



COLUMBIA JEWISH News



Shevat/Adar I 5774

A Publication of the Columbia Jewish Federation

www.jewishcolumbia.org

Major plans for Holocaust remembrance, education in 2014

Lilly S. Filler / Lyssa Harvey



The Columbia Holocaust Education Commission is pleased to announce that the exhibit Holocaust Remembered will be presented at the Columbia Convention Center from April 10-21, 2014. It will then move to the State House from April 22-26, to be viewed by legislators and public. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate our legislators and we are thrilled that we have been allowed to do so. We want to thank Sen. Joel Lourie and Rep. Beth Bernstein for their help in making this happen. Following the display at the State House, we will bring the exhibit to Beth

Shalom Synagogue where it will be viewed prior to and following the Yom HaShoah Service on April 27, 2014.

We are proud to announce that we have added a Liberator, Maj. T. Moffatt Burriss, to the exhibit and his story, "Strike and Hold," of heroism and bravery will be part of the Holocaust Remembered exhibit. Maj. Burriss will be honored on April 22, 2014 while the exhibit is at the State House by a proclamation in both chambers. We have an American hero in our midst and we are proud to share his story. Please try to come by at least one of the locations to view this "growing" exhibit. Only through education can we ensure Never to Forget. An excerpt of "Strike and Hold" follows, and will be continued in the March-April Jewish News.



Strike and Hold: The Story of Maj. T. Moffatt Burriss (Part 1)

LIBERATOR: T. MOFFATT BURRISS

Born in September 22, 1919 youngest of 3 children; father died when Burriss was 12 years old. He was living in Anderson, SC and graduated from Anderson Boys High School in 1936.

June, 1940: Graduated Clemson University in Education

December 7, 1941: Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii

December 8, 1941: President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave the famous "A day that will live in infamy" speech before the U.S. Congress. The U.S. voted to declare war on Japan, as did Great Britain.

December, 24, 1941: Having a reserve commission in the Army, Burriss received orders to report to Fort Benning, Georgia.

January 26, 1942: First American forces arrive in Great Britain.

January, 1942: When Burriss watched from the bleachers at Fort Benning the training of para-troopers, deciding that it looked like more "fun" than being

Continued on page 8

Mentalist Sidney Friedman dazzles Columbia

CJF Staff

Mentalist Sidney Friedman of Chicago put his mind-reading prowess on display last month to help kick the Federation's 2014 campaign into high gear.

The mind-reader--Friedman has performed for Federations and Jewish organizations around the globe--first entertained the Young Adult Division (YAD) on Sat., Dec. 6 with his "freakishly accurate" (Wall Street Journal) mind-reading. Attendees were stunned to see Sidney make mental connections that had him reading everyone's minds with startling accuracy. Even the skeptics were impressed! The YAD event was free, but those present were asked to make a personally-meaningful pledge to campaign. We hope other YAD members will join event attendees in supporting campaign in whatever capacity they can.

Over the weekend, Sidney also trained nearly two dozen campaign volunteers on solicitation skills and how to effectively engage potential donors. Answer the call on Super Sunday: Feb. 16, 2014 and let us put our new skills to good use!

The women's campaign got off to a great start with Sidney Friedman too: He performed at an intimate

gathering of some of Federation's major women donors at the home of Barbara and Richard Blau--and Federation raised several thousand dollars in the process!

The Federation's 2014 campaign is well-underway. Make your pledge today!



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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 newspaper.

The deadline for articles, life cycle announcements, photos, and advertising for the March/April issue of *Columbia Jewish News* is February 10. Email articles to cjc@jewishcolumbia.org. Photos should be emailed as high-resolution jpeg files. Announcements should not exceed 100 words.

We welcome all voices from our community. If you would like to contribute to *Columbia Jewish News*, contact Ginna Green at ginnag@jewishcolumbia.org. The editorial staff has the right to edit all articles submitted for publication. Articles should not exceed 500 words. It is not guaranteed that all submissions will be published.

Changes ahead for Jewish News

Ginna Green

My 10-year-old son Isaac is a scientist par excellence, if I do say so myself. He especially loves studying zoology, natural history and evolution, and is fascinated by the changes that happen in nature and species over time. My six-year-old daughter Tziporah has an eye for design, and definitely knows her way around a canvas. Other than my husband and me, and their little brother Shlomo, these two don't appear to have much in common.

But I think they both would agree that it's time for the Columbia Jewish News to undergo a design evolution. We're overdue! It's been 20 years since I was in high school, and likely longer since the Jewish News has had a makeover. As part of an effort to update and improve our communications, including print, electronic and social media in 2014, the Federation will be working on revamping the look and feel of our beloved community paper in the first quarter.

We plan to revive and update previous features, such as "Ask the Rabbi," include more national and international and Israel news, as well as add new rotating sections like Food, Cultural Arts and Humor. We would love to have more community articles and op-ed pieces from readers of all ages—if you're interested in exploring a topic for the paper, reach out! We welcome contributions on timely and pertinent topics—but please remember to keep it short and sweet: 600 words is ideal. In addition, we're going to freshen up our design, improve our content, and use both to help fuel renewed social media efforts. We'll also be revamping our website, better utilizing e-communications, improving our Facebook presence and jumping into the world of Twitter. (You can get an early start at following me on Twitter: @GinnaCJF!).

Data from all sources indicate that most folks are going to be spending more time online and on various devices, not less; reaching our community through eye-catching print communications and online engagement will be important as we grow and work toward serving the entire Jewish community.

If you have thoughts about what you would like to see in the paper (or what you don't want to see in the paper!) please feel free to send them my way. The Jewish News is a community paper provided as a service by the Federation; comments and contributions from the community we serve are always welcome.

CJF
Directory

Contact CJF at 803-787-2023

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Go Digital!

In an effort to "go green," the Columbia Jewish News is now offering a digital subscription. Enjoy the same great news about the Columbia Jewish Community in your inbox. As a digital subscriber, you will receive an email when the newspaper has been posted online for viewing. Sign up at

www.jewishcolumbia.org.

For a complete and up-to-date listing of community events, visit our calendar:
www.jewishcolumbia.org/calendar

What Will Be Your Legacy?

Giving (tzedakah) is at the core of Jewish life. For millennia, Jewish dreamers have passed on that tradition to their children through their words and deeds. They have left their legacy in the organizations and services that have nourished us, strengthened us, and taught us during our lifetimes.



You learned well from their example. Through your generosity of spirit and resources, you have continued the sacred work of repairing our world. You have fed the hungry, educated the young, uplifted the lonely, protected the persecuted, and cared for the elderly. You have fought for justice and fairness and furthered scientific understanding. Whatever you have done, you have done with passion.

So how will you turn that passion into your legacy?

It's never too early to share your dreams and your passions with future generations. Call the Columbia Jewish Federation today.

Contact the Columbia Jewish Federation at 787-2023 or cjfoffice@jewishcolumbia.org to start a conversation about how you can join others in the *Create a Jewish Legacy* effort.

**Your dreams...your passion...
your legacy.**

SAVE THE DATE



Tree of Life Congregation
Jewish Food & Cultural Festival

Sunday, May 4, 2014

It's the right thing to do!

Naomi Farber, CJF President

"May those who need tzedakah find it and use it to improve their lives."

This is the prayer of a Jewish child in our community on the first night of Chanukah. This young person, a student at one of Columbia's religious schools, has learned that giving of ourselves to those in need is one of the most important commandments: the obligation of Tzedakah.

We tend to think of tzedakah as meaning "charity," a benevolent act of generosity toward the needy by those who are wealthier. However, tzedakah comes from a Hebrew word that more accurately means righteousness, justice, or fairness. The act of tzedakah, in short, is not only the right thing to do: it is what we are called to do.

But as we are no longer living in small communities like those in Europe from which many of our families originally came, it is not always easy to identify who is in need. Organizations like the Columbia Jewish Federation, representing the interests of all members of the wider community, fill that void, and make it our responsibility to know what form of assistance is needed, by whom and when. The Federation, in its role as our "community chest," expresses the values and priorities of the Jewish community by giving allocations to Jewish organizations. Through the social service arm of the Federation, Jewish Family Services, we provide direct assistance to individuals and families with a wide range of immediate and long-term needs.

Turning to some of the classmates of the child whose prayer is mentioned above, we find a remarkable treasure trove of generous prayers that reflect the Federation's work.

"I hope there will be no starving families for at least 1 week!"

Jewish Family Service maintains a food pantry that is available to all, regardless of religious identity. Each month, because of the generosity of community members, several families utilize this necessary community resource.

"Try to help out homeless people"

The Federation maintains an emergency fund that provides resources to those

in danger of losing their homes as well as other emergencies. Every year several Jewish families face the possibility of homelessness through loss of employment, illness, fire and other disasters.

"That everyone can go to school and learn"

The Federation supports education for Jewish students in a variety of ways: allocations to the Tree of Life and Beth Shalom religious schools; scholarships to Jewish students at the Columbia Jewish Day School; specific grant-funded programs in the community, and through the Jewish Educational Loan fund for college and beyond.

"Tzedakah helps plant trees"

The Federation dedicates significant resources to Israel, contributing to her well-being well beyond planting trees. We must all remain acutely vigilant to the continuing threat not only to Israel's security but to that of Jews worldwide where anti-Semitism is increasing. In order to deepen and personalize our relationship with Israel, we are revitalizing our relationship with Columbia's sister community in Israel, Hadera, and planning a mission for young adults and families this coming summer.

"Asking my mom for tzedakah. Then giving her some."

Tzedakah is an obligation, but one whose fulfillment brings equal benefit to the giver as well as the one who is a recipient at any given moment. Perhaps one of the most important and least noted benefit of the Jewish Federation is that by its very existence, we are given the opportunity to experience the mitzvah of giving. So when you receive an invitation to contribute to the Columbia Jewish Federation Campaign this year, it is my hope that your first response will be to be thankful for the opportunity to give, to greatest of your capacity. It what our children hope for, and it is the right thing.



Barry Abels

Last year at this time I was riding in a car on Trenholm Road, traveling between various appointments that were part of the interview process prior to being hired as your joint Executive Director.

Now, nearly a year later, I have come to see Columbia as a great place to live, and more importantly, to be part of a great Jewish community. I have learned much about our history, the parents and grandparents who helped make it so and who founded our institutions. I have spent a lot of time at Beth Shalom, Tree of Life and Chabad-Aleph House, as well as in many of your homes. I have heard much of our past successes and celebrations, and also about our challenges that face us today. It is those challenges that I think about and try to work on everyday through the JCC and Federation. I have had a number of conversations with our rabbis, both individually and collectively, to explore areas of events or programs where we might collaborate. I am working on putting meetings together a couple of times a year with the rabbis, educators and program staff to help us all get a better feel for how we serve the entire community-and promote Jewish continuity and engagement in the process. These efforts are important. One of the driving factors is the Pew study that we referred to in our last Jewish News. It was also the biggest topic at the General Assembly, the annual meeting of all of the Federations of North America.

This important study investigates how many of us consider ourselves Jewish by religion. I am not referring to who practices Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or other streams of Judaism, but who identifies as having any level of observance, religious affiliation or faith, based on our Torah, our Jewish history and our religious practices. My friends, the number is shrinking.

With these concerns as a guide, many of the General Assembly's breakout sessions were devoted to developing strategies to address this critical trend. One session looked at how we approach our young singles and families. A panel of young leaders from around the country provided a clear message, especially regarding when they are new to a community: help us get involved, nurture us, help us create social experiences and service programs, but make sure we are educated and interested and engaged before you push membership, dues and pledges. Our own experience in Columbia with our Young Adult Division speaks to the wisdom of these comments. They have found ways engage each other with a variety of activities and now are asking to be on boards, help raise funds and become involved in communal life.

Your gift to campaign, volunteering to host others for a campaign coffee, making calls to donors are concrete ways to begin to impact this issue. Campaign funds the activities of our Young Adult Division, it provides scholarships to the Day School and we hope to subsidize a Young Leaders Mission to Israel early this summer.

Making a donation means making a way

A successful campaign will help ensure we can provide these opportunities and much more. This year we also are blessed that some donors have stepped forward to match new pledges or pledge increases, dollar for dollar up to \$35,000 above their existing gifts. Imagine the impact that an additional \$70,000 can have on our Jewish youth. Together we can do great things.

I invite each and every one of you to join in. It's the right thing to do. Thank you.



Save the Date:

**2014 Campaign
Super Sunday**

February 9, 2014

**Make the call.
Answer the call.
It's the right thing to do.**

There is no title for this article

Laney Cohen, JFS Director



The beginning of the year is a great time to look ahead and aspire to make changes where changes need to take place. I have always believed that in order to make changes, if changes are needed, reflection on the past is where it must begin. In looking ahead to where Jewish Family Service needs to be, and what needs to be accomplished in order to better serve our community, let us take a look at this past year:



We look toward 2014 with open minds, and open hearts. More rides for seniors, more food for our hungry, and more help to prevent homelessness. Along with these, we also are hoping to have more help with medical bills, and even some dental assistance (due to an outpouring of requests). Look for the J Fit Fair (March 20th) and Mitzvah Day too!

All of these will happen in 2014, and made possible by donations from our community. Very proud to say that we live in a community where people do care, and do give.

- Jewish Family Service helped provide over 80 rides on Senior Express in 2013. These are rides for seniors who needed help getting to medical appointments, going grocery shopping, even going to classes. By having our Senior Transportation Network in place, we have allowed people to continue to live healthy and independently.
- Jewish Family Service helped students all over our state secure over \$28,089.00 in no-interest loans from Jelf (Jewish Educational Loan Fund). These are students who met with JFS, interviewed, applied, and were advocated for acceptance by JFS for funding.
- Jewish Family Service helped several families within our community remain in their homes throughout the 2013 year. These are families who needed financial assistance with rent or utilities, and JFS was there to help. This was done through the gracious monetary donations by others in our community. It is a glorious thing to watch- Jewish community members stepping up to help each other.
- Jewish Family Service, with the assistance of Tree of Life Religious School, stocked the Jewish Food Pantry with over \$300.00 worth of food raised through Tzedakah which was collected from the Religious School students and a matching grant from TOL Boards of Directors.
- Started Rebuilding- our grief and loss group, as well as Game On (our weekly game day sessions)



Tuesdays with Friends

Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road

Senior Program—Everyone Welcome
Come Enjoy the Fun, Food & Friendship
11:30 am-1 pm

Tuesday, January 7, 2014
Featuring The Reggie Sullivan Band

There is no charge to attendees thanks to the generous donation by Nancy & Gerald Sonenshine - In loving memory of their fathers, Martin Leffler and Irving Sonenshine.

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Program to be announced

There is no charge to attendees thanks to the generous donation by Gail Anastasion, Jenna Baker, and Laurie Walden In loving memory of their parents, Lee & Pat Meyers Baker

Fun Fitness & Birthday Celebration!

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 Columbia Jewish Federation, 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.



Rebuilding

Every other Monday
beginning November 4th
6:30-7:30

Cost to attend Group is \$2.00.
This will go towards helping
Jewish Family Service.



Rebuilding

Rebuilding is a Group designed for those 25 and older who are going through a period of grief due to the loss of someone close. Join Debbie Cohn for a safe place to talk. Group space is limited to 10 people, though more groups will be added to accommodate everyone. The group will meet beginning November 4th until January 20. You do not need to be present for every group session.

Rebuilding
Group will be held at Beth Shalom Synagogue

Contact JFS for more information
Laney Cohen 787-2023 ext 220

Debbie Cohn is a Certified American Group Psychotherapist. She has her Masters in Group Analysis from Birkbeck College, University of London, and was trained at the Institute of Group Analysis in London, England.



A Beneficiary of the Columbia Jewish Federation



BBYO

BBYO newcomers welcomed in Summerton

Jerry Emanuel



Members make sandwiches for a Columbia homeless shelter

During the business meetings on Sunday new members of the order were inducted into AZA or BBG.

Dixie Council chapters got together in November with Atlanta chapters for Southern Region Convention. Nov. 22 - 24 Dixie teens joined members of Eastern Region for a junior/senior weekend in Charlotte.

The annual BBYO newcomers convention (AIT/MIT) was held the weekend of October 11 at the Bob Cooper 4-H Camp in Summerton, S. C. Joining the AZA and BBG members from Augusta, Charleston, Columbia and Savannah was Mika Stein, the 89th international AZA president. Stein is deferring his freshman year in college to provide leadership and advice to BBYO chapters world-wide. Among the activities youngsters participated in during the weekend were religious services, a scavenger hunt, team building activities, T-shirt tie-dyeing and business meetings. New members learned of the traditions, songs and programs of BBYO. They also took part in a community service project, making 175 sandwich lunch bags which were donated to "Transitions" homeless shelter in Columbia. Joining the conventioners was Happie Hoffman who taught the youth Jewish songs during the weekend.



Members roast marshmallows for s'mores

In December the AZA chapter bought Hanukkah gifts for a family through Jewish Family Services.

A membership drive is currently underway for the Columbia AZA and BBG chapters. Any Jewish teen from 8th grade through 12th is eligible to join. Contact Grant Kilgore (AZA) 00820933@richland2.org or Sarah Brotman (BBG) brotman.sarah@gmail.com.

For more information go to <http://bbyo.org/region/dixie> or www.freewebs.com/ps254.



Happie Hoffman leads the teens in song

You are cordially invited

to a private piano performance with

Marina Lomazov

*to benefit the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center
and the Southeastern Piano Festival*

*Ms. Lomazov's appearance sponsored by
Dr. Harold and Clarke Friedman*

**Saturday, January 18, 2014
7:00 pm**

**At the home of Robert & Jocelyn Burg
112 Cowdray Park
Columbia, SC 29223**

*Blue Marlin Signature Catering
Full Bar*

Dress: Semi-formal

*RSVP
Debby Mullen
803 787 2023 ext. 202
debbym@jccolumbia.org*

**Minimum Donation \$100 per person
Limited space available**



YAD



YAD hosts Chanukah potluck

Ashley Jones



More than 20 members of the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation came together to celebrate Hanukkah at a Potluck Dinner on Sunday, December 1st. Hosted at the home of member Evan Lowsky, the 20- and 30- somethings lit candles, said prayers and enjoyed doughnuts, kugel, and latkes.



Successful Mah Jong Tournament benefits JCC

Shelley Kriegshaber

Barbara Drucker won first place in the 2nd annual JCC Mah Jong Tournament, which raised \$1,335 for the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. Twenty women participated in the day-long competition, which was organized and sponsored by Ruth Rast. A lovely lunch was prepared by Chef Jim Stevens. Barbara's name will appear on a plaque in the lobby of the JCC. Congratulations, Barbara!



Rachel Silver, Wendy Sharnoff and Patty Tucker take a break from Mah Jong to enjoy a gourmet lunch.



THE MAMA DONI BAND!

"Funky Music with a Jewish Twist"

THURSDAY, MARCH 6 at 6:00 PM

Featured performers with the PJ Library and Winners of the Simcha Award from the International Jewish Music Festival

Join your friends and bring some too for a family-friendly evening of music and fun!

Sponsored by the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center, the Columbia Jewish Day School, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Tree of Life Congregation and the Columbia Jewish Federation Community Relations Committee.



Save the Date!

Thursday, March 20, 2014
8 am - noon

We will be promoting health & fitness, lifestyle, nutrition, creative crafts, demonstrations, healthy bites, entertainment, and hands on activities.

To become a vendor, sponsor, or for more information, call or email Debby Mullen
803 787 2023 ext 202
debbym@jcccolumbia.org

10% vendor discount for JCC members!



KATIE & IRWIN KAHN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
306 FLORA DRIVE, COLUMBIA, SC 29224
WWW.JCCCOLUMBIA.ORG



Photo Here



Columbia Jewish Film Festival

A Jewish Cultural Arts Event

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, February 23 at 3 pm

"The Return of the Violin"

A film by Haim Hecht

The screening will be followed by a live performance by Rebecca Hunter, Violin and Marina Lamazov, Piano and an interactive discussion following led by Saskia Coenen Snyder, Assistant Professor of History Kunio Hara, Assistant Professor of Music History Federica K. Clementi, Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature.

USC School of Music Recital Hall, Second Floor | 813 Assembly Street

This Event is Free and Open to the Public

Made possible by our sponsors:

The JCC Jewish Cultural Arts Program, The Jewish Studies Program at USC, The USC School of Music, The Kligman Fund, and The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina
Council on the Holocaust

KLIGMAN
Fund for Jewish Cultural Arts

Stay Tuned For Our Full Festival: March 30 - April 3, 2014

www.columbiajewishfilmfestival.com

JAWS Youth Stroke Clinic

Ages 5-17

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Beginner: 4:30-5:25 pm | Advanced: 4:30-5:15 pm

Member: \$30/session | Non-member: \$40/session

Each session consists of 8 lessons

Session 1 starts January 7 | Session 2 starts February 4

Session 3 starts March 4 | Session 4 starts April 1

JAWS Youth Stroke Clinics are designed to help those interested in competitive swimming form proper stroke techniques and increase swimmer confidence.

Contact Lindsay Agostini for more information
lindsaya@jcccolumbia.org | 803.787.2023 ext 306

JCC
You belong here.



Columbia Jewish Federation Treasurer David Lovit, his great nephew Jack Hendrick and JC Board Member Lyssa Harvey light the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center menorah dedicated to Murray Lovit. Dozens of families joined to celebrate the eighth night of Chanukah at the JCC with hot chocolate, sufganiyot and latkes hand-made by the JCC Jewish Programs Director Laurie Slack!

Aqua Yoga

Aqua Yoga can provide a calming and inviting environment with the natural serenity of water. Individuals with pain, injury, or physical difficulties may find Aqua Yoga to be a wonderful challenge without strain from bearing the weight of your body.

Aqua Yoga can help increase balance, strength, and flexibility while providing a new, different, and relaxing exercise.

"I feel better after Aqua Yoga than before." - Glow
"Aqua Yoga is so relaxing." - Norma
"Aqua Yoga is different and provides good resistance!" - John

Personal Training Package Prices Apply.

**Contact Fitness Member Services
for more information
803-787-2023 ext. 309**

JCC
You belong here.

Adult Stroke Clinic

Ages 18 and over
Tuesday & Thursday evenings ; 6:35 pm - 7:25 pm
Member: \$60/session ; Non-member: \$90/session
Session 1: January 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30
Session 2: February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

The Adult Stroke Clinic is designed for the intermediate adult swimmer to learn proper stroke technique and increase swimmer confidence. Swimmers must be able to swim two lengths of the pool (50 yards) with their face in the water. The clinic will be taught by a qualified competitive swimmer.

**Contact Lindsay Agostini for more information
lindsaya@jcccolumbia.org
803.787.2023 ext 306**

JCC
You belong here.

Continued from page 1

an infantryman he decided to apply. Burriss becomes a paratrooper. "This is the place to be, no draftees, all volunteers. We're an elite group, the greatest troops in the Army."

May, 1942: Began paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Georgia (although he had never before been in a plane) and graduated after the 4-week training program and only 4 jumps.

September, 1942: Promoted to first lieutenant and became Battalion S2 (intelligence officer).

March, 1943: Burriss' unit goes on alert.

May 10, 1943: Burriss leaves U.S. by ship and docks at the port of Casablanca, Morocco. North Africa was the staging area where the Allies prepared for the invasion of Europe.

June, 1943: Burriss' wife, Louisa, gives birth to an infant who dies within minutes. Burriss is in North Africa, awaiting the first jump into Europe. "The invasion of Sicily presented me with my first opportunity to fight the enemy, so, instead of entertaining fears, I was eager to get on with the grim business of war. I was determined to do what I could to defeat Hitler and return to my grieving wife.

July 9, 1943: Burriss boards plane for the coast of Sicily, but runs into extremely heavy anti-aircraft fire. His plane banks eastward instead of westward and the paratroopers become widely separated upon landing. Burriss could only find 2 other paratroopers and when they heard Italian spoken, they immediately attacked the enemy soldiers with grenades. Three U.S. paratroopers had been mistakenly dropped 55 miles from the target area. Luckily, Burriss and his 2

comrades were able to find and join a British unit who wanted to know if they were "Yanks." Burriss refused to be called a "Yank" and stated "I'm a Rebel from South Carolina and before I'd call myself a Yank, you'd have to shoot me!"

Part II will appear in the next edition of the Jewish News.



Camp *building bridges* Geshher

The Summer of a Lifetime!

Get Ready! It's Coming!

June 9 – August 15, 2014



Tree Of Life

There is not a title

Risa Strauss

After such a long winter break it's always comforting to come back to routine, and that means TOL Religious School and all the activities that are part of our TOL Education program. However, before we take you out of hibernation mode, we must say thank you to everyone who contributed to all the successful December activities and festivities of our school. Yasher Koach to our "KIDZ Shabbat" crowd, to all of the people who worked on the Chanukah Happening, to those who joined us at the Waterford Senior Center to help the residents celebrate Chanukah, and to all of our teachers, parents, and Religious School staff for their dedication, love, and help in making everything that we do possible. We are also so very proud of our Temple's involvement in a number of Tikkun Olam initiatives this winter, including raising funds and purchasing food to stock the JFS food pantry and providing holiday gifts to the Columbia Family Shelter. We thank Rebecca Jacobson, Executive Director of the Family Shelter, for joining us to speak about this very important facility in Columbia. Todah Rabah, as well, to Phil Kornblut, "Sports Reporter and Broadcaster Extraordinaire" for headlining at Sunday School for Adults in December.

The Hebrew word for "before" is kodem, and the Hebrew word for "forward" is kadima. Both come from the same Hebrew root with the letters kuf, dalet, and mem. The connection is clear. You can't know where you are going unless you know where you coming from. Our celebration of Tu B'Shvat, the "Holiday of the Trees," will be at the beginning of January this year and will provide us with a special opportunity to examine our "roots."

As no mention of a tree holiday is found in the Bible, we need to look to the Talmud for our first introduction to the concept of Tu B'Shvat. The 15th day of the Jewish month of Shvat (the Hebrew letters tet and vav, numerically equal 15) was designated as Tu B'Shvat by the great Rabbi Hillel in the first century CE.

Although Tu B'Shvat, also known as Rosh HaShanah Lellanos (the New Year of the Trees), is considered a minor festival, its significance is three-fold. Agriculturally and historically the festival in Israel arose from the need to indicate a particular day which would mark the beginning of a new year for a fruit crop. Tithing calculations were based upon this date and were very important in an agricultural-based economy. From a religious perspective we read in the Torah that once there was land, seed bearing plants and fruit trees were the first things that God put on the earth. Throughout Jewish history trees and the bountiful gifts they provide have prompted many a Rabbinic sage like Yochanan ben Zakkai, a disciple of Rabbi Hillel, to write, "If you are in the act of planting a tree and you are told, 'Behold the Messiah is coming!' plant your sapling first and only then go and greet the Messiah."

In Judaism, trees represent the essence of life - both because they are alive and because they sustain life by providing the food, shelter, shade, fuel, and oxygen that humans and animals need to survive. It is a tradition during Tu B'Shvat to eat seven types of fruit and grains that grow in Israel: barley, figs, dates, grapes, olives, pomegranates, and wheat. Many people like to plant trees in Israel at Tu B'Shvat, purchased through the Jewish National Fund. Some of us are very familiar with the "pushke," the ubiquitous JNF tzedakah box that has been around since the turn of the 20th century, in which we have all dropped our pennies. The JNF provides many educational

materials and programming to Jewish schools around the world all year long. By actively celebrating Tu B'Shvat, we become more aware of the wonders of Creation and the need to appreciate these gifts and use them wisely so that we, and the generations that will follow us, can enjoy a healthy world.

Sunday School for Adults

All are welcome to attend these free once-a-month adult education sessions. We meet at 9:15 a.m. in the TOL Library.

A bagel breakfast is provided.

- **January 26** - "The Ties that Bind Us: Improving Relationships Between Parents & their Adult Children" with Rabbi Sanford Marcus
- **February 9** - "Love in the Bible" with Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor

Our winter semester of Adult Education courses, including Hebrew, will begin the week of January 13. Visit www.tolsc.org for course descriptions and registration info.

Annual Blood Drive

Sunday, January 26 will be Brotherhood's annual blood drive. The last day to give blood and still be eligible to give on January 26 is November 26. Schedule your donation time at www.tolsc.org.

Join TOL for a Night at the Theatre!

You are invited to a special performance of *Clybourne Park* at Trustus Theater on **Thursday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets for this Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play are \$36 each. All ticket purchases benefit Tree of Life. Reserve your seats online at www.tolsc.org or via check made payable to Tree of Life. Visit our website for a full description of the play.

The **Sisterhood Book Club** focuses on books with a Jewish or Israeli theme. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every other month:

- **January 9:** On the Chocolate Trail: A Delicious Adventure Connecting Jews, Religions, History, Travel, Rituals and Recipes to the Magic of Cacao by Rabbi Deborah Prinz, meeting at Nonnah's
- **March 13:** The Other Half of my Soul by Bahia Abrams, meeting at Mediterranean Tea Room

There is no registration or fee - just show up! All are welcome. Questions? Contact Amanda Hamilton or Ilene King.

**Support TOL Religious School's Annual Fundraiser
Bartons' Miss Chocolate Passover Candy Sale!
Starts January 12, 2014 ~ Ends March 2, 2014**

Use an order form, available at TOL, or order online:
www.misschocolate.com ~ School Code: 704479

Celebrate Tu B'Shvat with TOL
January 10, 6:45 p.m. - Tu B'Shvat KIDZ Shabbat
January 12, 10:30 a.m. - Tu B'Shvat Tree Tumbler,
followed by a Tu B'Shvat Seder

All-Camp Day at TOL Religious School February 2
Students will get a taste of Jewish Summer Camp at TOL

Mazal Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah Ellie Feuerstein and Harrison Moses!

Important Dates in January and February 2014

- 1/22: *Clybourne Park* at Trustus Theater
- 1/26: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School for Adults with Rabbi Sanford Marcus, 9:15 a.m.; Annual Blood Drive; Grade 6/7 Family Life Program, 1:45pm
- 2/02: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.; All-Camp Day
- 2/07: KIDZ Shabbat, 6:45 p.m.
- 2/08: Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Moses - Mazal Tov to the entire Moses Family!
- 2/09: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School for Adults with Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor, 9:15 a.m.
- 2/16: No Religious School
- 2/21-23: NFTY HaTikvah Kallah: Grades 7 and 8 Convention
- 2/23: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.
- 2/28: Kitah Dalet Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper

For more info on programs, visit www.tolsc.org or call 787-2182.

Tikkun Olam Initiatives at TOL

During the month of December, TOL participated in a number of *Tikkun Olam* initiatives.

JFS Food Bank Collection: Yasher Koach to 6th- & 7th-grade Religious School students and their teacher Elisa Westfall for collecting \$300 in *tzedakah* to purchase food for the Jewish Family Service food pantry. BiLo generously donated another \$55 in gift cards, so that students were able to purchase \$355 worth of food.

Giving to Make a Difference: Todah Rabah to Religious School Board Member Jean Ginsberg, Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor, 8th-grade students, and all our congregants who helped make sure five families at Columbia Family Shelter have a happy holiday.

Sistercare Holiday Meal: On December 22, the TOL Brotherhood prepared and delivered a holiday meal to three Sistercare shelters, feeding approximately 60 people. Thank you to all our volunteers who made this initiative happen.

Beth Shalom



**Columbia Center
for
Jewish Learning**

Sponsored by Beth Shalom Synagogue

Spring 2014
February 6, 13, 20, March 6, 13, 20, April 10

Courses:

Course 1: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Visions of the Prophets Then & Now
Instructor: Hazzan Anna Fedrick
A Study of the Prophets and how their messages can be viewed today.

Course 2: 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.
Torah Empowerment: How to Use the Torah as a Blueprint for Life
Instructors: Various Community Leaders and Scholars
Learning how to use the Torah to lead an ethical and good life.

Call for Registration Information Today!
(803) 782-2500

*One course is \$70 for 7 classes
Two courses only \$100*

OPEN TO EVERYONE

BethShalomColumbia.org, 5827 North Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29206



**Columbia Center
for
Jewish Learning**

Sponsored by Beth Shalom Synagogue

The Columbia Center for Jewish Learning (CCJL) is open to everyone, Jewish and non-Jewish, who is interested in furthering his/her knowledge. While not a forum for proselytizing or evangelizing, our hope is to offer an opportunity for our students to explore various topical subjects that relate to Judaism and Israel.

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF CCJL COURSE/COURSES _____

(One course is \$70 for seven 1-hour sessions. Two courses are \$100)

Total amount paid (Cash) _____ (Check) _____

Please note that course fees do not include the cost of books or materials that may be used.

Are there any topics or classes you would like to see offered at CCJL in the future?

Please return completed form to Beth Shalom Synagogue.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Marlene Roth at malika9448@yahoo.com

BethShalomColumbia.org 5827 North Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29206

The Columbia Jewish Film Festival,
USC Jewish Studies Program, and USC School of Music present

an afternoon to entertain and educate on

Sunday, February 23, 2014
3:00pm

The extraordinary movie
"The Return of the Violin"

A Haim Hecht film

The screening will be followed by a live performance by
Rebecca Hunter, Violin and Marina Lamazov, Piano
and an interactive discussion following led by

Saskia Coenen Snyder, History Department

Kunio Hara, School of Music

F.K. Clementi, English Department

USC School of Music Recital Hall, Second Floor

813 Assembly Street

This Event is Free and Open to the Public

Made possible by our sponsors:

The JCC Jewish Cultural Arts Program

The Jewish Studies Program at USC

The USC School of Music

For more information: 803-787-2023
columbiajewishfilmfestival.com

Beth Shalom Religious School News

The morning of November 24th was filled with games, fun, stories and Latkes!



Students ages 18 months to 16 years, painted a life sized hanukkiah and competed to see who could eat a hanging doughnut with their hands behind their back! Our Pre School and Torah Tot students made hanukkiah to light their homes, and broke open a Hanukkah piñata using a mighty Maccabee sword.

The Ner Talmed after its rededication, and a "hands on" cooking show on how to make your own Sufganiot followed by sevivon competitions.



Chabad



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FREE WORLD

 A new six-week course from
The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute

To Be a Jew in the Free World:
The Struggle for Identity in Modern Times
Examine the personal and religious struggles of individuals and communities confronting the challenges of changing times: stories that provoke debate and shed insight into what it means to live as a Jew today.

TIME
Six Wednesdays
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Starting February 12, 2014

LOCATION
Chabad-Aleph House
2509 Decker Blvd
Columbia, SC 29206

FEES
\$75 (textbook included)

INFO. AND REGISTER
803.237.7330
rabbilevi@chabadofsc.com
www.myJLI.com

NO TITLE?

Rabbi Hesh Epstein

A chassid once asked his Rebbe, ““Rebbe, what is a chassid?”

Replied the rebbe: “A chassid is a lamplighter. The lamplighter walks the streets carrying a flame at the end of a pole. He knows that the flame is not his. And he goes from lamp to lamp to set them alight.”

This Chanukah Chabad was busy lighting the lamps of Jewish souls all across the city.

On Wednesday November 27th we kicked off the holiday with the amazing Chanukah Car Menorah Parade led by the Maserati Menorah Car driven by Joni and Shep Cutler. The parade was followed by the annual lighting of the Isadora E. Lourie Memorial Menorah at the State House chaired by Senator Joel Lourie, with guest speaker USC President Dr. Harris Pastides, greetings from Mayor Steve Benjamin, CJF President Naomi Farber, CJCC President Keith Babcock, the menorah was lit by the president of the USC chapter of AEPI Brandon Picow, pledge of allegiance was led by CJDS student Isaac Deutsch, and the benediction was delivered by Rabbi Major Chaplain Shmuel Felzenberg of Fort Jackson.

Sunday evening saw the lighting of the brand new Super Sized Menorah a 27’ giant menorah that now stands permanently outside the Chabad Aleph House. This Menorah was the brainchild of Fred Seidenberg, who years ago told Rabbi Hesh Epstein that one day he wanted to build the largest Menorah in South Carolina. And we did! Thanks to the incredible efforts of our engineers John Lowsky and Bener Amado, the fabricators Owen Steel and its President David Zalesne, and our project coordinator Jim Lamey, on the morning before Chanukah the menorah was erected. On Sunday December 1 Engine 9 from the



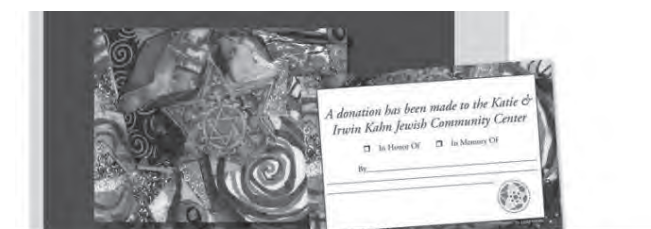
CJDS

NO TITLE?

By Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D.

Growing up in New York I played a lot of “Kick the Can” (a street game that city kids play), so a few years ago when the CJDS assistant principal, Kelly Stanton suggested our school begin a “Pass the Can” tradition I thought it was a PE activity! However, I was soon to learn that it was a wonderful experience in the Jewish ideals of tzadakah.

Pass the Can began with families donating canned goods for the Gamecock Food Pantry. We collected cans for about a month. Children spent the month checking on the progress of the quantity of cans and estimating how many items of food would be collected in total. The excitement grew all month as the children’s estimates grew higher and higher. On the pass the can day the children lined the hallways. Imagine 136 children giddy with joy as one by one cans were passed down our two halls out the front door and loaded into a van. Our music teacher Ms. Natalie strummed her guitar, children made patterns by passing the cans over and under, front to back, while dancing and cheering as the cans moved into the van. The fourth and fifth grade accompanied the cans to Gamecock Food Pantry. The children received a tour of the location and asked about their thoughts on hunger. They also helped sort the cans by food groups and expiration dates. I am always happy when an event can be a meaningful expression of charitable work as well as educational experience. One funny occurrence was the reactions of the one-year-olds in the passing of the cans. The ones grabbed the cans that they recognized and were very reluctant to pass them, chanting, “corn, corn, corn or chips, chips chips”! The activity was enjoyed by all ages!

A donation has been made to the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

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JCC
You belong here.

Columbia Fire Department arrived at Chabad Aleph House and with their bucket truck lifted John Lowsky and David Zalesne high into the evening sky to light the Menorah while dozens of families and scores of drivers on Decker Blvd. looked on in amazement!

Wednesday December 4th the last night of Chanukah Chaplain Shmuel Felzenberg arranged a beautiful celebration with the Jewish soldiers at Fort Jackson. Dozens of soldiers gathered at the Memorial Chapel and the General’s conference center to recall the story of Chanukah, eat latkes and doughnuts prepared by Mrs. Dini Felzenberg and spirited games of dreidel with chocolate gelt.

This was a Chanukah we will remember for a lifetime. We hope you were able to participate in some of our events, if your soul was lit up please pass it on to another and if we all light one candle we can dispel so much darkness.



Time really flies...

**when you are able to
have this much fun!**

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