



www.facebook.com/ jewishcolumbia

Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5772

A Publication of the Columbia Jewish Federation

www.jewishcolumbia.org

It's the new Columbia Jewish News!

The Columbia Jewish News has a new look and a new home! After many years of being published by the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center, the bi-monthly paper will now be part of the Columbia Jewish Federation. "Because the Federation is the umbrella for all of the Jewish organizations in Columbia, it made sense to us to undertake this endeavor as part of our ongoing effort to bring the community together," said CJF president Shelley Kriegshaber. The newspaper will continue to report news and activities from all organizations but will add more features and spotlight members of our community. The Federation's Community Relations Coordinator, Cheryl Nail, has been named managing editor of the paper. She is an experienced writer and editor and is pleased to have the editorial help that Doris Davidson, Shelley Kriegshaber, and Helen Silver have graciously volunteered. You can reach the editorial staff at crc@jewishcolumbia.org if you have story ideas or if you are interested in purchasing an advertisement. The deadline to submit articles to the paper is the 10th of every other month, the next deadline being February 10 for the March/April issue.





Annual Meeting 2011

Keith Babcock elected JCC president; Federation approves new by-laws and name change

A fond farewell to Howard Weiss as Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community president and a warm welcome to incoming president Keith Babcock highlighted the joint annual meeting of the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center and the Columbia Jewish Federation. Officers of both organizations were installed, and Federation members voted to approve new by-laws and an official name change to the Columbia Jewish Federation. See page 15 for details.









From top left: JCC and Federation leaders at the annual meeting; John Baker presents outgoing JCC president Howard Weiss with a special Tarheels souvenir; David Lovit installs new JCC president Keith Babcock; Federation president Shelley Kriegshaber shares highlights from Federation; Campaign co-chairs are recognized for their hard work.

Mitzvah Day is Coming February 12!

Passing on the Legacy of Charitable Giving: Celebrate Philanthropy Day with a New Tradition By JoAnn Turnquist, president and CEO, Central Carolina Community Foundation

Do your children and grandchildren know how you support the organizations you care about? You might be surprised to learn that if you're like most families, they do not.

According to the Giving USA Foundation, 84 percent of Americans gave to charitable organizations in 2008, and 75 percent of philanthropic gifts in 2009 were made by individuals and families. However, while most of us want to raise generous, community-minded children, research indicates that we are not teaching them or actively modeling behavior. A recent poll found that 77 percent of children under the age of 17 are not aware of their parents' giving behavior, or know that they give but not how or to whom.

This lack of communication about our charitable efforts is putting the next generation at a serious disadvantage. If we don't raise caring and generous children and provide them knowledge of the importance of giving to others, what will happen to the nonprofit organizations that make our world a better place?

Mitzvah Day 2012 is a wonderful opportunity to do what JoAnn Turnquist recommends and model philanthropic behavior for our children. Please join us on Sunday, February 12 as we participate in tikkun olam (repairing the world) by planting trees, improving living conditions, feeding the hungry, visiting the elderly, enhancing education for kids, and working with animals.

Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/QVZRWDY to register. To read more from JoAnn Turnquist and learn more about Columbia's Mitzvah Day, visit the Federation website at www.jewishcolumbia.org.

In this Issue



Published bi-monthly by the Columbia Jewish Federation

306 Flora Drive Columbia, SC 29223 803.787.2023 crc@jewishcolumbia.org www.jewishcolumbia.org

January/February 2011, Volume XXXIII, Issue 1

Shelley Kriegshaber, President Erica Serbin, Executive Director Elaine Cohen, JFS Director

Columbia Jewish News Editorial Staff

Cheryl Nail, Managing Editor Doris Davidson, Shelley Kriegshaber, Helen Silver, Editors

Contributing Writers

Dr. Marc Berger, Rabbi Jonathan Case, Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor, Jerry Emanuel, David Greenhouse, Nicole Ptashkin, Shira Reisman, Benjy Strauss

Production Services by Bruner Publishing

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 crc@jewishcolumbia.org. Photos should be emailed as highresolution 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 Cheryl Nail at crc@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.

Directory

Contact CJF at 803-787-2023

Cohen, Laney......jfs@jewishcolumbia.org, ext. 220 Nail, Cheryl......crc@jewishcolumbia.org, ext. 219 Serbin, Erica.....ericas@jewishcolumbia.org, ext. 211 Office Manager.....cjfoffice@jewishcolumbia.org, ext. 204

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



www.facebook.com/jewishcolumbia

What Will Be Your Legacy?

ring (tzedakah) is at the core of Je in the content of the



You learned well from their example. Through your enerosity of spirit and resources, you have continued the acred work of repairing our world. You have fed the hungry ducated the young, uplifted the lonely, protected the ersecuted, and cared for the elderly. You have fought for stice and fairness and furthered scientific understanding. /hatever you have done, you have done with passion.

So how will you turn that passion into your legacy?

t's never too early to share your dreams and your passions with future generations. Call the Columbia Jewish Federation

Contact Erica Serbin, 787-2023 of ericas@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.

The Year in Review



By Shelley Kriegshaber, President of the Columbia Jewish Federation

In my installation speech last year, you may recall I said that two sayings were going to guide my presidency. One was "what got us here won't get us there," and "I don't see reform or orthodox, affiliated or non affiliated, givers and non givers, native and newcomer, rich or poor...I just see one Jewish community." We've kept on the course of those two premises throughout this first year of my presidency. While we have traditions - and we don't want to mess with them -it was time to try new things to take us into our new era.

For so many of us who grew up with Federation, just the mention of it evokes thoughts of raising money - a campaign, a telethon - but it's really so much more. Don't get me wrong: fundraising is still central, but it's become more of a means to an end. That end is a thriving Jewish community - not just surviving, but thriving - vibrant, vital, compelling, inspiring. We are committed to help our traditional beneficiaries who are an essential part of our community, but in the past few years we're reaching out to organizations and groups never funded by Federation, such as the religious schools and congregational programs, Hillel, Young Leadership, giving camp scholarships, money for Tuesdays with Friends. Our Federation is becoming more about bringing people and organizations together, facilitating relationships, promoting collaboration and mobilizing resources. And we're doing this as creatively as possible. We know we can't afford to spend thousands on big name speakers, but why not help another organization bring in the speaker and we can do it together. That happened several times this year when we partnered with Chabad to bring in the Son of Hamas and Hunting Eichmann. We were one of several groups that helped sponsor the recent visit of Israel entrepreneur Jonathan Medved. They were each great community events because we did them together. One of our top criteria now when we give grants is if the organization is partnering with another Jewish organization to plan it together. If you attended the Steve Terner retirement party or the Distinguished Service Award this year, you had to have that feeling of community spirit - at both events we had a cross section of the entire Jewish community. I know I left both events feeling like this is what it's all about: this is like a large Jewish family. At Helen Silver's recent 90th birthday celebration at Beth Shalom, it was so fabulous to see a cross section of the community come out to wish her well. She is one person who has always been the face of the entire Jewish community and it was evident of the strong feelings this community has for her.

Heading into year two we hope to continue our mission of strengthening the Columbia Jewish Community. Of course we need dollars to do that, and at this time I'd like to thank all of you who have made a pledge to the 2012 campaign. We're working very hard to encourage all of the Jews in this community to participate. A special thanks to the JCC, which held its own telethon for our campaign. All of the groups that receive an allocation also participated in our first community telethon this year, which will definitely become a new tradition for Federation.

I want to take a minute to thank my executive board: Naomi Farber, David Lovit, Josh McDuffie, Barbara Blau, Howard Weiss and Esther Greenberg. It is truly a working executive board, and everyone contributes a lot of time and effort. I wish Howie all the best after his many years of service, and I look forward to continue working with the rest of my executive board next year.

Many thanks to Cheri Shapiro and Jay Friedman as they end their terms on the Federation Board. We are happy to welcome several new faces: Peter Kline, Carrie Raines, Adam Wolrich and Henry Miller.

I also want to recognize Erica Serbin. She has such a vision for this community, and we are fortunate to have someone with her enthusiasm lead our Federation. I'm most impressed with her budgetary skills; she has managed to find so many ways for us to get more bang for our buck, and you can rest assured that every dollar you give us is being spent wisely.

I'm also happy to report that one of my pet projects, the Columbia Jewish News, is back under the Federation. That couldn't be done without the leadership of Erica and her staff of Cheryl Nail and Jewish Family Service director Laney Cohen.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for allowing me to lead the Federation. It's been a year of learning how to lead meetings and understand by-laws. I have one more year of getting that part right, but again, it's all a means to an end, and that end is a more united and vibrant Columbia Jewish Community.

Columbia Flewish Federation news

From the desk

By Erica Serbin, Executive Director of the Columbia Jewish Federation



A New Year, whether the Jewish New Year or the secular New Year, is a time of reflection for me. Where am I now ... where am I going.... what I have accomplished professionally, as well as personally. This New Year also marks that I have been the Executive Director for the Columbia Jewish Federation (CJF) for a year. (As I write this article in the beginning of December, it is exactly a year since Steve Terner left November 30, 2010.) I am examining all of the things that I wanted to accomplish and what actually happened.

I came into this position, writing my first article about my goals/aspirations as the CJF director. Community building was one of my top priorities for this year. I also wanted to find ways to connect with Jews who may not be currently affiliated but seek a greater involvement with Judaism. My goal was, and still is, to make everyone comfortable identifying with Jewish organizations and to increase the active involvement of the entire range of the Jewish community.

I hope to achieve some of these objectives through our first community-wide Mitzvah Day on February 12, 2012. You should have already received a mailing about this exciting day where the community will come together (affiliated, non-affiliated, old and young) to give back to our greater community, sharing a day devoted to tikkun olam, repairing the world. We will all meet and eat at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center and then participate in various projects ranging from planting trees/cleaning up a local park to feeding the hungry, visiting the elderly, enhancing education for underserved children or working with animals. There will also be a component with Jewish learning, which is also a mitzvah.

This year we had many firsts that strengthened our community. We, as a Federation, recognized outstanding Jewish educators in our community and awarded one educator, Risa Strauss, with the national Grinspoon Steinhardt Award which will provide her with a stipend for continuing education. We also established a Steve Terner camp scholarship fund to assist Jewish children in our community with partial funding for Jewish overnight summer camps. In addition, we had our first ever Jewish attorney's event, where fellow attorneys met each other and networked.

The Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD) gets together monthly for various social events, learning and leadership. The Young Leadership division of this group held their service day with Epworth Children's Home, giving books and spending time with children who are currently living in an orphanage. The service project marked the graduation of the new class of Young Jewish leaders, and we will have a new program starting in the fall.

A few months ago, we launched our Shalom Baby program which welcomes Jewish babies to the community through a gift bag from the Federation, delivered by a Jewish community health professional. The purpose of the program is two-fold: 1) to provide Jewish resources for the parents (how to bring their children up Jewish), and 2) to make sure the new mom and baby are healthy and doing well. We have delivered eight bags to people thus far! We also have our growing PJ Library program where we distribute Jewish books/CDs monthly to about 100 Jewish children in Columbia. In addition, we gave each of the three congregations a book rack filled with Jewish books.

None of these programs would be possible without our campaign and donors like you. Our Annual Campaign's 2012 theme was building a giving community. We truly appreciate everyone's participation and generosity with this year's campaign. As I am writing this, we have exceeded our goal of 60 new donors with 79 new pledges who contributed over \$8,740, and over 160 people increased their donation this year, amounting to almost \$22,000 in increases. That is great community building! We also had our first community telethon where all of the agencies that receive an allocation helped us with phone calls for the campaign. We thank you everyone for helping us to build a giving community.

There are many more things we did this year, as well as some staff restructuring, legal name change, revising by-laws, etc. Laney Cohen, the director of our Jewish Family Service (JFS) has been working hard on setting JFS's new direction. Even though she has only been with Federation a little over four months, she has been doing a fabulous job serving people in our community who need assistance.

One big change this year is this edition of the *Columbia Jewish News*, thanks to our editor and Community Relations Coordinator, Cheryl Nail. We are trying to make this a community newspaper so please feel free to give feedback. (A directory list of emails/phone numbers is on page 2). Also, check out our new Facebook page (www.facebook.com/jewishcolumbia), which Cheryl set up.

While much has been accomplished this past year, there is still a lot more to be done. I am still as excited as I was a year ago when I started this position. We need to work on our website, our database, mass email communication and our Jewish Legacy program. By building a Jewish community Endowment, today's Jews can help ensure that the Jewish agencies locally and abroad will always be there for tomorrow's Jews. Each generation of Jews has planted the seeds to secure the next and we need to continue that tradition. Of course, we also need to continue to build community and help make the world a better place through tikkun olam. Thank you to everyone in our community who is helping us meet these goals.



YAD's Night on the Town

Young Adult Division

of the Columbia Jewish Federation

What is it that brings young Jewish Professionals together and offers community, networking, activism and, of course, the opportunity to socialize and meet new people? If you are thinking YAD, you are right!

YAD is a Jewish organization that brings together young adults in the community who are united by the most important bond of all: Judaism. It is a wonderful organization that offers the opportunity to see old friends, meet new ones, and build relationships. It also offers a connection to our community through volunteering and outreach. Whether it is for the High Holidays, the Annual Hanukkah Potluck Dinner, or a social get-together at a local Columbia restaurant, YAD is the thread that binds us all together.

Our last event was held at Pearlz in the Vista. The turnout was great, and we welcomed some new people to our community. Everyone mingled and had fun being together. It was great having the chance to catch up with one another and get to know others while watching the Gamecocks on TV cheering them to victory. Thanks YAD for bringing GREAT people together!

Be involved in Columbia...be enriched... be part of YAD. It's a great organization!

Contact YAD at yadcola@jewishcolumbia.org and someone on the YAD committee (Michelle Peterson, Stacy Duty, Carrie Raines, Lindsay Rabin) will get back to you. You can also visit YAD on Facebook for event information.

Registration for TribeFest 2012 is now open! If you are between the ages of 22 - 45, are interested in meeting other Jewish young adults from around North America, and would like to attend presentations by dynamic leaders in politics, entertainment, music, art, food, religion, and other aspects of Jewish life, then TribeFest is for you! The event will take place March 25 - 27 in Las Vegas. If you are interested in attending, please contact Cheryl at crc@jewishcolumbia.org. Subsidies are available!



Columbia Jewish Federation 2012 Honor Roll of Donors

Thank you for your support and helping us build a giving community!

Thoughtful gifts of all sizes make a tremendous difference in our ability to care for our fellow Jews - from our children to our seniors. It is still not too late to pledge to our 2012 Campaign. Please contact Erica Serbin ericas@jewishcolumbia.org or 787-2023 x211.

Below is a list of people who pledged to the 2012 campaign and are in good standing as of December 10, 2011.

Names in bold indicate donors who have increased their pledge by at least 10% since the last campaign.

Men's Division:

ZAHAV KING DAVID (\$60,000+) Shep Cutler

JERUSALEM (\$10,000 - \$29,999) Baker & Baker Family Jerry Kline Fred Seidenberg Stephen Serbin

PRIME MINISTER (\$5,000 - \$9,999) Roger Blau Bruce Filler **David Lovit** Herbert Niestat Edward Poliakoff

BEN GURION (\$3,000 - \$4,999)
Robert Berger
Morris Blachman
Sam Elkins
Emmanuel Farber
Henry Goldberg
Stanley Greenberg
Alan Kantsiper
David Kulbersh
Rick Silver
Gerald Sonenshine
Peter Stahl
Jack Swerling
Howard Weiss

MEN'S CHALUTZIM (\$1,000 - \$2,999) Michael Arnold Keith Babcock Harvey Belson Lowell Bernstein Alan Brill

Harold Friedman
Jay Friedman
Karl Goldberg
Joel Gottlieb
Jeff Gross
Harvey Helman
Hyman Karesh
Harold Kline
Morris Kline
Robert Kriegshaber
Phillip Levin
Manuel Lifchez
A.M. Lourie
Neal Lourie
Sanford Marcus
Henry Miller
Andrew Safran
Stephen Savitz

Joe Sharnoff

Michael Tucker

Samuel Tenenbaum

Abe Wandersman

MEN'S MENSCH (\$500 - \$999)
Frank Baker
Samuel Baker
Marvin Bienstock
Allan Brett
Bernard Fleischmen
Carl Freedman
Sam Friedman
Bruce Greenberg

Ira Greenberg
Pierre Jaffe
Melton Kligman
Richard Kline
Sol Kline
Ben Kranitz
Marvyn Milman
Ian Picow
Marc Rapport
Walker Rast
Jeff Selig
Todd Serbin
Steve Terner
Larry Weiner

MEN'S HaTIKVAH (\$250 - \$499) James Appel Gerald Breger Eric Elkins Rabbi Hesh Epstein Gerald Euster Sigmund Friedman Jay Kline Jr. Arthur Levy Joel Lourié John Lowsky *new Howard Nankin Larry Needle **David Reisman Howard Robinson** Joseph Rosen Rabbi Daniel Sherman Jeffrey Silver Sherwood Stark

MEN'S CHAVERIM (\$100 - \$249) Kenneth Berger *new Jonathan Case Sanford Daniel David Fischbein Robert Frank Ronnie Frank
Stephen Friedland Bernard Friedman Jerry Gibson

Daryl Giddings

Mark Goldenfield Joseph Golson Russell Haber Jonathan Harvey **Andrew Helfer** Gregg Helman Edward Hertz Jeffrey Jacobs Ram Kalus Joel Levy Ronald Maris

David Miller *new (OBM) Jeffrey Miller **Everett Ness** Ben Pearlstine **Gerald Polinsky** Alan Pollack Joseph Roberts Arnold Schraibman

Albert Schultz

Ned Strauss Steven Wagner

Howard Sheftman

Edward Shmunes

MEN'S SHALOM (\$26 - \$99)
Jeff Abrams *new
Peter Adelman *new
Richard Balser *new
Garry Baum
Herb Drucker
Leon Ginsberg
Jonathan Leader *new
Bernard Levine
Frederic Medway
Harvie Nachlinger *new
Donald Portnoy
Stan Ross *new
Jerry Rothstein
Gary Rudman
Michael Safran
Robert Scully
Randy Stark
Neal Sutker
Saul Wasserman
Joseph Weiss
Alan Witten

MEN'S BRACHAH (\$1 - \$25)
Max Babcock *new
Stephen Batey
Elchanan Cohn
Bruce Deutschmann
Michael Kozlov
Steven Langer
Henry Rothenberg *new
Alon Segal *new
Alvin Steingold
Saul Wasserman

Women's Division:

RUBY LION OF JUDAH (\$10,000 +) Joni Cutler Sue Kline

LION OF JUDAH (\$5,000 - \$9,999) Barbara Blau Lilly Filler Jane Kulbersh Donna Magaro Rhea Stern

POMEGRANATES (\$2,500 - \$4,999) **Kay Gross** Victoria Serbin Nancy Sonenshine

GOLDA MEIR (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Jackie Dickman Babcock

Toni Elkins

Katherine Friedman

Bluma Goldberg

Gloria Goldberg

Carolyn Greenberg

Esther Greenberg

Peggy Jacobs

Helene Kligman

Susan R Lourie

Heidi Lovit

Ruth Marcus

Eleanor Niestat

Nathan (in memory of Lilyan) Picow (OBM)

Sandra Poliakoff

Hannah Rubin

Jeannie Rubin

Ellen Seidenberg

Erica Serbin Helen Silver Rachel Silver Erika Swerling Inez Tenenbaum Patricia Tucker Katherine Wu Anny Zalesne

WOMEN'S KADIMA (500 - \$999) Melanie Baker Ann Lee Baron Beth Bernstein Bernice Berry Thalia Birch Penny Blachman Debbie Brett Joanne Epley Dolores Friedman Ellen Helman Ferne Kantsiper Shelley Kriegshaber Frances Levin Patricia Lovit Nancy Nankin Walton Selig Cheri Shapiro Wendy Stahl Aileen Sunshine Alice Terner Revera Wayburn Fran Weiner

Linda Ackerman Marcie Baker Marsha Belson Amy Berger

Janet Brownstein Sandra Euster Belle Fields Bessie Garber Lois Gibson Margo Goldberg Heide Golden Ina Gottlieb Elizabeth Gross Eleanor Hammer Jennifer Kahn Reberta Karesh Kathy Kline Rose Kline Sarah Kline Nancy Lourie Penni Nadel Cheryl Nail *new Marilyn Picow *new Helen Rothstein Jennifer Savitz Ella Schlosburg Linda Schoen Giddings **Amy Scully** Wendy Sharnoff Susan Stark

WOMEN'S HaTIKVAH (\$250 - \$499)

WOMEN'S CHAVERIM (\$100 - \$249) Barbara Berry Linda Blazek *new Susan Brill Arlene Cherney Selma Dickman Lisa Donovan

(cont. on next page)

JEWISH NEWS

Columbia Jewish Federation 2012 Honor Roll of Donors



(Women's Chaverim continued) Libbie Fechter Lyssa Fischbein Doris Frank Roberta Friedland Jane Friedman Sandra Friedman Annette Goldstein Lycia Golson Nancy Gottlieb Lyssa Harvey **Beth Helman** Saundra Hertz Ellen Humphries *new Belle Jewler Beryl Jaffe Gerda Kahn Blanche Kaplan Cindy Katz Gail Kinard Faye Levinson Barbara Levy Rebecca Loúrie Robin Lourie Abigail Magaro Beth Maris Faye Miller Mińda Miller Peggy Miller Marlene Mischner Shirley Ness Arline Polinsky Marilyn Safran[°] Sara Schoeman Dana Shenkar Susan Scouten Sara Spotts Julie Strauss Sue Sussman

WOMEN'S SHALOM (\$26 - \$99) Ruth Abramson *new Margie Arnold Harriett Bedinger Helen Bellah Rae Berry Linda Blank *new Joy Cameron *new Nancy Cartiff Sandy Cowen Rhena Denberg Ronnie Drucker Dorothy Eisenstadt Ann Gaton Meri Gergel Connie Ginsberg Gail Ginsberg Karen Goldenfield Terry Gomberg Carol Hansen Karen Haber Ina Rae Hark Suzy Herzog *new Susán Hitt Carolyn Hudson Diane Kall Paula Karesh Ilene King Cathy Kline Sally Langer Shirley Levine Nancy Lipton Jane Littman Susan A Lourie Joan McGee

Ethel Miller

Meira Warshauer

Gerri Lynn Miller *new
Annabelle Mischner
Arlene Pearlstine
Irina Plotkin
Barbara Rast
Nancy Reeves
Roselen Rivkin *new
Michal Rubin
Cindy Saad
Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor *new
Judy Small
Cindi Stark
Risa Strauss *new
Beatrice Weinberg
Leatrice Weiner
Ilsa Young

WOMEN'S BRACHAH (\$1 - \$25)
Cheri Alexander *new
Rimma Brandin *new
Carol Cameron *new
Renee Cohen *new
Sharon Cohn
Debbie Deutschmann
Marion Goodwin *new
Sheila Kaffee
Sheila King *new
Basya Lesov
Marlene Roth *new
Elysa Sexton
Alla Zurakhov *new

Family:

David & Kim Bannister *new Matt & Lindsey Bennett *new Marc & Julie Berger *new Noel & Tammy Bergman Robert & Sherrill Blenner Jay & Leila Bressler Gordon & Rebecca Cantor *new David & Jill Carr *new Dennis & Pamela Cohen *new Kevin & Laney Cohen *new Mark & Pam Crawford
Kenneth & Geri Cutler
David & Karen Fechter *new
Eric & Pamela Feuerstein
Steven Grosby & Naomi Farber
William & Laurelie Gabali *new Ron & Terry Garber Larry & Jill Glickman David & Deborah Greenhouse Alex & Barbara Grossberg *new Alan & Shannon Jolles Bobby & Barbara Kahn Alex Ogden & Judith Kalb Dennis & Beverly Kaplan *new Eugen & Elena Kaplan Talap & Liza Khasivetov Greg & Nancy Kilgore
Paul & Hannah Kirschenfeld Joseph & Vanessa Kligman Todd & Carly Kraemer *new Barry & Lynda Laban Joseph & Nancy Lipton
Levi & Devorah Marrus *new Gad & Bobbi Matzner Joshua & Joanna McDuffie Richard & Diane Mellitz Douglas & Irene Milliman Sam & Kim Moses Rabbi Meir & Sheindel Muller Justin & Michelle Peterson Shmuel & Carolyn Playfair Ron & Melissa Port *new Shane & Lindsay Rabin

Feliks & Sarra Rabinovich
Jeremy & Kala Raxter *new
Greta & Edmund Richman *new
Darryn & Karen Russ
Herman & Adele Salzberg
Gerald & Gail Schein
Howie & Emily Scher *new
Dmitri & Victoria Schoeman *new
Jack & Helene Selbiger
Dan & Athene Shoemaker *new
David & Meridith Shure
Jeff & Mary Silverberg *new
Aaron & Betty Small
Linwood & Judy Small
Ted & Anne Solomon
Steven & Bethany Sorenson *new
Hyman & Natalie Steckman
David & Debra Tedeschi
Scott & Jessica Thur *new
Arie & Naome Tishgarten *new
Frank & Barbara Volin
Ken & Laurie Walden
Richard & Nancy Wasserman
Jack & Sandra Whitton
Tristan & Ella Weinkle *new

We apologize to anyone who we may have inadvertently left off this list or listed incorrectly. Please contact the office manager (cjfoffice@jewishcolumbia.org, 787-2023 x 204) and we will include you in the next edition.

At the time of print, \$431,361 had been contributed to our campaign. Thank you for your generous support in helping us build a giving community!



| 600,000 | |
|---------|--|
| 575,000 | |
| 550,000 | |
| 525,000 | |
| 500,000 | |
| 475,000 | |
| 450,000 | |
| 425,000 | |
| 400,000 | |
| 350,000 | |
| 300,000 | |
| 250,000 | |
| 200,000 | |
| 150,000 | |
| 100,000 | |
| 50,000 | |
| | |





Lancy Cohen

As I look upon the past few months in this new role of Director of Jewish Family Service, I think about everything that we have accomplished: 55 Rosh Hashanah bags delivered to seniors, 50 rides given, and the start of the Tea and Tunes Program with 85 seniors in attendance. By the end of 2011, 57 Hanukkah bags will have been delivered, and the Ronald McDonald House staff will have been able to spend the Christmas holiday with their families due to the willingness of our community (all done by our amazing JFS volunteers!). The donation of over 200 pounds of food from Tree of Life Congregation and the JCC Weight Watchers group (43½ pounds!) to Harvest Hope Food Bank and JFS Food Pantry, as well as the donation of items from the Children's Garden Wish List by Jewish Community Center members, Columbia Jewish Day School, and both Beth Shalom and Tree of Life Congregations, have rounded off the list of a successful few months (whew, that was a mouthful). Another thing that happened in 2011 was that Jewish Family Service became an official site for The Benefit Bank. The Benefit Bank is a service that will allow individuals to (confidentially) prepare and file for benefits, such as SNAP (formally food stamps), Medicaid, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), FAFSA, and voter registration. According to the US Census, there is an estimated \$54 billion in unclaimed benefits that would be able to help low- to moderateincome individuals and families. It is my hope that people will utilize this service and access the assistance that is out there.

Looking forward to the new calendar year, Jewish Family Service is working on a few things. Soon, JFS will also be able to help file Federal and State tax returns. Coming in the spring, JFS will have another Tea and Tunes program. The first was so enjoyed by all, volunteers included, that we have decided to do it again! Also in the spring, there will be a call for volunteers to help with Passover deliveries. Be on the lookout for programs this calendar year revolving around caregivers, seniors, and job seekers. Thank you all for giving Jewish Family Service such a successful year. I am looking forward to making 2012 an even better one, filled with compassion and community.



Jewish Family Service's first Tea and Tunes was enjoyed by 85 seniors from the Columbia Jewish Community. The Front Page News Quartet entertained the crowd.



THANK YOU FROM THE COLUMBIA JEWISH FEDERATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED!

General Donations since October Ava Goodwin

Community Development Jerry Kline to Shalom Baby and Young Leadership

Donations to Jewish Family Services

Jerry Kline to Tzedekah Fund and other JFS programs Fred & Ellen Seidenberg, a Mazel Tov to Ben and Molly Beth Kranitz

on the birth of a new daughter

Fred & Ellen Seidenberg wishing a speedy recovery for Frank Baker Fred & Ellen Seidenberg wishing a Happy 90th Birthday to Helen Silver

Tree of Life to the Food Pantry

PJ Library Program

Jerry Kline

<u>Steve Terner Camp Scholarship Fund</u> Lois Rauch Gibson

Jerry Kline

Erica Serbin in honor of Helen Silver's birthday

Steve Terner

It's not too late to give to our 2012 Campaign or send a General Donation!
Contact the Columbia Jewish Federation Office (803) 787-2023 or ericas@jewishcolumbia.org



- · Adult Spinal Surgery
- Arthroscopic Surgery
- Foot Surgery
- Hand & Upper Extremity Surgery
- Orthopaedic & Arthritic Surgery
- Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Sports Medicine Center
- Total Joint Replacement & Reconstruction

www.mooreclinic.com

14 Medical Park, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29203 803.227.8000

104 Saluda Pointe Drive Lexington, SC 29072 803.227.8000

Craig M. Burnworth, M.D. Kim J. Chillag, M.D. John Clavet, M.D. William T. Felmly, M.D. David B. Fulton, M.D. Wendell Holmes, Jr., M.D. Christopher R. Hydorn, M.D. Mark D. Locke, M.D. Earl B. McFadden, M.D. Frank K. Noojin, M.D. Bradley P. Presnal, M.D. David A. Scott, M.D. W. Bret Smith, D.O. W. Alaric Van Dam, M.D.



Ask a Rabbi Rabbi Jonathan Case

How does one remain Jewish when the "literal" meaning of Scripture is, literally, unbelievable?

There are many Torah passages which could raise eyebrows well into the nether regions of the forehead. Among them are the age of the universe versus our almost six-thousand year calculation, manna feeding at least 11/2 million freed slaves for forty years, burning bushes and parted seas to name a

The question actually runs yet deeper: If the Torah cannot be read at face value, if we cannot trust it to tell the truth all the time, how can we depend on it for truth any time?

No one who reads Torah with any degree of seriousness will fail to notice these and other incongruities. In fact, it is probably the most frequent question asked of rabbis today. What do I tell people? Even more, how can anyone, including a rabbi, have faith with such unbelievable tales and inconsistencies?

I am fond of telling the story of the grandfather who greets his little one at the door.

"So how was Hebrew School today, Yacov?"

"Oh, great! We learned about how General Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. Cornered by the Egyptians with their troops, General Moses fired bazookas and strafed the advancing army while the Israeli navy placed pontoons across the Sea. The people narrowly escaped!"

"Oy," said the grandfather. "Is this what they taught you??" "Grandpa, if I told you what they said, you'd never believe it."

On a primary level, the Torah is filled with stories. The tales we tell are human, full of adventure, achievements, falls, and recoveries. They are great stories that we know well and retell through generations. Think of Adam and Eve. They tell the story of reward and punishment; listening to God and the penalty of disobedience. Think of Noah, the savior of a world. What about Abraham, the one who discovered and was discovered by God? The narrative then follows Abraham through his trials and triumphs. This is storytelling at its finest. These are well-worn tales that have traveled the world many times over, through millennia.

On a secondary level, each story contains kernels of knowledge and philosophy that we often miss (because we stop in step 1). For example, the depiction of Adam and Eve serves the purpose of telling us we are free.

God rewards and punishes but the real lesson is about personal control and responsibility. And Noah? It is all about choosing your destiny regardless of what the outside world does and thinks. Consider that Noah's righteousness was singular in a world gone bad.

On a tertiary level, we are guided by the Zohar which states, "If the Torah were mere tales I could tell better stories myself." We learn through metaphor. In Eden, we understand the trappings of Paradise. We are not meant for utopia. Our lives are only validated through struggle. We are Adam and Eve. We choose banishment because there lies our greatest hope. Abraham is the paragon of self-discovery. We must pass through walls of flames, become scarred before we can contemplate wholeness. We must travel far in our youth to eventually find what is most close, so close that it cannot be seen, only felt.

Is there more? Yes, there is always more. That is why it continues to feed our souls after all this time.

Have a question? Ask a rabbi!

The rabbis of the Columbia Jewish Community write columns in response to questions submitted by the readers. We encourage you - whether you are a member of the Jewish community or not - to submit your queries on theology, morality, ethics, religious observances, etc. for response by one of our rabbis.

If you have an issue you would like to see addressed, please email it to crc@jewishcolumbia.org, and put "Ask a Rabbi" in the subject line of your email. (It may take quite a while until your question is answered; there is also no guarantee that your question will be selected for publication.) You will not be identified as the writer of the question to either rabbis or readers. Please note that you cannot specify which rabbi should answer.

Milestones



Ed and Sandra Poliakoff are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Beth to Greg Nikolayevsky of Denver, CO. He is the son of Gennady and Raisa Nikolayevsky, also of Denver.

Beth is a graduate of the George Washington University with a BA in computer science and a minor in business administration. She is a Vice President in Image and Transaction Services Technology at Bank of America and resides in Denver.

Greg is a graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, with a BS in business administration / finance. He received an MBA from Boston University, emphasis in finance, and is a Certified Internal Auditor. Greg is a senior consultant at Agility Solutions, a business consulting/internal audit firm in Denver

The wedding is planned for March 2012 in Columbia, SC.

Happy 90th birthday, Helen Silver!

When Helen Silver was 50 years old, she became very involved in the Jewish community, explaining

that "I had the best time of my life volunteering."
Helen Silver has been giving back to our
community with her time for over 40 years now.
She has a long history of service with Columbia
Jewish Federation; B'nai B'rith Women of
Columbia, SC; Beth Shalom Sisterhood; Columbia

Jewish Community Center; Hadassah; and the United Way of the Midlands. In all of these organizations she took leadership roles for many years, sometimes spanning over decades. She also operated a food both at the annual fair for many years.

Helen and Sol Silver were married in NYC in 1947. They lived in Orangeburg, SC (Sol's hometown) for a brief time before moving to Columbia. She worked several years at the Veteran's Administration Regional Office in the Legal Division until her son, Mitchell, was born. At that time, Sol opened a men's haberdashery store where they worked together for several years.

Over 30 years ago, Helen was the bookkeeper at the Jewish Community Center for a few years and returned as a volunteer handling the Federation's Women's Division. Helen has loved every minute of volunteering.

Helen advised us that the years have been kind to them and the memories of the past are sweet. For Helen's years of volunteering, she explains that "every activity involved a team effort; no one does the work alone - it's a work of love." Helen adds that serving the community "is a pleasure - not a duty.

Helen has received many honors and awards, including the President's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism from the Columbia Jewish Community Center and the Distinguished Service Award from the Columbia Jewish

Helen & Sol were married for 63 years when he passed away May 1, 2010. Helen enjoys reading, discussing current events, sometimes movies, music, but most of all being with people, including her son, daughter-in-law, and 16-year-old granddaughter, and learning all the time.

Helen's 90th birthday was on Dec. 28th. The Columbia Jewish Federation would like to wish Helen a very happy birthday on behalf of the entire

Columbia Jewish Community.

Mazal Tov to...

*John Baker on being named "Humanitarian of the Year" by United Way

*Stephanie Carr, daughter of David and Jill Carr, on her Bat Mitzvah

*Oliver Chartock, son of Lee Chartock and Ellen Humphries, on his Bar Mitzvah

*Gabe Contino, son of Patrick and Nina Contino, on his Bar Mitzvah

*Jared Kerner, son of Steven and Linda Kerner, on his Bar Mitzvah

*Adam Lovit, son of David and Heidi Lovit, on his marriage to Shanna Singer

Community Voices

Shnat Netzer - Gap Year Benjy Strauss

Benjy Strauss, born in Israel, has spent the last eight years in Columbia, graduating from Spring Valley High this past May. He currently lives on Kibbutz Lotan in Israel as part of Shnat Netzer, a gap year program.

This has been our first real, proper week on Shnat Netzer, and I think I talk on behalf of everyone in the group when I say it has been fantastic.

The last few days of Orientation, based in Beit Shmuel - in central Jerusalem, the headquarters of Progressive Judiasm worldwide - far surpassed our expectations of a week of 'get-to-know-you games' and 'rules and reg' sessions. On Thursday we were taken on a four-hour tour of the Old City by Amy Ben-Dov, a NFTY movement worker famous for the incomparable speed at which she talks, her intimate knowledge of Jersualem and her infectious enthusiasm. Every single person came out of the tour with a greater connection to Jerusalem; we all designated our own spot at the Western Wall and learned more than we cared to remember.

On Friday we were invited to a Reform Synagogoue, rare in Israel, which was as beautiful as it was welcoming. It was a warming feeling to be singing the same songs that we all remember from back home on a Friday night in Israel

We had a restful Shabbat and, not so much by choice but by the fact that everything in Jerusalem is closed on Friday night, stayed in with our guitars and sleeping bags. It ended with a peaceful Havdallah (marking the end of Shabbat) on a hilltop overlooking Jerusalem.

That Sunday was a day of excitement. We felt ready to leave for Kibbutz, ready to truly feel like a Shnattie. We ended our seminar in Netzer fashion, all hugging and telling each other how much fun we were about to embark on. We reached Kibbutz yesterday (Monday). If you have not seen Kibbutz Lotan you cannot realize quite how beautiful and special it is.

Kibbutz Lotan is a self-sufficient, communal (as in all resources are shared, including wages) Reform Zionist Kibbutz of around 150 people (split into about 60 full members, 50 children and around 40 volunteers at any one time) located in the Arava. It is right on the Jordanian border, about 45 minutes north of Eilat. The Kibbutz is beautiful, founded in 1983 by predominantly Australians and Americans, and we are fortunate enough to be staying in arguably the most special part of the Kibbutz.

We are the first Shnat group ever to stay in the Bustan neighborhood. This area of the Kibbutz is effectively a prototype for absolute green living. We are living in huts constructed from re-used tires and covered with 'eco-mud,' some ultra-sustainable concoction created by a Kibbitznik (all just about the coolest people in the world, by the way). Our feces turns into compost; our urine fertilizes date plants. A new washing machine has been created in which you ride a stationery bike to generate energy (which we all can't wait to try). It really is an incredible place that is pioneering something very exciting.

There is a pool on Kibbutz, communal dining, a shop in which you can just go in and take fruit, bread and milk free of charge. The dates, harvested last week, are amongst the most delicious things we have ever eaten.

We wake early, at seven, and are trying not to go to bed too late. The first night we sat around a campfire with two great volunteers with whom we sang songs and ate marshmallows.

Kibbutz looks set to be the most incredible, transformative month. We are all enjoying new experiences, seeing new perspectives and living out new ideals every minute of every day.

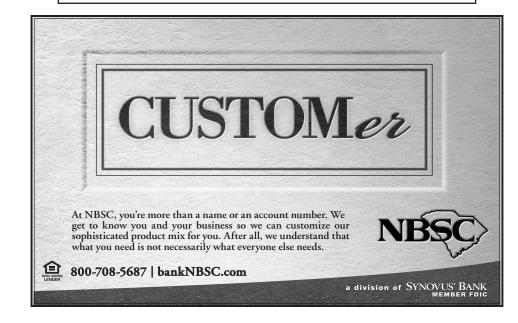
To find out more about Kibbutz Lotan, visit www.kibbutzlotan.com.







From top: Shnat Netzer in Israel, Kibbutz Lotan, Benjy Strauss and friends.



Community Voices

Azer Jews Shira Reisman

Shira Reisman grew up in Columbia and, after college, spent over a year in Azerbaijan during her time in the peace corps.

When I first arrived to Azerbaijan, a majority Muslim country nestled between Georgian and Iran, I was nervous to tell people I was Jewish. But as time passed, and the holidays neared, I felt that I shouldn't hide this from the people who were becoming my close friends. I tested the waters with one or two people in my small conservative community in the southwest of the country and the response was: "In the whole Soviet Union, Azerbaijan was the best place for Jews. Did you know we have Jews in the Red Village?"

The Red Village is the last remaining large Jewish village in the Azerbaijani Caucuses. The Caucasian Jews, who once lived in the mountains of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Dagestan are the decedents of Iranian Jews who migrated north in the fifth and sixth centuries. They continue to speak a Persian dialect different from modern Persian and modern Azerbaijani (a Turkish dialect). Shalom, is the common greeting in the Red Village, as opposed to the Azerbaijani Salaam.

For the most part, the Jewish communities of the Caucus Mountains were hard hit by the Soviet experiment. While they maintain a separate ethnic identity through language, the practice of Judaism has only been revived over the last 20 years. In the red village, there are two active synagogues filled with young boys and a few older men. Funding for the revival comes from remittances sent from Israel and Brooklyn, where every household has a family member (or several family members) living and working. Like many post-Soviet communities, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan is closed to outsiders. In my two years there, I had little success in trying to enter the community.

In my own community, I became more and more comfortable telling people I was Jewish, and over time, even Israeli. The responses continued to be positive. I learned that Israeli firms provide consulting and training on high-tech watering methods, since Azerbaijan has a dry climate, and that Azerbaijanis are proud of how well Jews in Azerbaijan were treated under the Soviet regime. I learned that my fears of telling people I was Jewish were based on a false concept of Muslim societies.





Dear All at the Columbia Jewish Federation,

Four years of college have gone by so fast and so wonderfully for our son, Jordan*. We are so grateful to you all for opening up your temples, homes and hearts to him. There is comfort in knowing that he has been happy in Columbia and has been so welcomed by all of you. When a holiday comes around, we are happy to know that Jordan is participating and even leading. His growth has been phenomenal in both his Jewish life and his major. I am continually grateful that the state of South Carolina has been so good to our family!

Jordan will be staying in state to do his internship this spring. We are

happy he will still be near his friends at USC.
Again, thank you for the huge growth in Jewish life at USC. Your

support is comforting and appreciated.

Fondly. NS

*Names have been changed.



"Great Parties Start Here" 803.787.5651

3155 Forest Drive Columbia, SC 29204 John Morganelli, owner

.

- Kosher Wines
- Fine Cigars
- Bar Mitzvahs supplies & etc.
- Bat Mitzvahs supplies & etc.
- Beer & Wine
- Liquors

Introduce someone you care about to someone you trust; we are an AARP featured employer

- companionshipmeal preparation, medication reminders
- free personal response monitoring
- light housekeeping
 24/7, 365 days service
- - Alzheimer's & respite care free in-home consultation
- bathing & dressing assistance
- transportation, errands
- indoor/outdoor activities

Right at Home



810 Dutch Square Blvd., #113 Columbia, SC 29210 Contact: Charles Brown • 803-551-4004

www.rahcolumbia.com

Please support our advertisers! They are very important to the success of Columbia Jewish News. Please help us make this a **COMMUNITY** newspaper. We want to hear from you! Submit article ideas to crc@jewishcolumbia.org.

Beth Shalom

The Mikveh (ritual bath) by Dr. Marc Berger

Many religions see water as an agent of change and transformation. We Jews encounter water every year in the Haggadah when we recall how the Holy One led us through the Red Sea and to freedom. Traditionally, Jews have regularly immersed in water, and each time this ritual immersion marks a change in status: Converts emerge as Jews, brides get ready for marriage, and wives immerse to resume marital relations with their husbands after menstruation. Men dunk before Shabbat or a holiday, and new cooking utensils are dipped to be fit for use in a kosher kitchen.

Today, less traditional Jews, too, are rediscovering the transformative power of the mikveh. For many, the waters of the mikveh recall a mother's womb, and the act of entering and leaving the waters naked, as we are born, creates space to acknowledge and embrace a new stage in life. Some immerse to commemorate change. Others come to celebrate moments of joy: a birthday, a first aliyah to the Torah, an adoption. Some women immerse in the mikveh during or after pregnancy or after the loss of a child. Others come searching, and often finding, comfort in times of sorrow or illness. This is how a member of our community describes her first impressions of the mikveh:

When I was in Israel, we also visited Masada. While everyone was climbing into the ancient mikveh, I couldn't bring myself to climb into it. I knew (from my tour guide) that it was OK, but for me it just felt wrong, kind of like stepping on someone's grave.

After seeing the mikveh at Beth Shalom this past Wednesday, I think I better understand why I didn't get into the one at Masada. A mikveh is about life. It's where pots and dishes are purified to be used in the home. It's where Jewish souls in Gentile bodies are reunited and begin life anew as Jews. It's where teshuvah (repentance) takes place, as sins are laid aside and one turns around and begins again to walk in the right direction. And most of all, it's about ritual family purity and the resumption of the marital relationship each month, which brings with it the possibility of new life and a new generation to receive the Torah. A mikveh is beautiful and sacred and, in its own way, life giving. It should never be taken casually.

So thanks again for letting me see our mikveh. Like the one at Masada, ours also gives off a vibration of holiness, even if it was under repair.

Our beautiful Hanna Schwalbe Community Mikveh is currently undergoing renovation, and we are currently fundraising to restore and rededicate our ritual bath. The CJF has given a \$2500 grant to help with renovations of the mikveh, but additional support is needed. If you would like to become a member of the mikveh (a yearly sustaining membership is only \$250.00; a sponsor membership is \$500.00) or would like to make a contribution to our renovation project, please contact us at mikvehcolumbia@gmail.com, or call our Chairperson, Dr. Marc Berger at (803)543-6901. All donations can be mailed to Beth Shalom Synagogue Mikveh Project 5827 N. Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206. All donations are welcomed and appreciated.



Mazal Tov to Rabbi Jonathan Case on receiving his Doctoral degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York!

Tree of Life



Save the Date! **TOL Annual Wine Tasting** Saturday, February 18, 2012



Mark your calendars for the TOL Annual Wine Tasting, an evening of food, fun, and - of course wine!

The festivities will kick off at 7 p.m. at the Gregg Park clubhouse. In addition to the delicious wines and heavy hors d'oeuvres, this FUNdraiser will include a silent auction and dessert table.

More details to come in the 2012 newsletters, but add this event to your social calendar now!

Thinking about Passover? Craving chocolate? Then look no farther than.... Barton's Miss Chocolate Passover Candy & Confection Sale!

Packets are available from TOL RS students (as of 1/15/12) & are also available in the emple office. This is an annual fundraiser that helps support TOL Religious School.

Starts Jan. 15, 2012 - Ends Feb. 26, 2012

Use an order form or go online at: www.misschocolate.com * School Code: 704479 Questions? Call Risa at 787 2182.

> In 2012, make Barton's a Passover tradition in your home!

Tree of Life Jewish Cultural Festival Sunday, April 22, 2012

Tree of Life 6719 N Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206 11:00 am to 7:00 pm Free Parking Free Admission

The highly successful, third annual Big Nosh event will celebrate "everything Jewish" including food, entertainment and education.

Top notch entertainment will be scheduled throughout the day including live Israeli music, Russian piano melodies, American Jewish song classics, Jewish films and comedy clips. The Tree of Life BIG NOSH festival supports Habitat for Humanity, Harvest Hope Food Bank, The Red Cross Blood Drive and other worthwhile community programs.

Of course there will be mouth-watering Jewish foods to eat (see sample menu to right). Children will be captivated by an array of activities including face painting, balloon creations, bounce sets, Israeli craft making and petting zoo.

Find out how to make challah, the art of matzah ball design and how to blow a shofar. Plus, tour the Temple Sanctuary with

hands-on activities and discussion groups. There will also be a unique Big Nosh Craft Mall featuring many sought after local artisans and crafters.

A Pre-Order Form w/prices will be in the March Thank you for your support

Sample Pre Order Menu Sponsored and cooked with love by Tree of Life Congregation

Quart of Bubbe's Chicken Soup with Matzah Balls Quart of Rabbi Marcus' Special Cabbage & Beef Soup Stuffed Cabbage (package of 4) Noodle Kugel (9x9 pan) Beef Brisket (pound) Kosher style Corned Beef (pound) Kosher style Pastrami (pound) Chopped Liver (pound) Knish (each)

Rugelach (dozen) Challah

Ed's famous Apple Strudel (whole) Homemade Cheesecake

All Items will be packaged refrigerated. Pre-Orders can be picked up during festival hours, but there will be no onsite parking.

JOIN US AND SUPPORT COLUMBIA'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Important Calendar Dates for January-February 2012

Jan. 1: No Religious School

Jan. 4: Beginners Hebrew, 5pm; Intermediate Hebrew, 6pm

Jan. 6: Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Shtessel.

Mazal Toy to the entire Shtessel Family!

Jan. 8: RS, 9am; Brotherhood Bike Ride, 9:30am; Sisterhood Carolina Wildlife Program, 9:30-11am

Jan. 10: Sisterhood Book Club, 7pm

Jan. 11: Beginners Hebrew, 5pm; Intermediate Hebrew, 6pm; Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30pm

"Kidz Shabbat" 6:45pm with Childcare. Shabbat Services at 7:30pm.

Jan. 13-16: COFTY/TYG Winter Kallah in Atlanta.

Jan. 14: Back to Your Jewish Future, Grades 4 -7 with BSS, 6-9pm at TOL

Jan. 15: RS. 9am

Jan. 18: Beginners Hebrew, 5pm; Intermediate Hebrew, 6pm

Jan. 20: Shabbat Services, 7:30pm

Jan. 22: Red Cross Blood Drive, 9am-1pm; Sisterhood Craft Program

Jan. 25: Beginners Hebrew, 5pm; Intermediate Hebrew, 6pm

Jan. 27: Kitah Dalet Potluck Dinner and Shabbat Service, 6:30pm

Jan. 29: RS, 9am

Feb. 3: "Kidz Shabbat" 6:45pm with Childcare. Shabbat Services at 7:30pm

Feb. 4: Back to Your Jewish Future, Grades 4 -7 with BSS / from 6-9pm at TOL

Feb. 5: RS, 9am

Feb. 10: Kitah Gimel Potluck Dinner and Shabbat and Tu B'Shvat Service, 6:30pm

Feb. 12: No Religious School, Community-wide Mitzvah Day

Feb. 18: TOL Wine Tasting Event, 7pm at Gregg Park Clubhouse

Feb. 19: No Religious School

Feb. 26: RS, 9am

Chabad

Jewish Soldiers Find a Spiritual Home While at Fort Jackson

When new recruits arrive at Fort Jackson they undergo a rigorous and often grueling basic training session that lasts for about 10 weeks. During that time they learn a lot about who they are and what makes them tick. For the Jewish soldiers this can mean rediscovering their Jewish identity. Often the only Jew in their barracks (or bay as they call it), the Jewish soldier finds him or herself trying to answer questions from fellow soldiers about Judaism and Jewish tradition. Sometimes they need some help!

This is where the Chabad-Aleph House comes in. Every Sunday Rabbi Hesh Epstein spends two hours running a Jewish service with prayers, lessons from the weekly portion, information on upcoming holidays and explanations of basic Jewish rituals. There are usually 40 soldiers in attendance: about one-third are Jewish; the others are just plain interested.

Upon graduation, those who attended the services are invited to the Chabad-Aleph house for a graduation ceremony. There the soldiers recount their experience of being Jewish in the Army. Many heartwarming moments are shared, and often a new level of commitment to Jewish life is made.

During basic, soldiers are not permitted to leave the base, but in a first for Fort Jackson, dozens of trainees got to spend the High Holidays at the Aleph House.

"That's quite a change," explained Rabbi Henri Soussan, who worked together with Fort Jackson's chaplain and commanding general to make their attendance possible. "I never heard of that before," remarked Soussan. One trainee was even granted permission to stay overnight with Rabbi Epstein so he could celebrate the entire 24 hours of Yom Kippur.

Operated jointly by Chabad of South Carolina and the Aleph Institute, a Bal Harbour, Florida-based organization that serves Jewish military personnel and prisoners, the Aleph House provides Jewish soldiers at Fort Jackson an array of services, including graduation ceremonies for trainees completing basic training or chaplaincy school.

"We have had people come from all over America, many of whom were not particularly close to their home Jewish communities," said Soussan. "But because they had this celebration at the Aleph House, they were able to reconnect."

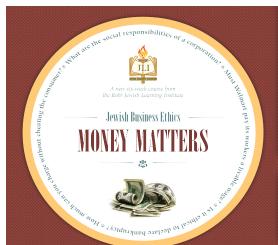


Epstein makes sure to plug soldiers back in to Chabad Houses and synagogues back home and near their new assignments.

Because of the success of the High Holiday programming, Epstein wants to add Chanukah events and Passover celebrations for soldiers in basic training. Because Jewish soldiers frequently have non-Jewish battle buddies - recruits travel

in pairs and are not allowed to be apart during training - opportunities to come to synagogue can frequently dispel Jewish stereotypes.

"Basic training is very difficult. The soldiers are under extremely high pressure and stress, and it causes them to question what their values are," he explained. Coming to services and having access to holiday events "allows them to be better soldiers, and better prepared mentally and emotionally for their mission. Often we talk about Jewish values and how they pertain to their mission as soldiers.





Columbia Jewish Day School

Thanksgiving in school often conjures images of children reenacting the Thanksgiving story, creating turkeys, and discussing being thankful. At the Columbia Jewish Day School many of these activities were done, but the students also looked at the holiday in some complex ways. The administration also prepared for the holiday in a new way.

Children in some of the younger classes viewed Thanksgiving through a

Children in some of the younger classes viewed Thanksgiving through a Jewish lens, comparing the lessons of the holiday with the lessons of Judaism. A class of young elementary children created the Mayflower, wondering how many preschool children could fit into the ship (they found it to be very crowded). In the older grades conversations were held about myths of the holiday and some of the stereotyping that has occurred to Native Americans. Children from each class participated in collecting cans for Harvest Hope food bank and "passing" the cans down the school hallways. These types of challenging conversations and explorations are hallmarks of the school's progressive education.

The administration was busy before Thanksgiving, rolling out registration information for the 2012-2013 school year. Amazingly, three days after Thanksgiving break, the toddler class was already full, and a waiting list was started! The two and three year old classes are close to full.

The school moves from the study of Thanksgiving, the celebration of American freedom, to Chanukah, the Jewish liberation holiday. While many might think of Chanukah coupled with a different holiday, the children at CJDS love exploring different complex angles and ideas.







CJDS students participate in "Passing of the Can" for Harvest Hope food bank.





Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

Happy Healthy New Year from The Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC!

NOW is the time to join the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center at the Gerry Sue & Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus. There's something for everybody at the JCC. The JCC is the place to be for people of all ages - Jewish, cultural, and healthy lifestyle Programs for the whole family. One of the cornerstones of the JCC is our diverse, life-enhancing programs where individuals can grow and develop in mind, body and spirit. Now is the time to join; you will be amazed at how the JCC fits your life. It's easier than ever to fit wellness into your workday and school-day. You'll feel the warmth and energy when you step into the building. Join now and experience everything the JCC has to offer. We look forward to welcoming you to the JCC family. Please contact the membership department at 787-2023, ext. 203 or email

amandad@jcccolumbia.org to explore the benefits of membership!

The Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC recognizes our Patron Members and thanks them for their support:

Lisa & Ben Daniel Arnold Marcie & John Baker Belinda & Richard Gergel Margo & Karl Goldberg Beth & Harvey Helman Heidi & Dr. David Lovit Marilyn & Ian Picow Rachel & Rick Silver Lois & Abe Wandersman

Jackie Dickman & Keith Babcock Katherine & Jay Friedman Lois & Jerry Gibson Carolyn & Dr. Stanley Greenberg Robin & Neal Lourie Rebecca & Gregg McKenzie Roxane & Kurt Richardson Nancy & Gerald Sonenshine **Howard Weiss**

If you are interested in upgrading your current membership to Patron level, please contact our membership department at 787-2023, ext. 203.

738-8112

Mark your Calendars for these great upcoming events from your JCC:

Camp Chaverim Registration Now Open for Summer 2012 Camp Dates are June 4 to August 10, 2012 www.jcccolumbia.org/CampChaverim2012 Early Bird Registration ends April 15th

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi 2nd Wednesday of each Month January 11th and February 8, 2012

10th Annual JCC Golf Classic Sunday April 1st, 2012 - 12:30pm The Members Club at Wildewood

12th Annual Columbia Jewish Film Festival March 19-26, 2012 - Nickelodeon Theatre Films and Movie Times TBD

Everything else is just toast. Lexington 359-0424 the best bagels by using natural, simple ingredients — flour, yeast alt, water and salt — none of the nemicals some national chains use Irmo 749-3000 We hold true to authenticity by ettle-boiling and baking each agel to perfection in our stone earth ovens. Our recipe is simple our ingredients are pure and our message is genuine. That's our and we hope you make it hoosing a Bruegger's bage **Forest** Acres

Annual Havdallah Hootenanny Saturday February 25th, 2012: 8pm Sponsored by Chabad of SC & JCC

Jewish Video Library Visit us online for all the available titles www.jcccolumbia.org/JewishVideo

Family Miniature Golf Classic Saturday March 31, 2012 - 7:30pm Baker & Baker Conference Rooms at JCC



Interior ◆ Exterior ◆ Residential ◆ Commercial

Jesse D. Simmons III (803)348-3553

www.pictureperfectpaint.net



Hillel

This fall students at Hillel at USC put up the very first sukkah ever on the USC campus. A special thank you to our past president, Scott Shinbaum, who worked tirelessly with the USC administration on all of the details. Students had fun decorating the sukkah at a Pizza in the Hut dinner. Rabbi Leah hosted the meeting of the campus religious workers in the sukkah, and throughout the day members of the university community were welcome to stop by our "open sukkah" for free bagels and to sit in the sukkah.

Throughout the semester we continued to have social events and our popular Shabbat dinners. We also went with Beth Shalom synagogue and volunteered at Harvest Hope food pantry. Rabbi Leah was also invited to speak on an interfaith panel about "Living a Simple Life," which was sponsored by the Green Quad.

At the beginning of December students held an early Chanukah celebration/study break, during which they had elections for the 2012 year. We congratulate our new board:

President - Zach Roth Vice President - Adam Rosen Treasurer - Eric Goldstein Secretary - Rachel Miller

At Large - Shani Browdy and Adam Kess

Come learn what is happening at Hillel at USC. Find us on Facebook and stay informed of our most up-to-date events.



We are working hard to keep our Hillel database current. If you are (or know) a Jewish student, faculty or staff member, or alum at USC, please let Rabbi Leah know by emailing rabbileah@gmail.com so that we can stay in touch!

In order to be as accessible as possible, Hillel at USC does not charge dues, and the vast majority of our events are free to students. We rely upon the support of the Columbia Jewish Federation and donations of parents, alumni, community members, and others as we seek to engage the students at the University of South Carolina in Jewish life. You can support Hillel at USC by sending a check to the Columbia Jewish Federation (note "for Hillel" in the comment line) to 306 Flora Drive, Columbia, SC 29223.

--Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor





From left to right: Hannah Mansfield decorates the sukkah, Rachael and Aaron Miller at elections, Hillel students at an autumn Shabbat dinner.

BBYO

In 1936, 14 Jewish teens from Columbia founded Paul Schwartz AZA. Since then, BBYO has played an integral role in Columbia's Jewish community. Many of today's local Jewish business people and community leaders proudly call themselves alumni of AZA and BBG. Today, BBYO is the world's leading pluralistic Jewish movement.

Studies show that most Jewish youth become uninvolved in the Jewish community post bar/bat mitzvah. BBYO is reversing that trend by offering fun, meaningful and affordable experiences to Jewish teens. A recent impact study conducted by the Schusterman Family Foundation found that "the BBYO experience results in young adults who are more inclined to have Jewish friends, believe that being Jewish plays an important role in their lives, hold leadership in their communities and are committed to having Jewish families."

In 2002, after eight decades of financial support from B'nai B'rith International, BBYO became an independent organization and today no longer receives any funding from B'nai B'rith. BBYO must now look to its friends and alumni to acquire the support necessary to offer a new generation of Jewish teens the same AZA and BBG experiences that have shaped so many lives before them. Therefore, BBYO supporters have rallied together to create the Friends and Alumni Network (FAN). FAN works to support BBYO programming in local communities across North America. That means that all of the money raised within a local community goes directly to the programming in that community. As leaders of Columbia BBYO, we have decided to join the FAN movement by working to support our local BBYO program.

In Columbia, BBYO is partially funded by the Columbia Jewish Federation and a few other generous supporters. Specifically, I want to thank Joni and Shep Cutler for their continued generous support, which is sustaining Columbia BBYO.

However, in order to fully fund BBYO in Columbia and allow our program to grow, we need to increase our fundraising efforts. We are taking exciting first steps to grow our base of supporters in Columbia and we need your help. Are you or any of your friends BBYO alumni? Has BBYO been part of your own family's history? Are your kids current BBYO members or alumni? Let us know! We also need your help financially. We know you need to manage your charitable giving and it is impossible to give to everyone, but we want BBYO to make your list. By giving to BBYO you will support an organization that makes a true impact on our local Jewish community.

Starting in January, current BBYO teens and parents will be reaching out to our community and beyond. We want you to reconnect with BBYO! Let us tell you what BBYO is doing for the teens in our community. I think you will be astounded by what you hear.

You can pledge your commitment to Columbia BBYO today or make a gift by going to bbyo.org/columbia. Please consider making a three- to five-year pledge to ensure the future of BBYO in Columbia. If you have any questions or would like to make your commitment through other means, please let me

know. I look forward to engaging you and the rest of the Columbia Jewish community in this exciting and important effort.

--David Greenhouse, Chair dgreenhouse@sc.rr.com

BBYO Happenings by Jerry Emanuel





The annual AIT/MIT convention, held at the Bob Cooper 4-H Camp in Summerton, S.C.in October, found more than 65 youngsters from Augusta, Charleston, Columbia and Savannah gathered for programs, orientation and a weekend of fun. The assemblage brought together new members to BBYO and the council leadership. A highlight of the weekend was the annual Georgia vs. South Carolina football game, this year won by the Palmetto State, breaking a Georgia string of past victories. During dinner Friday night members of the Paul Schwartz chapter, AZA (Columbia) donated new basketball nets to the camp to replace old, worn-out nets.



In November members met at the home of Brandon Picow for a night of pizza and programming. Members of the Paul Schwartz chapter, AZA chose Brandon to receive the Aleph of the Year Award for doing the most for the chapter during the preceding year.

hapter during the preceding year.

The columbia AZA and BBG chapters

again bought Christmas gifts for needy children through the "Giving Tree" at Columbia Place Mall.

Upcoming AZA programs include a camping trip in the spring, a canoe trip down the Congaree River, playing WABOBA (a water polo type game), white-water rafting in Charlotte, a ropes course, and the buying of books for a financially challenged elementary school. Columbia's annual Beau/ Sweetheart dance is scheduled for the weekend of March 23 - 25. During the weekend the annual AZAA basketball tournament will be held while the BBG chapters participate in separate programming. Membership in BBYO (AZA and BBG) is open to any Jewish rising ninth grader. To apply for membership go to www.b-linked.com or call Brandon or Eden Picow.



The Shalom Baby program of the Columbia Jewish Federation would like to say Mazal Tov to Victoria Huang and Dmitri Schoeman, Molly Beth and Ben Kranitz, Alison Mann and David Charles, Joanna and Joshua McDuffie, Rachel Milas and David Whitehair, Jeni and Doug Perkins, Amy and Arie Shenkar, and Leah and Chauncey Smith on the recent births of their children.

As part of the program, parents of Jewish newborns or newly adopted Jewish children receive a Shalom Baby bag welcoming their new addition to the Columbia Jewish community. Todah rabah to Debbie Greenhouse, Emily Scher, and Cindi Stark for volunteering their time to deliver bags. Contact crc@jewishcolumbia.org to submit a name to the Shalom Baby program.



The Steve Terner Camp Scholarship Fund is back....

Applications available now for Jewish overnight camps this summer

Jewish children who live in Columbia and will be rising third graders to rising ninth graders this summer are eligible to apply for the supplemental funds. Award amounts will be based on the number of applicants and the funding available. Applications are available from your religious school, the front desk at the JCC, or by email to ericas@jewishfederation.org. All applications must be received by the Columbia Jewish Federation by March 12th. For more information, contact Federation Executive Director, Erica Serbin, at 787-2023 ext. 211.

You can donate to the Steve Terner Camp Scholarship Fund

Summers at Jewish overnight camps turn Jewish youth into spirited and engaged Jewish adults, laying the groundwork for strong Jewish communities. However, the camps can be expensive.

The newly established Steve Terner Camp Scholarship Fund hopes to alleviate some of the burden with supplemental funding. But we need your help to ensure its financial success.

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one, please send a minimum donation of \$10. We will acknowledge your donation to the recipient and in the *Columbia Jewish News*. Send your donation to:

Columbia Jewish Federation 306 Flora Drive Columbia, SC 29223



Bhavesh R. Amin, M.D.

Anil J. Kudchadkar, M.D.

John F. Mattei, D.C., M.D.

David C. Morris, M.D.

Minoti V. Parab, M.D.

Stephen F. Serbin, M.D.

Pamela I. Brown, M.D. Peter J. Stahl, M.D.

William H. Crigler, M.D. Stephen M. Tuel, M.D.

Tamera D. Crowe, M.D. G. Jack Walters, M.D.

David C. Fisher, M.D. Carol S. Berry, F.N.P.

Stacy J. Gajewski, M.D. Jennifer R. Turner, PA-C

Patrice L. High, D.O. HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Visit our Web site: www.FMCofSC.com

Midtown Family Medicine 931-0100 1910 Gregg Street

Corner of Richland & Gregg streets

Woodhill Family Medicine 783-4433 813 Leesburg Road At Leesburg Road Exit of I-77

Springwood Lake Family Practice

788-7884 1721 Horseshoe Drive Near Two Notch Road Exit of I-20

Rice Creek Family Medicine

227-7777 300 Rice Meadow Way At corner of Hardscrabble Road

Saluda Pointe Family Medicine 239-1600 3630 Sunset Boulevard

Between I-26 and I-20 Exits

Lake Murray Family Medicine Opening Spring 2011

724-1100 7611 St. Andrews Road Across from Union United Methodist Church

Columbia Jewish Federation approves new by-laws and name change

Updating by-laws to make them relevant for the 21st century was the goal, and with the help of two attorneys on our board and an ambitious executive director and president, the task has been completed. By-laws chairperson Jay Bressler spent many hours researching and rewriting several sections of our old by-laws, and Keith Babcock worked alongside with him with his knowledge and experience of South Carolina law and organizational procedures. In the end, the number of Board members and the structure of Federation remained the same. Some additions were made to comply with the laws of South Carolina. Differences between the old by-laws and new ones include:

- •Affiliated organizations were updated. Many organizations that no longer exist in Columbia were removed.
- Jewish Family Service is now mentioned and defined.
- •Board of Trustees' Responsibilities are defined.
- •Some committees are defined.
- •Officer's roles are specified.
- •There is a section on Records.
- •The President of the JCC is not on CJF's Executive Board but is on CJF's main board.

The Federation Board of Trustees also adopted an Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to change the name of the corporation to Columbia Jewish Federation from the Columbia United Jewish Welfare Federation. Thank you to Alan Reyner for assisting Federation on this important matter.

The board approved the by-laws and the name change at the annual meeting on December 11.

Would you like to see a Jewish recipe here? Email submission ideas to crc@jewishcolumbia.org



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



Todah Rabah to all who helped make calls during our Annual Campaign!

Jackie Dickman Babcock Keith Babcock Melanie Baker Lory Bellino Kenny Berger Barbara Blau Stephanie Bouffier Sara Brotman Janet Brownstein Jov Cameron David Carr Nancy Cartiff Laney Cohen Greg Crawford Mark Crawford Leah Doberne-Schor Selma Dickman Katie Drucker Jerry Emanuel Naomi Farber Adam Fields Lois Gibson Gail Ginsberg Gloria Goldberg Annette Goldstein Esther Greenberg David Greenhouse Beth Helman Gregg Helman

Harvey Helman Raquel Ioia Charles Kahn Alan Kahn Grant Kilgore Joe Kligman Ben Kranitz Molly Beth Kranitz Rob Kriegshaber Shelley Kriegshaber David Lovit Heidi Lovit Beth Maris Josh McDuffie Henry Miller Justin Peterson Alon Segal Rachel Segal Ellen Seidenberg Fred Seidenberg **Todd Serbin** Cheri Shapiro Joe Sharnoff Helen Silver Risa Strauss Steve Terner **Howard Weiss** Suzanne Wray-Langer **Jewish**

Future

Alon Segal

Back to Your

Risa Strauss and

For our children, understanding their Jewish past will help them engage and embrace their Jewish future. This was the thinking behind the recent "Back to the Future" program for 4th-7th graders from Beth Shalom Synagogue,

Tree of Life Religious School and the

the Columbia Jewish Federation was

held at Beth Shalom Synagogue on

program, the 25 students enjoyed Havdalah, a make-your-own pita pizza

and ice cream dinner as part of an

them to the Jewish communities of Iran, Yemen and Germany. With the help of Dr. Katje Behlow, Michal Rubin, Shah Ram Novinbakht, Lora Stein, Laurie Slack, Cheryl Nail, Kelsey Marom, Alon Segal and Risa Strauss, the children traveled with "passports" to experience the sights, sounds, smells

and tastes of each culture.

The next installment of this program will be held on January 14, 6-9 pm, at Tree of Life Congregation. We welcome all children in this age range in the Jewish community to

around-the-world tour that introduced

December 3. During the three-hour

Columbia Jewish Day School. The

Saturday evening event that was sponsored with a generous grant from

Promoting the Comfort and Dignity of the Patient...At Home.



Why Should You Choose Heartstrings Hospice?

We have an experienced and compassionate team that will be there for your every need during this difficult time. Heartstrings Hospice takes on the burdens of end-of-life events so you don't have to.



Northeast Medical Center • 115 Blarney Drive, Suite 109 Columbia, SC 29223

(803) 699-3233

(803) 699-3919 Fax • info@heartstringshospice.com www.heartstringshospice.com Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbia, S.C.
Permit No. 48

Columbia Jewish Federation 306 Flora Drive Columbia, S.C. 29223







From L to R: Shah Ram Novinbakht teaches students about Iran; Laurie Slack facilitates a game; Michal Rubin takes students on a journey to Yemen.

TO STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

participate.

PJ Library visits CJDS

PJ Library staff, including Laney Cohen (pictured left), Jen Greenfield, and Cheryl Nail, enjoyed a morning of Thanksgiving programming with toddlers through second graders at the Columbia Jewish Day School.

In each class, the staff read a PJ Library book to students, provided a book-related snack and facilitated an art project to help students express what they felt thankful for (pictured below).

PJ Library provides age-appropriate books, CDs and DVDs free of charge to Jewish children in Columbia each month as a gift from the Columbia Jewish Federation. To enroll your child, go to www.pjlibrary.org.

All congregations were given a book rack full of PJ Library books, and now, the Columbia Jewish Federation is proud to provide all CJDS students and parents a library of PJ books that may be checked out through the Day School and used at

For more information about the PJ Library program or how to support it, please contact PJ Library coordinator Cheryl Nail at crc@jewishcolumbia.org.





erts columbia sc