

Columbia Jewish News

Issue 3 | Volume XL | May & June 2015

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The Secret to Jewish Immortality

Barry Abels, CJF and JCC Executive Director



Soon we will be observing Shavuot, the receiving of the Ten Commandments and the Torah at Mount Sinai. This critical event in our history was the point where we, the Jewish people, became a nation. This nation would continue to experience challenges and major trials, but would also come to make a mark on the world. This is as true today as in times past. I am reminded of the words of Mark Twain in reference to our Jewish people:

"All things are mortal but the Jews; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"

In the previous *Jewish News* I discussed our belief in the value of life. That explicit cultural value is one of many the many "secrets" Mark Twain pondered. Another secret is that the Jewish answer to the biblical question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" is a resounding yes. It is demonstrated through all of the organizations and institutions that we have created to care for ourselves as well as to perform acts of *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world. Our synagogues and religious schools play a large role; our home rituals are critical; the important rites of passage – from *brit milah* and baby namings, to *b'nai mitzah*, the *chupah* and the marriage *ketubah* and even the prescribed way we mourn our lost loved ones – help us keep our traditions and our identity. Summer camps, trips to Israel, and our youth groups play a critical role. Also in this mix are organizations and institutions that came on the scene in the last hundred years or so. It is through them that many of the other organizations and programs that support our Jewish communities and demonstrate our values are supported and funded.

Here at home, as in so many other Jewish communities, the Federation and the JCC play broad and important roles. Our Columbia Jewish Federation is an umbrella for several vital services which are often handled by multiple agencies in larger cities. It is that broad role that helps guarantee Jewish "immortality" for our local community. In addition to raising money and funding a variety of services and programs, we directly deliver much-needed social services to individuals and families within our community and occasionally to the broader community. We take care of Jewish families, paying rent or utilities when they are in need of financial assistance, arranging transportation to medical appointments, transitioning seniors in need of assisted living arrangements, and providing emergency food assistance. When community members have suffered tragedy, Jewish Family Service is there to help pick up the pieces. The need that is filled is much greater than anyone will ever know. Yet when you make a contribution, you ensure we meet these needs. Our recent Senior Seder, a collaboration between the Kahn JCC and Jewish Family Service, provided an opportunity for members of our community to experience a Seder when they could not attend one with family or attend one of our community Seders. Another service directly provided by the Federation is PJ Library, a program that sends Jewish-themed books to our children from six months to elementary school age. Each month families receive age-appropriate books that parents read to children, and then later children read to their parents, about our holidays, traditions and culture. their parents, about our holidays, traditions and culture. The

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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.

The Columbia Jewish Community Remembers the Holocaust

Cheryl Nail, CJF Community Relations Director



The Columbia Jewish Community was honored to have Holocaust Survivor Judith Evans (pictured left, viewing the *Holocaust Remembered* Exhibit) from Aiken, SC share her story at the annual Yom HaShoah Remembrance Service, organized by the Yom HaShoah Committee of the Columbia Jewish Federation (CJF) and held this year at Tree of Life Congregation (TOL). Introduced by Irene Rudnick, the first Jewish woman elected to the SC General Assembly, Ms. Evans spoke to a full sanctuary about finding her Jewish identity after having spent her childhood hiding in a Catholic convent and listening to anti-Semitic propaganda taught in the German schools. Candles, representing the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, were lit by two survivors, an eyewitness, and a liberator - all local - in addition to children and grandchildren of survivors, a Holocaust educator, and a representative of all those who lost loved ones.

The Columbia Holocaust Education Commission (CHEC) hosted students from Jefferson Davis Academy (pictured right with Bluma Goldberg) at the Kahn JCC, where they listened to Holocaust Survivor Bluma Goldberg and her son Karl Goldberg speak about her experiences during World War II before viewing the *Holocaust Remembered* Exhibit. This year the Exhibit was at both the JCC and TOL. Religious School students from TOL and Beth Shalom Synagogue served as docents along with Lyssa Harvey and Risa Strauss.



Several members of the CHEC's Speakers' Bureau spoke throughout the month of April at Holocaust Remembrance events in the greater community, including Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, and several area middle schools. CHEC also brought awareness to the Columbia community through its second supplement in *The State* newspaper.

CJF Executive Director Barry Abels and I had the privilege of joining AEPi brothers and Hillel members from USC in their "Walk to Remember" across campus to raise awareness for Holocaust Remembrance Day (photo on page 19).



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above left: CHEC co-chair Lyssa Harvey trains student docents;
above right: T Moffatt Burriss meets Religious School students



continued from page 3



*Pictured left:
Jewish Family
Service & the
JCC hosted a
senior Seder
on April 7.*

Columbia Jewish Federation also supports the work of both the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission and the Yom Hashoah committee, ensuring a meaningful Holocaust observance every year. Both of these functions are so critical. Our children and their children must learn about the tragedies that befell us and the lessons that are so important to internalize so that we do not suffer such a horrendous fate again. Promoting interfaith relations, monitoring acts of anti-Semitism and advocating for community members when they believe they are being discriminated against is another critical function provided by your Federation. Currently we are very active in funding and supporting activities with both USC Hillel and the AEPi fraternity. This support is so important for our students who are striving to maintain their Jewish identities and traditions when far from home and family. This year our collaboration with a new working committee of Jewish faculty, as well as Chabad, makes for a strong and impactful coalition. Add to this the funding we provide locally to our congregations' religious schools, the Cutler Jewish Day School, BBYO and our Young Leadership, as well as to programs and services in Israel, Eastern Europe and around the globe through our partnership with the Jewish Federations of North America, and we are able to touch countless lives.

Locally, your Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center plays many roles, well beyond that of just an excellent fitness facility. In a few weeks we will reprise our celebration of Shavuot with the meaningful, but fun and child-friendly, Mount Sinai made from ice cream. It's a novel and hands-on way to not only tell the story of

our receiving the Torah, but also highlight the tradition of eating dairy foods on this holiday. Our new "Play at the J" program has been a great way to bring our toddlers together to play, sing and read PJ Library books, while the children and parents or grandparents get to know one another. Each holiday we display information about the observance and provide traditional foods for anyone from our community who drops in, while also educating our non-Jewish members and building bridges within the broader community. Speaking of bridges, for the third year Camp Gesher (bridge) will provide our children a great summer day-camp experience, complete with weekly themes based on Jewish values, celebration of Shabbat and singing Jewish camp songs that generations have sung every summer for years. It is another great way that our children get to know each other, while reinforcing their Jewish identity and home rituals. We have organized and hosted the Israeli Scouts, held rallies in support of Israel, and hosted many speakers and programs in collaboration with our local partners on topics as diverse as Jews, the Civil War and Slavery to the Raid on Entebbe and Voices of the Generations, featuring the story of a couple who survived the Holocaust and later had their story featured on the early TV program *This Is Your Life*. In partnership with Jewish Family Service we have hosted the Culture Bus, bringing folks to Charlotte to enjoy Jewish-themed theatre, reached out to families in Lexington and Irmo by bringing family Chanukah celebrations to the Harbison Recreation Center and connected with families at the Irmo Okra Strut. By far our best outreach and offsite program is our annual Jewish Film Festival, this year to be held in November. Each year you can experience eight to nine great films with meaningful Jewish content. Our festival rivals many that are held in much larger Jewish communities. We host family *simchas* and recently hosted a fundraiser for Beth Shalom.



*Winter weather
didn't keep
people away
from the JCC's
Jazz Night on
February 25.*

We are home to any member of our community who wants to walk in our door or participate in our programs out in the community. Through memberships available to the broader community, we also build relationships and friends in a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise.

We are fortunate to have the Gerry Sue and Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus that provides a home for these important programs, services and agencies to serve our community. We are also fortunate to have had the support of so many of you over the years, helping to fund our campus, our JCC and support our Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. We are partners, on our campus and within all of our Jewish community. I believe that we will continue to work together to support our Federation, our JCC, as well as our congregations, Israel and our global Jewish family. That is *tzedakah*; that is *tikkun olam*; that is our obligation; that is who we are. And that my friends, is the "secret to our immortality."

JFS: Where the Money Goes

Laney Cohen, LMSW, JFS Director



Last month, I had the awesome experience of hanging out with students from USC who belonged to Hillel and AEPI. These fantastic youth gave up time on a beautiful Sunday to make phone calls for our Super Sunday campaign for the Columbia Jewish Federation. No one likes to get calls for donations, and almost no one likes to make the calls asking for donations (though I know a few of you love it). It is a necessary job that must be taken on if our community, our Jewish community, is going to survive.

I wanted to clarify some questions that were raised when phones were answered. Some of these were about monies staying in the area (local), and some were about Israel. Some questions were about specifically helping seniors, and some were about helping the kids. So, to help people understand a little more about where exactly your money goes when you donate to Columbia Jewish Federation, here's a cheat sheet:

\$30.00 will allow a senior a round trip to the doctor.

\$50.00 will pay for medication/health supplies for a senior for a month.

\$100.00 will feed a family of four for two weeks.

\$250.00 will fund our annual Senior Seder program.


\$400.00 will stock the food pantry for three months with basic supplies.

\$1,800.00 will help a family in need with rent and/or utilities or other emergency needs.

These numbers only reflect Jewish Family Service needs and requests. There are other ways that donations to Columbia Jewish Federation are used: PJ Library, Hillel (and their many programs), numerous programs in Israel, summer camp experiences for our community's Jewish children, and even our own congregations and religious schools!

So, when you get that phone call, as many of you have already received, don't hang up! It's someone from YOUR community trying to better YOUR community, YOUR faith, and YOUR people.





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The Best-Kept Summer Camp 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 are so looking forward to greeting each camper every morning as they begin their day with warmth and compassion. 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.***



Help Us Be Here for You

The Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center continuously strives to provide meaningful programs that engage, inspire, and positively affect the entire community. From our "Play at the J" playgroup for toddlers and parents; to acclaimed speakers for adults, such as Israeli poet Alicia Ostriker or Professor Adam Mendelsohn's presentation of Jews and the Civil war; to family activities like Paint Your Own Seder Plate; and programs for seniors, such as our daytime Senior Seder, the JCC provides a wide range of programming for all ages and life stages. From Lunch and Learns on the JCC campus to Hanukkah Parties at the Harbison Community Center for our Irmo and Lexington neighbors, the JCC aims to create positive Jewish experiences for all.

To help us continue to serve our community in the most relevant ways, volunteers will be calling as many of our community members as we can reach to review the brief survey listed below. If you prefer, you may mail or email your responses to the JCC, although we would enjoy the opportunity to speak with you. Our mailing address is The Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC, 306 Flora Dr., Columbia, SC 29203. You may also email to barrya@jcccolumbia.org.

Thank you in advance, and we look forward to seeing you at the JCC!

Barry Abels

Executive Director of the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

1. Do you feel that our JCC is an important part in the life of our Jewish community?

Very important Important Somewhat important Not important Why?

2. Is the JCC important to you personally?

Very important Important Somewhat important Not important Why?

3. Do you use the JCC facilities or do you attend programs there?

Please give examples.

4. Moving forward, the JCC wants to ensure we provide value to our entire Jewish community.

What programs and services could we provide that would be meaningful for you and your family?

Generations of the Lifchez Family Impact Columbia

Debbie Bloom, Richland Library



At the turn of the 20th century, Columbia, South Carolina was experiencing significant expansion through suburban growth. An increasing population provided greater opportunities for entrepreneurs. Hebrew immigrants were among the new class, one of whom was Nathan Lifchez. As the newly-opened Ellis Island was welcoming its first immigrants Nathan made the arduous journey from Russia to the United States in 1892. According to family lore, Nathan was sponsored and brought to South Carolina by a W.E. McNulty, who found employment for the new immigrant in a Prosperity, SC furniture store. (This may be W.E. McNulty, former Confederate soldier, who owned a shoe store in Columbia. He often traveled north to purchase merchandise.)

By 1899 Nathan owned his own dry goods and wholesale store in the 1300 block of Assembly Street, which became a family business when his wife and children followed him to America. His three sons, Moses, Aaron and Isaac, and his wife, Lila, eventually made their home at 1003 Assembly Street in an eight-room residence on the southwest corner at Pendleton Street. The family quickly made their business a success. By 1901 Nathan asked the City of Columbia for an additional license to be a junk dealer and to build a storage facility on his property. Their success continued in 1903 when a new, American-born, daughter, Naomi, joined the family. *Pictured left: Nathan Lifchez with his family. Standing left to right: sons Aaron, Isaac, Moses. Seated left to right: Nathan, daughter Naomi, wife Lila. c. 1908, courtesy of David Fechter.*

Nathan Lifchez died in 1920, and The State newspaper reported, "Jewish Merchant Left Big Estate." While Nathan was generous to his family, he also left charitable legacies to several Jewish institutions. Columbia is still benefitting from the generosity of the Lifchez family through a donation to the Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative by Raymond Lifchez, Professor of Architecture at the University of California Berkeley and a professional scholar whose ties to the capital city and to his family prompt yearly visits from his home in California. Raymond Lifchez's recollections of Columbia during the early 20th century have enriched the understanding of this period in the city's past, meanwhile catalyzing further inquiry into the role that the Jewish community has had in shaping the city's future. He is interested in resuming old ties to Columbia and can be contacted at lifchez@berkeley.edu.

If you are interested in learning more about the **Columbia Jewish Heritage Initiative** and/or getting involved, please contact Robin Waites, Executive Director, Historic Columbia at 803.252.7742 ext 14 or rwaites@historiccolumbia.org.



Jerry, Sue and David Kline meet with Senator Joe Wilson at the AIPAC Policy Conference. See page 9 for full story.



President Obama may not have attended the J Street Convention, but Sam Baker did! See page 9 for full story.

Report from AIPAC

John Baker, CJF President

Barry Abels, CJF Executive Director

In early March the 2015 AIPAC Policy Conference was held in our nation's capital, Washington DC. The annual Policy Conference is the largest gathering of supporters of Israel anywhere, and this year saw a record breaking attendance with over 16,000 participants.

Attendees were a mix of ages, religious traditions and ethnic backgrounds. Jewish attendees spanned movements, from non-denominational to Orthodox. Over 3,000 of those who attended consider themselves progressive. This year's group was one of the most diverse in AIPAC's history, but with the important commonality of both supporting the state of Israel and a dedication to continuing to build a strong relationship between Israel and the United States.

Aside from the plenary sessions, which included presentations from UN Ambassador Samantha Power, Senator Menendez, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, former, Senator Joe Lieberman, as well as Prime Minister Netanyahu, there were literally hundreds of breakout sessions including one featuring our Columbia Mayor, Steve Benjamin. Participants discussed the boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movements, the Iran nuclear talks, and also attended sessions to prepare those who were visiting their senators and representatives. There were also many who attended workshops presented by college students and student advisers that considered themselves very progressive and supportive of Israel, addressing issues regarding anti-Israel demonstrations on campus.

The conference culminated with visits to senators and representatives. South Carolinians attended from across the Palmetto state, and the state's delegation was well covered. It was a nonstop affair and an experience well worth the time and effort.

AIPAC's mission is to help ensure a strong relationship between the US and Israel by educating Congress and citizens about how both countries benefit. AIPAC staff also keeps people informed about legislation impacting Israel and the United States and encourages letter writing, faxing and calling congressional representatives. AIPAC does not take stands on issues within Israel, whether that means a stand on settlements or who wins seats in the Knesset, and does not support candidates in U.S. elections.



AIPAC lobbies Congress to help secure support for a foreign aid package of \$3.1 billion to Israel. Israel is required by Congress to spend 75% of this military aid package with U.S. contractors. This of course is a boost for our economy and keeping American workers employed.

Pictured left: John Baker with Senator Joe Wilson

Report from J Street

Sam Baker

Washington, DC has an I Street and a K Street. It also got a J Street when the J Street Convention came to town March 21-24, 2015.

J Street bills itself as a pro-Israel, pro-peace lobby. It is pro-Israel in the sense that it is committed to Israel's survival as a Jewish state and advocates for a two-state solution. When Denis McDonough, President Obama's Chief of Staff, told the convention that the U.S. commitment to Israel's security "will not waiver" the crowd stood up and cheered.

Over 3,000 people attended the convention, including over 1,000 students. Thirty Hillel chapters were represented. Hillel delegates from South Carolina included me and a student from Charleston.

Saeb Erekat, chief negotiator for the PLO in the 1990s and now chief negotiator for Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority, stated that the Palestinian Authority would accept having Israel and a demilitarized Palestinian state divide the land, based on the 1948-1967 border (the "Green Line") with land swaps. Erekat did want the capital of the Palestinian state to be located in Jerusalem. He countered the claim that Israel has no partner for negotiating peace. He stated that Palestinian factions that are willing to accept Israel need to be reinforced.

J Street advances the idea that cooperation is possible between Israelis and Palestinians. They did so at the convention by bringing in speakers and exhibitors from Israeli-Palestinian organizations. Most poignant was The Family Circle, an organization of about five hundred Israelis and Palestinians who have lost loved ones in the conflict. After they spoke, the two speakers, Israeli and Palestinian, walked off stage arm-in-arm, to a standing ovation.

J Street considers itself to be the most effect counter to boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS), because J Street and its affiliated groups provide alternative actions for people who want to promote Palestinians' rights. Members of the Knesset at the conference pointed out that BDS would mainly hurt Israelis and Palestinians who favor two states. The Israeli Right and the Palestinian extremists get ample support from the outside.

Numerous American political figures addressed the convention. On lobbying day, our small South Carolina delegation had an appointment with Democrat James Clyburn's office.

The Reform movement was well-represented at J Street. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, spoke at the opening session, showing by his presence and his words that he supports what J Street supports. There was no headline speaker from the Conservative movement, but there were Conservative rabbis and cantors present. They noted that Conservative rabbis who favor the two-state solution tend to stay away from J Street and keep quiet, so as not to divide their congregations.

Iran was the other major topic at the convention. J Street supports negotiations as the best way to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons. That sentiment was echoed by Thomas Pickering, Ambassador to Israel under Ronald Reagan. A retired Israeli General, Shlomo Brom, told us that Israel could succeed in bombing Iran. The problem would be political; we don't know how such a war would end.

For more about J Street, go to jstreet.org.



Cool Down with Ice Cream & More at the JCC

*Laurie Slack,
JCC Jewish Programs Director*

It's been a busy spring thus far at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center, and we're planning an amazing summer and beyond for our members and the general community. We will be at The Big Nosh™ on May 3, so drop by the JCC & Federation booth to say hello! On Wednesday, May 6, Play at the J will meet at 10:30 am to celebrate Lag B'Omer. Be prepared for fun games and activities for your favorite preschooler. Craft & Kvell will meet for the last time on May 17, before a summer hiatus, starting at 8:30 am; all are welcome join us for a morning of crafting and conversation.

What I'm looking forward to the most, though, is celebrating Shavuot by building a giant ice cream mountain and retelling the story of Moses receiving Torah on Mount Sinai using tasty toppings as props. With whipped cream clouds, thunderous sprinkles, and butterscotch lightning, we will join Gingerbread Man Moses on his quest up stormy Mount Sinai to receive two Milano cookie tablets. What delicious toppings will we have this year as part of the story? You'll have to attend to find out! Of course, we eat the mountain afterwards, so be prepared to enjoy the delicious dairy taste of Shavuot. This year we will tell the story at 2 pm on Sunday, May 24. Please RSVP by emailing me at lauries@jcccolumbia.org or calling 787-2023. The mountain will get bigger the more people we have, so be sure to let me know you're attending and also invite your friends. This is a speedy program (ice cream melts, after all!) so please arrive on time so you don't miss anything.



Children look on as the story of Moses is told with ice cream.

We have some fun new programs coming up this summer as well. Mark your calendar for Thursday, July 30 in the early evening as we'll be having a special family dance party to celebrate Tu B'Av, the Israeli Holiday of love. You'll find more details in the next issue of the *Columbia Jewish News*, but until then, be sure to save the date.

We're always adding more programming to our calendar, so be sure to visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/jcccolumbia, and our website, www.jcccolumbia.org, to see what we have going on. We'll be adding some great adult educational programming to the calendar very soon!

Dr. Josef Olmert answers: What Is Wrong Between Israel and the US?

The Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center is excited to announce a third installment of our Lunch and Learn talks with Dr. Josef Olmert on **Monday, June 8 at 11:30 am at the JCC**. Bring your lunch and enjoy an hour of discussion entitled "What is Wrong Between Israel and the US." Topics will include the controversy over Iran, The Obama-Netanyahu conflicts, and a review of the overall relationships including: Congress, the media, Academia, Evangelical Christians, and the Jewish community.

These talks have been quite popular, so please RSVP to lauries@jcccolumbia.org or call 787-2023 to reserve a seat at the table. This event is free and open to the entire community.



Dr. Josef Olmert is an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Carolina, Huffington Post columnist, and Director of the Government Press Office and Advisor to then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during the first Gulf War,

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13th Annual Golf Classic

The JCC's 13th Annual Golf Classic on Sunday, March 22, 2015 is an annual tradition that raises funds to support the various programs and services at the Jewish Community Center. We would like to congratulate our winners and thank all of the sponsors, golfers, and staff who contributed to the success of this event.

Congratulations to the Tournament Winners!

John Sullivan, Kyle Strasburger, Sean Sullivan, and Courtney Leavitt (pictured below) won 1st Place Net Score Award, and whose names will be engraved on our Golf Tournament Trophy.



Patrick Sullivan, Chris Havens, Don Miller, and Kevin Carter won 1st Place Gross Score Award.

Sue Kline (pictured right with Heidi Lovit) won both the Ladies' Closest to the Pin and the Straightest Drive.



Joel Gottlieb won the Men's Closest to the Pin on the front 9, and Steve Frieland won the Men's Closest to the Pin on the back 9.

Clay Connell won the Longest Drive.



Pictured above: Steve Savitz, Bob Blenner, Barry Bornstein and Steve Frieland enjoying the game.

Thank you to our sponsors who ensured our tournament was a success. Many of our sponsors have supported this event for years. We appreciate our sponsors for supporting the JCC and this event.

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Roger Blau
Bruce Filler
David Kulbersh
David Lovit***
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Daryl Giddings***
Mark Goldenfield***
Joseph Golson
Swinton Hudson**
Eli Hyman**
Jeffrey Miller***
Harvie Nachlinger***
Everett Ness (OBM)
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Donald Portnoy
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Selma Dickman
Roberta Friedland***
Sandra Friedman
Connie Ginsberg***
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Suzy Herzog***
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Cheri Shapiro
Julie Strauss
Risa Strauss***

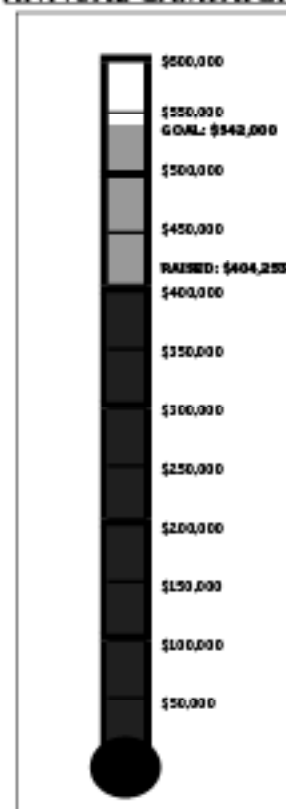
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Sharon Batey
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Helen Bellah***
Cydney Berry
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Sherman***
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**2015
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**



*As of April 22, 2015
** First-Time Donors
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from 2014 Campaign



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WHEN

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7:00-8:30 p.m.
Beginning May 6th

LOCATION

Chabad of South Carolina
2509 Decker Blvd
Columbia, SC 29206

FEE

\$85

MORE INFO/ REGISTER

803-237-7330
chabadofsc.com/jli

Another Successful Year at CJDS!

Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D., CJDS Principal

Cutler Jewish Day School has served our community for twenty-three years! The school started in 1992 with twelve students. Next year projected registration is over 150 children. In 1992 the school served two- and three-year-olds. Next year the school will serve children birth through fifth graders. However, the school's success should not primarily be judged by numbers but by the wonderful care and education provided for the children. Here are a few examples of indicators of excellence based on goals in the school's mission statement:

Academic Rigor through inquiry

- Over 95% of fifth graders are accepted into the middle school program of their choice.
- CJDS had more pieces of work published in Richland County Public Library's 2015 Kids in Print Journal than any other school.
- Most important is that each child feels successful and loves learning.

Active Nurturing

- This year the school has increased communication with almost every class receiving weekly emails, blog posts, or website updates.
- Our PTO has done a great job offering coffee mornings, monthly play dates, town hall meetings, documentary discussions, and other community-building activities.
- Most important is that the CJDS staff is doing their best to understand each family's goals for their child and meeting these needs.

Praxis/Social Justice

- The school has helped multiple *tzedakah* causes this year.
- Most important is the immense amounts of time children discuss ideas of social justice.

Jewish Life Skills

From preschool to elementary school, children are immersed in Judaism and Hebrew. The children are getting a wonderful education in Jewish values and *mitzvot*, a love for Israel, and elementary students are Hebrew experts.

This success is due to the great partnership between CJDS families, staff, board members, and community supporters! We wish all the CJDS families and friends a great summer!



BSS Religious School Welcomes You

Alon Segal, Religious School Director

Lora Stein, Teacher

There is a nest atop one of the columns of my front porch. I watched for weeks as two birds traveled back and forth bringing beaks filled with dried grass, string, twigs and other debris.

I watch them do this each year, and yet I still marvel at their dedication to building a home for their soon-to-be family. I wait with anticipation for the tiny eggs to hatch, and as they are in a spot that I can see with some ease, I am blessed with watching the parent bird's hard work come to fruition.

Now is when the real work begins. Raising babies is the hardest job that any parent will ever do.

Birds do not have families and communities to help them care for, raise and guide their children. Humans do.

Synagogue and Religious School can be an integral part of family life. From Shalom Baby, to post B'Nai Mitzvah, year after year, your Columbia Jewish Community offers events and programming to support Jewish family values. Beth Shalom Religious School welcomes families with children as young as 18 months in our Torah Tot program, and many of our post B'Nai Mitzvah students continue to join us on Sundays as Madrichim (assistant teachers) in our classrooms.

In addition to Torah study and Hebrew, and with so many holidays to explore and celebrate throughout the school year, our students are active and engaged learners. Our programming also includes a monthly Shabbat Playtime Puppet Show for young children during Shabbat morning service and a monthly family-led Shabbat Mishpacha (Family) service.

We look forward to seeing our returning students and families, and we welcome new families with great joy. Religious School registration papers will be available in the Beth Shalom Office beginning in May, with an early bird discount offered if completed by July 1.



Beth Shalom Art Auction

Sunday, May 3 | 6:00 pm
at the Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC

Visit www.trocadero.com/lavand97

Items will be available for preview, and Andy van Dam will be on hand to discuss provenance at the JCC:

Friday, May 1, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, May 2, 2:00 - 5:00 pm



Beth Shalom Synagogue | 5827 N. Trenholm Rd.

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2015
11:30 am-1 pm

BINGO Extravaganza!

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 2, 2015
11:30 am-1 pm

"Name That Musical"

featuring Larry Needle and Michael Corvi -
Accompanied by Ellen Monahan at the piano

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.

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



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

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.

Celebrating Summer Holidays at TOL

Risa Strauss, Education Director

It is always difficult to believe that the end of the Religious School year is practically upon us. It always comes way too quickly and yet always brings with it so many activities and events that help celebrate who we are as a people and a nation. Smiling, engaged faces are our goal, and we know that the months of May and June will provide ample opportunity for all to strengthen their Jewish identity. During the Hebrew month of Iyar, we celebrate Israel's Independence on Yom Ha'atzmaut; we rejoice in our freedom to study and grow with the holiday of Lag B'Omer; and we observe the reunification of Jerusalem with Yom Yerushalayim. In the Hebrew month of Sivan, we celebrate Shavuot. This holiday is a summer festival, rejoicing in our first fruits and the receiving of the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai, so many generations ago. Tree of Life wishes our 10th Grade Confirmation Class, and their teachers and families, a hearty Yasher Koach and Mazal Tov on the occasion of their Confirmation on Shavuot, Sunday morning, May 24th!

Please join us in celebrating
the Tree of Life Congregation
Confirmation Class of 2015

Spencer Amado
Stephanie Carr
Oliver Chartock
Micah Feinstein
Zack Kaplan

Jared Kerner
Alex Perales
Sarah Shtessel
Mikayla Vance
Rachel Weissman

Shavuot 5775
Sunday, May 24 at 10:00 AM
Kiddush Luncheon to Follow

Tree of Life looks forward to celebrating with our congregants in a variety of ways including appreciating our youngest Hebrew learners at a Kitah Alef /Bet Sabbath, welcoming Shabbat with our Sisterhood and TYG, and "gifting" our moms and other treasured women in our lives at our semi-annual Mother's Day Car Wash and Flower Sale.

May 3 is the date of our BIG NOSH Festival - our annual celebration of all things Jewish. We invite you to "get your nosh on" and join us at Temple from 11am to 3pm that Sunday for great food, great education, great entertainment, and great fellowship. Parking is ON SITE!

Our final day of Religious School for the 2015 year is May 17. As in past years, a special assembly,celebration and cook-out honoring our volunteers, teachers, and students will be held for all of our parents, teachers, students and friends in the Social Hall and backyard area at TOL. Much thanks to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood for their help with this endeavor.

Train children in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it.

~ Proverbs

We look forward to seeing everybody on the first day of Religious School in the fall on September 20, 2015. Tree of Life Congregation proudly educates children from birth through grade 12. We have a staff of committed parents and teachers, provide engaging classes, fundamental Jewish learning and Hebrew development, all while teaching and sharing cherished life lessons, leadership skills and values. We welcome you to join us!

As a reminder, this year, Erev Rosh HaShanah falls on Sunday eve September, 13.

With great sadness, we announce that our beloved Rabbi, Daniel Sherman and his family will be leaving Columbia at the end of June. Rabbi Sherman has accepted a pulpit in Weston, Florida at Temple Dor Dorim. Florida is home to much of their family, so we know that even though we will miss them greatly, they will be in comfortable and familiar territory with friends. We wish Rabbi, Morgan, Shai, Janna, and Oscar (family dog) much love and mazal as they make their move south.

Please remember to patronize our Seeds of Hope farmer, Louis Reid, this summer at his produce display every Thursday morning at Temple from the second week in June through August, 8am-12 noon. Last year we were the second highest grossing farmers' market venue! Please call the Temple Office at 787-2182 for more information.

At this time, we wish the entire Columbia Jewish community a summer filled with Shalom.

Newlyweds Robyn Bader & Morgan O'Donnell and Shayna Katzman & Dave Polen spend their first Seder as married couples at TOL.



Important TOL Dates

5/1: 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
5/3: RS, 9am-10:30am; BIG NOSH – 11am-3pm
5/8: 6:45pm, Kidz Shabbat; Youth Group Shabbat, 7:30pm
5/9: 10am, Shabbat Morning service and Torah Study, and Anniversary of the Bar Mitzvah of Mr. Alvin Steingold
5/10: RS, 9am; Mother's Day Car Wash and Flower Sale
5/15: 7:30pm, Kitah Alef /Bet Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper, 6:30pm
5/18: Last Day of RS, 9am-1pm with Lag B'Omer Celebration and Cook-out
5/24: Shavuot, Service of Confirmation – 10am, with Kiddush luncheon following
6/06: Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Tedeschi, 10:30am, Mazal Tov to Daniel and the entire Tedeschi Family!



Being a Jewish Teen BBYO Style

Rachael Bergmann

*Research Assistant at Bloomington Urban Forestry Research Group,
Teaching Assistant at Indiana University*

I was a member of Columbia BBYO from 2003 to 2007. During this time I served as N'siah, (president of the Lena Karesh chapter BBG), Dixie Council Aym-Ha-Chaverot (vice president of membership, also known as MIT-MOM) and various other offices.

Joining from the Tree of Life Congregation, BBYO introduced me to a completely different circle of teens in the Jewish community. I also met new people at conventions in other cities in our council and region.

I joined BBYO at the request of older members and, initially I was a member of both BBYO and NFTY (Temple Youth Group).

Over the years, BBYO became my community, introducing me to incredible friends and experiences for which I continue to be grateful.

My experience in BBYO defined my future path in both leadership roles and Jewish life. My involvement in BBYO helped me in developing effective leadership skills and in strengthening my confidence so I could succeed in various roles.

After college, my positive experiences in BBYO contributed to my decision to participate in a fellowship on Jewish learning and living. Being involved in a Jewish community, particularly in the Southeast, is incredibly unique and inspiring.

BBYO was my first influential Jewish experience, but surely not the last.



*Southern Region
Convention, 2006*

For more information
contact Jerry Emanuel at jemassoc@juno.com (AZA)
or Tammy Bergmann at tamtam9278@gmail.com (BBG)



TODAH RABAH!

The Columbia Jewish Federation would like to thank the students of USC Hillel and AEPi for volunteering their time to place calls during Super Sunday.

They raised over \$25,000 for Federation's Annual Campaign!

Hillel Winds Down a Full, Fun Year

Elyse Bodenheimer, Hillel President

As the school year is winding down and students are getting ready for summer break, Hillel at the University of South Carolina has been busy with programming and coordinating events. We have had Shabbat dinners every other week and hosted a Passover Seder. The full Seder included singing, and the meal was followed with great discussion. In Hillel 101, students have learned what it means to be a Jewish student on a college campus. Bowling and trivia nights have had some great turnouts, and Hillel is seeing more and more members come out to events. We held a service on Holocaust Remembrance Day, during which students lit candles in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. We also participated in Alpha Epsilon Pi's "Walk to Remember." Hillel at USC is thrilled with the turnout from this semester's events and is looking forward to all of the exciting events we will have planned for the fall. If you are interested in getting involved with Hillel at USC, please email hillelatusc@gmail.com, like us on Facebook (Hillel at USC), visit our new website at www.hillelatusc.org, or follow us on Instagram (@hillelusc).

Hillel would like to thank Michael Tucker of Chick-fil-A and Bruce Miller of Groucho's for sponsoring two of our Shabbat dinners.

Giving Time to *Tikkun Olam*

Nate Gottesman, AEPi Scribe

In the past months the brothers of AEPi have been very active in the community.



On February 20, along with the sisters in Alpha Gamma Delta, we held an event called Poker and Pearls (pictured left), which benefited Juvenile Diabetes Research and Education. We raised \$5,000 alone just from ticket sales!

On March 29 a few of our brothers assisted with Super Sunday, helping to raise funds for the Federation.

On April 12, along with the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha, we hosted a kickball tournament benefiting breast cancer research. Our chapter made over a \$500 donation to the Jewish Breast Cancer organization, Sharsheret.

On April 17 we organized a "Walk to Remember" across the USC campus to raise awareness for Holocaust Remembrance Day (pictured below).



COLLEGE LIFE (AEPi, Hillel, Jewish Studies)

YAD's Passover Seder

Michael Bank

On Friday April 10, I was honored to host a Seder on the final night of Passover for the Young Adult Division of the Columbia Jewish Federation. A couple of members of the YAD board and I worked together in organizing this wonderful evening. We styled a Kosher for Pesach potluck dinner and had 14 YADDies (and a very cute baby) over to my house for a final Passover Seder and comradery. A short ten-minute Haggadah was used, incorporating all the traditions of Passover!

It was great to talk to friends, old and new, as they were sharing different parts of their lives. YAD welcomes all young adults in the Columbia area! We had people just finishing up college, to people who were just married, to people starting new jobs, and even someone who just moved to Columbia a couple of weeks ago.

As a young adult in Columbia it has been great to have and be involved with YAD. It's wonderful to be able to regularly network with members of the Jewish community. I've enjoyed the happy hours, chances to have dinner with some of the prominent members of the Jewish community, and a chance to celebrate the holidays together!

Mazel Tov

Robyn Bader and Morgan O'Donnell

Robyn Lauren Bader and Morgan Alexander O'Donnell were married on March 21, 2015 at the Westin Poinsett Hotel in Greenville, South Carolina. Ms. Risa Strauss, Director of Education at the Tree of Life Congregation in Columbia, SC, officiated the ceremony. This loving ceremony was complimented by a joyous reception in the Gold Ballroom at the Westin Poinsett Hotel. Their bridesmaids, groomsmen, and guests danced the night away! A special glow and love for the bride and groom was felt by all. As the evening came to an end, a white horse and carriage swept them away.

The bride is the daughter of David and Marilyn Bader of Simpsonville, SC. She is a graduate of Mauldin High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Carolina. She is employed as a legal assistant at the law firm Rogers Townsend & Thomas.

The groom is the son of Gregory and Roxanne O'Donnell of Greenville, SC. He is a graduate of J.L. Mann High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of South Carolina. He is employed as a fiscal manager with the Executive Budget Office for the State of South Carolina.

A rehearsal dinner was held at Brick Street Café in Greenville. After a honeymoon in Saint Lucia, the couple will reside in Columbia, SC.



FAMILY FUN AT THE JCC

PLAY AT THE J

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 AT 10:30 AM

Celebrating Israel and Lag B'Omer

Put on your running shoes, because we are going to PLAY! Preschoolers and parents are invited to join us as we celebrate Israel and the holiday of Lag B'Omer with music, games, snacks, crafts, and stories.

FREE for JCC members;
\$2 fee for community members.

RSVP to lauries@jcccolumbia.org



JAWS Swim Team

Registration is taking place now!

For ages 4-12
Must be able to complete 10 yards of freestyle!

Member Discount: \$30 first child, \$25 each additional child
Community Rate: \$15 first child, \$10 each additional child

Practice starts May 12, 2015.

Contact Megan Lebrand, Registration Manager, for more information
800.831.2073 ext. 3061 meganl@jcccolumbia.org

Tu B'Av Family Dance

Mark your calendars! We'll be celebrating the Jewish holiday of LOVE with a fun-filled dance for the entire family! Enjoy a kid-friendly dinner, dancing, and activities with your friends at the JCC. Look for more details in the July/August issue of the Jewish News.

the evening of

Thursday, July 30th



Paint-Your-Own Seder Plates:

A Sellout Event!

Cheryl Nail, CJF Community Relations Director

Over 30 Seder plates were painted in April as part of a joint program of the Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC and PJ Library of the Columbia Jewish Federation. Facilitated by The Mad Platter, members of the community let their personalities shine through their one-of-a-kind creations, from Lora Stein's traditional Seder plate to the Saltzman family's super hero and Angry Birds Seder plates (pictured below). Participants had such a great time, they requested another "paint your own" event, which will be held Sunday, November 22, when we will paint our own menorahs!



Are you interested in a Mom's Morning Out? This program would provide your young children (ages 0-7) a safe, nurturing environment while Mom (or Dad) can run errands, do chores, or just enjoy some quiet time. Even superheroes need a break, too! The JCC would like to start this program; please contact Melanie Pace if you are interested or for more information: melanier@jcccolumbia.org or call (803) 787-2023 ext. 206. Once enough participants that show interest we will start the program.



Our Trenholm Road Chapel is now open and convenient to Columbia's synagogues, offering amenities designed to meet your needs.
7600 Trenholm Road Ext.

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Announcing a Short Film Competition for SC High School Student Filmmakers!

Make a short film with the theme: **Freedom: At What Cost?**

cash prizes!

1st place: \$500
2nd place: \$300
3rd place: \$200

Entries are now being accepted!

Deadline for entries is midnight
October 1, 2015!

HOW TO ENTER

- Create a short film using the theme: Freedom: At What Cost?
- Read the contest rules in detail at www.columbiajewishfilmfestival.com/shortfilmcompetition and follow them all.
- Upload your film to either YouTube or Vimeo.
- Tag your video with 'CJ Film Festival' once you've uploaded it.
- Complete and submit the official registration form found at www.columbiajewishfilmfestival.com/shortfilmcompetition

FILMS WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING

- Creativity
- Overall quality & production value
- Use of theme

CONTEST RULES

- Each entrant must be a high school student (grades 9-12) currently living in SC.
- Each entrant may only enter once.
- Films must be at least 2 minutes long, and no longer than 6 minutes.
- Films must abide by PG-13 guidelines.

QUESTIONS?? Email cjfilmfestival@gmail.com

A screening of the winning films
and presentations of awards will be at
the Nickelodeon Theater on
Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 3:00 pm. Filmmakers and
their guests will be invited to walk the red carpet!

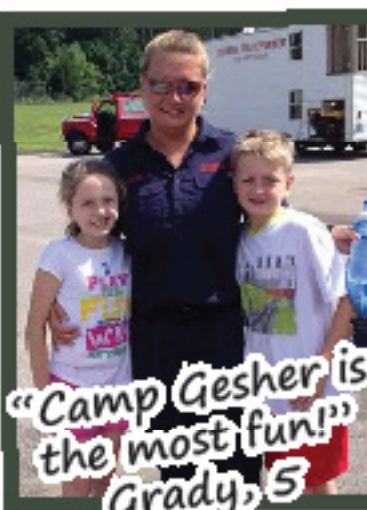
*Brought to you by the Nickelodeon Theater and the
Columbia Jewish Film Festival.*



"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 8 - AUGUST 14
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 Information available online at jcccolumbia.org or contact Camp Registrar, Melanie Pace 803.787.2023 ext. 206.

CAMP OPEN HOUSE AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR PARENTS AND CAMPERS: SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015 2 PM AT THE JCC.

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

