestly come by. From the moment you tee off your round, the countdown begins and the dastardly island looms as large as the inevitable hemoglobin splatter in an episode of The Walking Dead.

Mark Calcavecchia aptly compared the Players Championship's serial round killer to an afternoon appointment for a root canal: "You're thinking about it all morning and you feel bad all day. You kind of know, sooner or later, you've got to get to it," he once told the

Washington Post. Cursorily staring down the tiered green pancake a mere 121 yards away (it's 137 from the tips), it is puzzling that this test of aiming ability is culpable for hundreds of ruined televised rounds over the years at the Players Championship. But, the longer you make that stare down the more the mitigating factors come into play. Sure, there is 3,912 square feet of flat and dry real estate to shoot for, but even if the flag isn't flapping in the wind too badly, club selection is still paramount; and then there's that putting surface which can be as firm and fast as glass, so you're going to need to stick it. For amateurs, a dry landing is a cause for a short celebration.

Before I even address my ball, thousands of imaginary fans camped out all around the stadium course fill in my peripheral vision. Sure, they're not really there, but the mere thought causes my shoulders to tense up just a little bit. Then that seven-figure bank balance bounce in store for the player who tops the leaderboard at this vaunted PGA TOUR stop, ostensibly golf's fifth major, and another wrinkle of psychological malarkey interrupts my swing thoughts. A second later my first ball submerges into the pond, a couple of feet short of the front edge of the green.

A splash landing is the most common comeuppance, and my eventual double bogey puts me in good company. In May of 2007, during the Players Championship, the field of PGA stars deep sixed a record 50 balls on No. 17 in a single round. For more of an indication how mere golf mortals typically play it, during the festivities surrounding Super Bowl XXXIX in nearby Jacksonville, a closest to the pin contest was held with athletes from the MLB, NFL, and NASCAR competing. Dale Jarrett won the contest – and he was also the only one who landed on the green.

Even though nothing was riding on my final putt, Gary Koch's famous "better than most...better than most" call that narrated Tiger Woods' extraordinary downhill 60-footer that read each break like braille replayed in my head. When my much more meager five-and-change footer dropped, I paid tribute by punching the sky.



A card-carrying member of the leisure cognoscenti, when Mike Dojc isn't repairing impossibly large divots or alphabetizing his award winning ball marker collection, he's slinging copy for a diverse range of editorial and corporate entities. Highlights of his client roster have included Nike, AAA, Geico, Maxim, Esquire.com, Islands.com, Metro News, CAA, Globe & Mail, ClubLink Life, Back 9 Network, and many other outlets. Check him out at SlingingBirdies.com



Spring into FUN at the JCC

*Laurie Slack,
JCC Jewish Programs Director*

***"By June the heat
will be upon us,
and we'll once
again be holding
our annual (and
EPIC!) Ice Cream
Mount Sinai!"***

The weather is warm, our gardens are growing, and we're so excited about the fun activities we have upcoming at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. If you're anything like me, the warming weather leaves you craving lighter fare – and so we'll be hosting a "Kosher Salad in a Jar" workshop on Thursday, May 19th. We'll have a mid-morning and an evening session. As of writing, I'm still working out the exact time the workshops will be held, so be sure to visit the JCC's Facebook page for more information and to RSVP. The following week, the JCC will hold a Lag B'Omer Family Picnic. With a hotdog dinner, field games, and of course marshmallow roasting, you won't want to miss this fun and casual family get together on May 26th from 6 to 8 pm. Everyone is welcome.

By June the heat will be upon us, and we'll once again be holding our annual (and EPIC!) Ice Cream Mount Sinai! The entire community is invited to come hear a retelling of how Moses, represented by a gingerbread man, climbed up Mount Sinai and received Torah. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, June 12th at 2 pm.

This is but a small sampling of the fun things we have going on at YOUR Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. We are here to serve you, our Jewish Community, and always welcome your input and ideas on ways we can better serve your needs. Feel free to stop by and say hello; I am always happy to chat.

KIDS CLASSES AT YOUR JCC!

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Play at the J

Let's Celebrate Israel!
Wednesday, May 4 at 1:00pm

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

**MIDLANDS
GIVES**

May 3, 2018

Support the JCC
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2016 JCC Golf Classic

The weather was threatening and a high school golf tournament, also being played at Wildwood Country Club, was still on the course due to rain delays. Yet, even with these challenges and a late start, the 14th Annual Golf Classic was a great success.

Many thanks go to Sam Moses and Parker Poe and Fred Seidenberg and American Metal Solutions for being our **Title Sponsors**. Nancy and Gerald Sonenshine sponsored our Kosher Deli reception after the tournament, a JCC Golf Classic tradition that is enjoyed by all.

Allegiance Industries was our **Putting Green Sponsor** and Schiano's, Jim Kirkham and Coca-Cola were food and beverage sponsors. Image 360 provided our signs and banner. All of our Hole Sponsors are listed below.

This year we featured some new contests provided by Dixon Golf and a putting contest. Thank you to Mike Dojc for donating a unique putter as our contest prize and Joanne Epley for a generous contribution in support of the Classic.

Sixty golfers participated, and this year's winning team was David Lovit, Jocelyn Burg and Tina and Al Stokes (pictured below). Thanks to all of our sponsors and players for supporting the Classic and providing funding in support of your Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC and the programs and services we offer.



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Lycia Goldson
Nancy Gottlieb
Lisa Helfer***
Beth Helman
Hila Horovitz-LaPaglia**
Ellen Humphries
Beryle Jaffe
Belle Jewler
Rabbi Linda Joseph**
Ilene King***
Gail Lieb***
Jane Littmann***
Robin Lourie***
Susan A. Lourie
Marcia Medway
Claire Meltzer
Faye Miller
Peggy Miller***
Debby Mullen***
Michelle Peterson***
Marilyn Picow
Sharon Robinson***
Sara Schechter-Schoeman
Susan Scouten

Julie Strauss
Risa Strauss
Sue Sussman***
Meira Warshauer**

SHALOM -

\$0-\$99

Larisa Aginskaya**
Sharon Batey***
Karen Beattie***
Laura Becker
Helen Bellah
Rae Berry
Rimma Brandin**
Dana Cason***
Nancy Cartiff**
Sandy Cowen
Caroline Fins***
Terry Ross Gomborg***
Dorothy Greeter***
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Simone Kozlov***
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Irina Plotkin
Karen Portnoy***
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Cindi Stark
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Ella & Tristan Weinkle
Julie & Jon Zivony



"This guided walking tour will highlight Columbia's Jewish Heritage and explore how Jewish merchants have shaped this downtown district."

Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative Updates: Brochure Release and Events

Robin Waites, Executive Director, Historic Columbia

The Columbia's Jewish Heritage brochure, featuring 35 sites documenting the Jewish community's contributions to the city's history and culture since its founding in 1786, will premiere in May. With content focusing on Columbia's downtown area, the piece includes images depicting Jewish families, businesses and houses of worship. The brochure's cover features the Rivkin family, photographed at the 1920 wedding of Raphael Rivkin and Rachel Winter. Raphael's brother, Caba Earle Rivkin, owned the first Jewish deli in Columbia, located at 1014 Lady Street.

Funded in part by grants from the Central Carolina Community Foundation, SC Humanities and the City of Columbia, the free brochure will be accompanied by a website featuring expanded content, including oral histories, additional sites and images, and a platform for the Jewish community to contribute their own stories and photographs.

Upcoming CJHI-related events:

May 6th | 10 am

Homeschool Friday: Jewish History and Heritage in Columbia

Visit Historic Columbia as we celebrate Jewish history and culture! Explore Columbia's historic Jewish sites on our new tour developed through the Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative and learn how the Jewish community has impacted our city. Homeschool Fridays programs are designed for students of elementary and middle school age levels.

May 8th | 2 pm

Second Sunday Stroll: Jewish Merchants, Past and Present, in Columbia's Commercial District

Join Historic Columbia for our Second Sunday Stroll down Main Street! This guided walking tour will highlight Columbia's Jewish Heritage and explore how Jewish merchants have shaped this downtown district. The tour will begin in front of Michael's on Main Street, travel down to Lady Street where the tour will cross over Assembly Street before ending at The Big Apple on Hampton Street.

For more information, please visit historiccolumbia.org/cjhi.

Pictured below: Front row, L to R: Lewis Rivkin, his father, Jacob, and grandfather, Avram; bride, Rachel Winter. Back row, L to R: Tamara Rivkin and daughter, Sara; Caba Earle Rivkin flanked by twins, Bessie and Celia; groom, Raphael. *Image courtesy of Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries*



Make a Donation to the Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education on May 3

Minda Miller, Foundation Chair

Please help us continue Holocaust educational projects in SC.

For more information and to donation on May 3 find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/seldensmitheducationfoundation/>
midlandsgives.org
lowcountrygivingday.org
text.gives/tolerance
<http://holocausteducationfoundation.org/>

Midlands Gives 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. Please join us in our efforts to combat hatred and intolerance on May 3, 2016. 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. We want to thank all our past supporters for making these worthwhile projects a reality.

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. These testimonies will be available for public access on-line.

*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.

*Week-long 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.

* Mini grants. Numerous grants awarded to teachers for Holocaust books, speakers, student field trips and other Holocaust and intolerance related projects.

* Myrtle Beach Holocaust Memorial. A permanent Butterfly Memorial Monument at Grand Park to honor the memory of all the children who perished in the Holocaust is being dedicated May 1, 2016.

* Teachers' Study Trip to Poland. An intensive Holocaust study trip to Poland every other year visiting concentration camps, the Warsaw Ghetto, and other historically important sites with a Holocaust educator. Graduate credit is given to teachers.



***"Please join us
in our efforts to
combat hatred and
intolerance on
May 3, 2016."***

**JEWISH
UNITY
DAY**
SUNDAY, MAY 15
12:30 PM

• ADMISSION •
ADULTS: \$25
CHILDREN 5-12TH: \$10
FAMILY: \$50
SPONSOR: \$360
CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE FREE

DELICIOUS BBQ LUNCH INCLUDED

THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT!!
PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 1ST

• FEATURING THE •
YOUTUBE SENSATION ACAPELLE GROUP
THE MACCABEATS

CHABAD ALEPH HOUSE
2509 DECKER BLVD

TO RSVP: VISIT WWW.CHABADOFSC.COM.
EMAIL: RAEBILEVJ@CHABADOFSC.COM OR CALL 805-237-7330

THIS PROGRAM IS
CO-SPONSORED BY:  

THE KATIE & IRWIN KAHN JCC AND THE COLUMBIA JEWISH FEDERATION.
THE COLUMBIA JEWISH FEDERATION IS THE UMBRELLA FOR OUR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO
BUILDING JEWISH UNITY IN THE MEGALAND AND WE ARE PLEASED TO FINANCIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO JEWISH PRIDE DAY

DR JEFF & KAY GROSS
DR LIZ GROSS IN MEMORY OF DR ARTHUR GROSS
THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

CHILDREN'S
**MEGA
CHALLAH
Bake**

Students Build an Outdoor Classroom

Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D., CJDS Principal

The educational philosophy that CJDS follows is both progressive yet anchored in Jewish tradition. The progressive component is that the school values children raising questions; researching, expressing ideas through projects, and defending their strategies and ideas (as compared to some schools that focus on memorizing information). These ideals of learning are anchored in Jewish tradition. The Talmud is full of examples of sages raising questions, debating ideas, and even in some cases building models to represent Jewish concepts. There are many examples of this type of learning at CJDS.

One recent project is the second grade building a structure in the woods. Mr. Brent Petersen, second grade teacher, along with Mrs. Melanie Pace, excellent student intern, are working with the students in building an outdoor classroom. This exploration began with the reading of the classic novel *My Side of the Mountain*. The children wondered if they could build a home in the forest like the main character in the book.

Soon plans were being drawn, essays written, research undertaken, budgets prepared, and lively democratic debate on which approach should be used. The children also included Jewish studies by researching whether this structure required a mezuzah. The class has used sixteen donated pallets to create the structure, which can be used by any child in the school wanting a place to read or work quietly while in the wooded area. Mr. Petersen described how this work is far above second grade standards: "The children are comparing text to life, looking at homes and buildings around the world; integrating topics, such as economics, measurement, and literacy, as well as citizenship skills, like voting, access to homes, and other concepts." Mrs. Pace has written a grant proposal to Home Depot to gain additional supplies. A student in the class described the project as, "Just the most awesome!"

While the Talmudic rabbis probably did not debate building a structure in the woods, I think they would have been very impressed with the higher order thinking shown by the CJDS students!



"The Talmud is full of examples of sages raising questions, debating ideas, and even in some cases building models to represent Jewish concepts."

CUTLER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL





**Israel at 68
Happy Birthday!**

On May 14, 1948, corresponding to "5 Iyar" on the Jewish calendar, the Jewish people's council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum and declared the establishment of the State of Israel!

Join us at Beth Shalom Synagogue on Friday, May 13 at 5:45 pm for a joyous service, Shabbat dinner and celebration honoring Israel and our Religious School staff. Our celebration will continue at Shabbat services on Saturday, May 14, honoring Magen David Award recipients, Gad and Bobbi Matzner. On Sunday, May 15 Religious School will enjoy a hands-on look into Israeli life and culture.



ART AUCTION

Sponsored by
Beth Shalom Synagogue

on
Sunday, May 22, 2016
6pm preview
7pm Live Auction
at
Carol O. Bernstein Social Hall
5827 N. Trenholm Road

Admission: \$10.00 per person - RSVP by May 20
\$15 at the door

Hors D'Oeuvres - Dessert - Beverages

For Tickets or Information Call:
Office 582-2500

Send check or your reservation payable to:
BSS Art Auction, 5827 N. Trenholm Rd, Columbia, SC 29206

Mastercard and Visa credit cards accepted for art purchases

Featuring Framed Art in All Media & Price Range
Judaica and More - Affordable Art for All
Take this opportunity to start your art collection
Creators through 8th grade will be provided with a reservation

Co-sponsorship is provided by:
Marlin Theatre, 1110 Colonial Blvd., Suite 1000, New York 10019 (212) 362-1200

Art selections may include:

ADAM CHANDLER HARRINGTON HARRISON HARRIS HARRIS	ALAN DELAUNAY ALAN DE LAUNAY ALAN DE LAUNAY	BOBBY ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN	BOBBY ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN	BOBBY ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN ALLEN
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Special Religious School Dates: May, 2016

May 1: RS, 9:30AM; Yom HaShoah Observance at BSS 5PM
May 4: RS, 4:30PM
May 8: RS, 9:30AM and Happy Mother's Day!
May 11: RS, 4:30PM
May 13: Friday Shabbat Dinner and Teacher Appreciation
and Yom Haatzmaut, 5:45PM
May 15: RS, 9:30AM and Yom Haatzmaut Celebration
May 18: RS, 4:30PM
May 21: Bar Mitzvah of Jack Lapin, Mazal Tov to Jack (pictured left)
and the entire Lapin Family
May 22: End of Year RS Celebration, 9:30AM
May 28: Bat Mitzvah of Emma Gendil, Mazal Tov to Emma (pictured right)
and the entire Gendil Family





MAZEL TOV TO BOBBI & GAD MATZNER!

2015 Magen David Award Recipients—
Beth Shalom's Highest Honor

**Saturday, May 14
9:45 a.m.**

We are proud to announce that Bobbi & Gad Matzner will be presented
with the Magen David Award - Beth Shalom's highest honor.

Join us as we honor them on Saturday, May 14th for their many years of dedicated service to
Beth Shalom Synagogue. A special kiddush luncheon will follow services sponsored by Beth Shalom.

Saying, Shalom

Rabbi Linda Joseph, Tree of Life

Shalom. In Hebrew School we are taught the various nuances of this well-known word, a popular meme of Jewish life. Shalom. It means: Hello. Goodbye. Peace. As I write this last article to the Jewish community in Columbia, I am contemplating how to say "Shalom."

Almost a year has passed when I said my first Shalom/Hello beginning here as the Interim Rabbi at Tree of Life Congregation. My presence in the community was to insure continuity and to prepare the path between one settled rabbi and the next for the Reform Jewish community. To make sure that Shalom/Peace was found in ongoing services, celebrations, lifecycle, the writing of articles, representation.

It has been an honor to pray, rejoice and commemorate with you all, at Tree of Life Congregation and in the wider Columbia Jewish community. I have learned so much from this special city. I have loved your southern warmth and hospitality, the easy mobility of getting from place to place (remember, I came from Washington DC traffic!) and how the Jewish expressions of Secular, Reform, Conservative and Chabad, Jewish organizations, have found a respectful and working co-existence.

Many thanks to my clergy partners in this community who have reached out and supported me. A huge thanks to the Jewish Federation who are always looking to find ways as a community to bring us together, to make Jewish life in Columbia vibrant. A special thanks to TOL President Rick Cohn, the Board of Tree of Life and its committees for being my partners throughout this year.

Together, I believe that we created an equilibrium, a Shalom in the sense of Peace/ Wholeness that will become a launching pad for Tree of Life Congregation's new rabbi, Eric Mollo, to create, renew and expand the vibrancy that this 120-year-old synagogue has to offer to Columbia and the Jewish world.

I leave Columbia at the end of June, and I know the next two months will be filled with special Shalom/Goodbyes with individuals, organizations and with

the many friends that I have made in my short time here. There is still much to do, commemorate and celebrate before the final "Shalom." On my calendar are regular services, the community Yom HaShoah commemoration, a Yom Haatzmaut Celebration, a sixth-grade class service, a Chai School Movie Night, Confirmation, the end of Religious School celebration, Shavuot and more. Please take some time to come and say your Shalom/Goodbye to me before I leave.

I am reminded of the words from the book of Deuteronomy as the Torah begins its final farewell: "Blessed shall you be in your comings and blessed shall you be in your goings." [28:6] I have felt so blessed to be among you and feel enriched by the gifts that Columbia and Tree of Life Congregation have given me over this year. As I leave, I hope reciprocally that you have found my coming a blessing and that my going will leave you with many blessings to cherish.

Shalom, my friends!



"It has been an honor to pray, rejoice and commemorate with you all, at Tree of Life Congregation and in the wider Columbia Jewish community."

TREE OF LIFE CONGREGATION

This year, The Big Nosh™ was excited to compost the majority of trash produced at the event. Upon receiving 31 bags of compostables (which equal over 500 pounds of trash!) from The Big Nosh™, Sustainable Midlands member said, "Tree of Life never fails to amaze me in their environmental initiatives. Thank you for being a community leader!" Thanks to the Green Team of Tree of Life Congregation for making this possible and to members Paul Westfall and Erica and Brett Altshul for literally rolling up their sleeves to make sure the compostables and recyclables (which included a stack of over 35 cardboard boxes) were correctly separated from the trash.



An Active Hillel at USC

Amanda Budd, Hillel at USC PR Chair

Hillel at USC has been very active the last few months, with several events that are worth sharing. At the end of February, Joel Chasnoff came to USC where he performed his informative and entertaining comedy bit on the prevalent issues in Israel. In his routine, he portrayed different real-life characters that had very distinct opinions about Israel. The audience was able to interact with each of the characters. Following his routine, everyone had an open discussion about Israel.



In March, we celebrated Purim with USC Chabad. We made different flavored hamentashen (pictured left) and enjoyed dinner with USC Hillel and Chabad members. Afterwards, we heard the megillah reading. The next day, we brought the festivities to campus by selling the hamentashen we made.

After spring break, Hillel had a few in-house events including a Girl's Night and several themed Shabbat Dinners. Hillel also participated in Table of Abraham (pictured below), a dinner that brings Jewish, Muslim, and Christian students together for discussion.

As the semester ends, we look forward to celebrating Passover with our very own student-led



seder and commemorating Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) with a memorial service and speaker. In addition, Hillel is also looking forward to joining Clemson and College of Charleston for our summer Birthright trip.

Thank you to the Jewish Federation for supporting us in all our endeavors this year. We look forward to another amazing year starting this August!



Poker & Pearls

Danny Caplan, AEPi Scribe

On February 27, Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) partnered with the Alpha Gamma Delta (AGD) sorority to host the 2nd annual Poker and Pearls charity event. The proceeds of this night went towards the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). The event was held at the South Carolina State Museum. JDRF serves as the philanthropy focus for both AEPi and AGD, and its proceeds are strictly dedicated to minors who have Type 1 Diabetes. This charity is near and dear to the Gamma Chi chapter of AEPi since Columbia native and USC senior Brandon Picow was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at a young age. Since Brandon served as president of our chapter a few years ago, he began raising both funds and awareness for Juvenile Diabetes. This year's event was put on by Philanthropy Chair Jack Beaman, and he did a fantastic job of not only booking the venue, but also reaching out to Columbia businesses for sponsorships.

This event could not have been possible without the help of local businesses. We played several different types of poker games, wagering chips given to us at the beginning of the evening. After a couple of hours, participants "cashed" their chips in for raffle tickets. The prizes consisted of items donated from local businesses and included everything from free pizza coupons to clothing. Throughout the evening, Southern Way Catering helped feed everyone, and we enjoyed live music. Even though AEPi and AGD hosted the event, there was great representation by the entire Greek Community at South Carolina. Sororities and fraternities alike made sure to support this great charity, and the energy that both college kids and families brought to Poker and Pearls made it even more memorable. Due to everybody's contributions, Poker and Pearls raised over \$7,000!





Summer's Best-Kept Secret

Risa Strauss, Camp Gesher Director

Elisa Westfall, Camp Gesher Director

Where can your child, from age 2.5 through the middle school years enjoy an amazing summer experience? At the best-kept summer camp secret in the midlands: the JCC's Camp Gesher. *Gesher*, meaning "bridge" in Hebrew, is intrinsically committed to the development of positive Jewish identity and values for all of our campers. Through hands-on programming we strive to further cultural understanding between all the members of the JCC community.

We look forward to greeting each camper every morning with warmth and compassion as they begin their day. Through careful hiring and training of staff we are able to provide each camper with innovative activities, sports, swimming, nature, mad-science, gardening, music, dance, drama and more! We are proud of our theme- and value-based weekly camp structure, of our leadership training sessions for our middle schoolers, and of our community leaders that join us on a weekly basis to share their work and life experiences.



We are located on a safe and magnificently inviting campus, our very own Gerry Sue and Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus in Northeast Columbia, where we have access to state-of-the-art indoor gym, fitness, and aquatic facilities.

We are proud of who we are and where we are going! Please consider having your child or grandchild join us this summer. *See our ad on the back cover for more information.*



Tuesdays with Friends

Tuesdays with Friends

Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road
(803) 782-2500

www.BethShalomColumbia.org

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

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

**Featuring Rachel Silver at the
piano with your favorites from the
40's, 50's & 60s.**

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.*

**Tuesday, June 7, 2016
11:30 am - 1 pm**

**"Name that Tune" returns with
Larry Needle & Friends!**

There is no charge to attendees thanks to the
generous donation made by
Bobbi & Gad Matzner and family -
*In loving memory of their parents,
Kathe & Curt Behrens and
Gitla & Isaac Matzner*

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



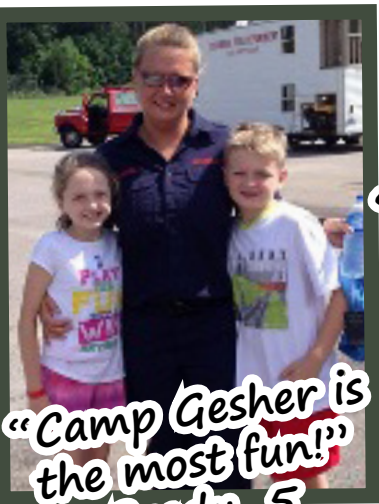
The BJH Foundation for Senior Services is a non-profit foundation exclusively committed to enhancing the lives of Jewish elderly residing in North and South Carolina through programs, activities and organizations that share their mission in accordance with Jewish practices and beliefs.



"Camp Gesher is better than X-box 360!"
Austin, 12



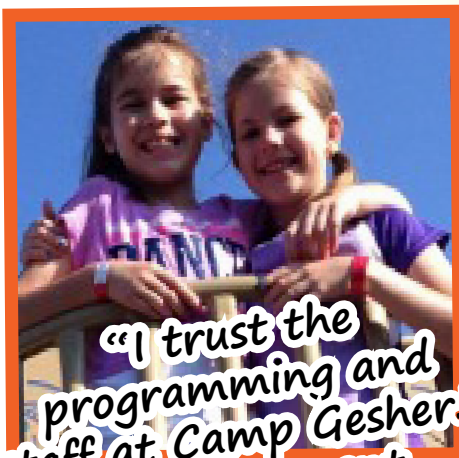
"My favorite thing to do is GaGa!"
Wyatt, 8



"Camp Gesher is the most fun!"
Grady, 5



"I loved presenting at Camp Gesher. The campers were engaged and enthusiastic!"
Donna, Nursing Student



"I trust the programming and staff at Camp Gesher."
Daniel, parent



"My kids love Shabbat at Camp Gesher!"
Mindy, parent



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

"A fun, nurturing, and creative environment where children's spirits will soar, and lasting summer friendships and memories will flourish."

REGISTER TODAY!

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT UNTIL JUNE 1

Registration and information online at jcccolumbia.org/camp-gesher or contact Camp Registrar, Claire Becraft 803.787.2023 ext. 215.

CAMP OPEN HOUSE AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR PARENTS AND CAMPERS:
SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016
2 - 4 PM AT THE JCC.

For more information concerning your child's camp experience, contact Risa Strauss, Camp Director at 803.787.2023 ext. 210.

f CAMP GESHER

JCC
You belong here.