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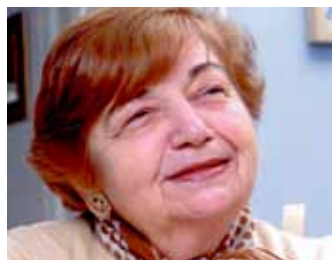
A Publication of the Columbia Jewish Federation

www.jewishcolumbia.org

Mitzvah Day 2012

Thank you to everyone who organized, supported, sponsored, and participated in Mitzvah Day, Sunday, February 12th. With over 250 people in attendance, we served a dozen organizations, locally and abroad. Stacey Jensen of Sesquicentennial State Park said, "Our whole staff thoroughly enjoyed having your group out to volunteer, and we accomplished so much! In addition to all the man power, thank you for your generous donation of the flowering dogwood tree as well as the five bluebird boxes." Alison Hart from The Waterford said, "My residents are still talking about what a great time they had!"

See pages 10-11 for a recap of this wonderful day in pictures.



Community Yom HaShoah Remembrance Service Thursday, April 19 at Beth Shalom Synagogue, 7pm Terezín Holocaust Survivor is featured guest

By Dr. Abe Wandersman

Ela Weissberger will speak at Columbia's Yom HaShoah program, a day set aside to memorialize millions of Holocaust victims and to honor survivors and those who led resistance.

Ela Weissberger was the original "Cat" in the performances of *Brundibár* in Terezín. Weissberger was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia. At the age of 11, Ela, her sister Ilona, and their mother were sent to Terezín in one of the first transports. Ela was first placed in a cramped barrack with her mother, sister, and many other women and girls who were suffering from hunger and disease.

Later, Ela and Ilona were separated from their mother and forced to live in a separate barrack for children. While much was forbidden in Terezín, many art forms were allowed to be produced, and Ela created several drawings depicting the life that she lived in Terezín.

In 1943, it was declared that a children's opera entitled *Brundibár* was to be performed in Terezín. Ela was requested to be a part of the show and was cast as the "Cat." The first performance took place in September 1943 and was repeated each week. As time went on, cast members continually needed to be replaced as children were transported out of Terezín, most often to their death in Auschwitz.

Ela, however, was permitted to stay with her mother and sister, playing the role of the "cat" in all 55 of the *Brundibár* performances. After years of watching many of her friends transported out of Terezín to their death, Ela and her sister were finally freed on May 5, 1945. Her mother followed later. Of the 64 members of her family, only four survived the war.

In 1949, Ela moved to Israel along with her mother and sister. There, she served in the army and met Leopold Weissberger, another Holocaust survivor and Israeli soldier. The two married and immigrated to America where Ela took care of their two children. They were followed by Ilona and her husband and their mother.

Today, Ela lives in New York. She has dedicated her life to traveling across the United States and abroad to tell her story and honor the victims of the Holocaust. She is the focus of the book, *The Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezín* by Susan Goldman Rubin.

The commemoration service will also include a candle lighting ceremony to honor and remember members of our community, such as David Miller (OBM). *Children of Terezín*, musical compositions by Ayala Asherov Kalus will be performed by Janet Hopkins, Robert Jesselson, Rebecca Hunter, and Constance Gee. The Yom HaShoah service is being coordinated with a Week of Remembrance, sponsored by the Opera-tunity Foundation (see story on page 19).

In this Issue

Federation News.....	2-3
Young Adult Division News.....	3
CJF Honor Roll of Donors & Campaign Update	4-5
Jewish Family Service.....	6
Ask-a-Rabbi.....	7
Milestones.....	7
Community Voices.....	8-9
Mitzvah Day Photos	10-11
Shalom Baby.....	12
Community Voices (cont.).....	12-13
Beth Shalom News.....	14
Tree of Life News.....	14
Columbia Jewish Day School News.....	15
PJ Library.....	15
Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC News.....	16
Hillel News.....	18
BBYO News.....	18
Week of Remembrance.....	19

*Weissberger biography and photo reprinted with permission from *The Jewish Press*.

COLUMBIA JEWISH NEWS

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The deadline for articles, life cycle announcements, photos, and advertising for the May/June issue of *Columbia Jewish News* is April 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 Cheryl Nail at cjc@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.

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MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



Community Mah Jongg Day
Sunday, December 2 at the JCC

All mah jongg players welcome!

For more information, contact Ruth Rast at 462-0008.

Mah Jongg lessons at the JCC
beginning in March.
Call Kaytina for details and schedule:
787-2023 x 210

From the desk

By Erica Serbin,
Executive Director
of the Columbia Jewish Federation



When I first started working at the Columbia Jewish Federation about a year and a half ago, I had a vision of getting the whole Jewish community together (affiliated, non-affiliated, orthodox, conservative, reform, youth, teens, seniors, etc.) for a non-religious event. The Federation formed a *Yachad* Task Force (which means together in Hebrew) to decide on the event, give ideas, and plan initial stages. We hope you joined us at our first community-wide Mitzvah Day on February 12th, where we all came together to eat, socialize and perform mitzvot (good deeds).

There was a range of mitzvah activities off-site and on-site at the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. The off-site activities included assisting a homeless shelter at Transitions, cooking meals at the Ronald McDonald House, helping at Epworth Children's Home, working with pets at Pets Inc., visiting the elderly at Waterford, and helping clean up our state park at Sesqui.

At the JCC, our on-site activities incorporated artwork, cooking, learning and more. A group made a quilt to be donated to an Arab-Israeli school in Beer Sheva, Israel and participated in a Shalom Art project to create Jewish murals - one to be kept at the JCC and the others to donate to Carolina Children's Home. Participants also learned how to bake challah and chose from a variety of learning sessions with different rabbis. Even though many of the activities were kid friendly, we included a children's component for ages three and up where they sorted books and toiletries to donate, made boo-boo bunnies for cancer patients, and watched a Shalom Sesame video on the meaning of a mitzvah. There was also babysitting offered to participants for children three and under.

For those who could not join us, please ask your friends about their Mitzvah Day experiences. We also have pictures on pages 10-11 and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/jewishcolumbia). We even made the evening news! For this and other media clips, visit our website at www.jewishcolumbia.org. It was a moving day to see over 250 members of the community in a sea of light blue t-shirts that everyone received for participating in mitzvot.

Throughout this past year and half, Federation has been trying very hard to build community, and I think that this special Mitzvah Day has done just that. It has helped to *build a giving community*, just like our campaign slogan. I want to thank our *Yachad* Task Force, my staff, volunteers, sponsors, and participants who made this incredible day possible. We hope you will join us next year as we plan for this to be an annual event.

Find Us On
facebook

www.facebook.com/jewishcolumbia

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

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, guided 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 Erica Serbin, 787-2023 or 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.**

Columbia Jewish Federation *news*

An invitation to members of the Irmo/Lexington Jewish community
(And you won't have to drive to Northeast Columbia to attend)

Columbia Jewish Federation
Happy Hour
Thursday, March 29
6:30—7:30 p.m.
Home of Donna and Ernie Magaro
287 Sheringham Road

Please RSVP to the Federation office at 787-2023 ext. 204
or email cjffoffice@jewishcolumbia.org.
No solicitation will take place.

Campaign 2012 Wrap Up

By Shelley Kriegshaber,
President
of the Columbia Jewish Federation



Take a look at the allocations chart below to see where the money you pledged to the 2012 Federation's community campaign is going. Your dollars will be helping BBYO, Hillel, Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC, Jewish Educational Loan Fund, Jewish Family Service, the Columbia Jewish Day School, Tree of Life Religious School and Beth Shalom Religious School in the coming year. And that's not all. Your dollars give grants to many start-up projects and help fund programs such as Tuesday with Friends, Shalom Baby, PJ Library, Camp Scholarships and so much more. And a large chunk of what we raise is sent to help Israel and Jews around the world who are in need.

If you gave to this year's campaign, I give you a very heartfelt THANK YOU! No matter the dollar amount, your pledge tells us that you want to be part of our efforts to build community, to continue to make the Columbia Jewish community a thriving place to be. Our biggest success this year was getting 86 first time givers and 180 donors to increase their pledge from the year before! We were successful thanks to the hard work of our campaign chairpersons Dr. Henry Miller, Harvey Helman, Jackie Dickman Babcock and Dr. Naomi Farber. Naomi also wore another hat, while serving as chairperson of the allocations committee. Executive director Erica Serbin and her staff worked around the clock to make sure the campaign ran smoothly. In addition, many volunteers headed up the divisions and worked hard making calls. Several telethons were held this year with volunteers from the agencies that receive funding. It was a wonderful group effort and I thank everyone who was involved.

However, due to a sluggish economy and the loss of several community members, our campaign fell short of our goal this year. We are looking at ways to augment our campaign and look for other sources of income. We know the importance of having an endowment fund and we are developing plans to begin building one soon. The campaign committee is meeting this week to assess the campaign and look at ways to continue building on our strengths and rebuild our losses. As we continue to build community with events such as Mitzvah Day, we hope more and more donors see the value of our organization and the importance of building a strong community.

Again, we are very grateful for each and every hard-earned dollar you give to our campaign. We make sure every dollar helps our wonderful community flourish. And it's never too late to give. We try to contact everyone but sometimes we miss people or don't even know they're here.

The Columbia Jewish Federation...we are here for you... with many thanks again to you for being here for us!

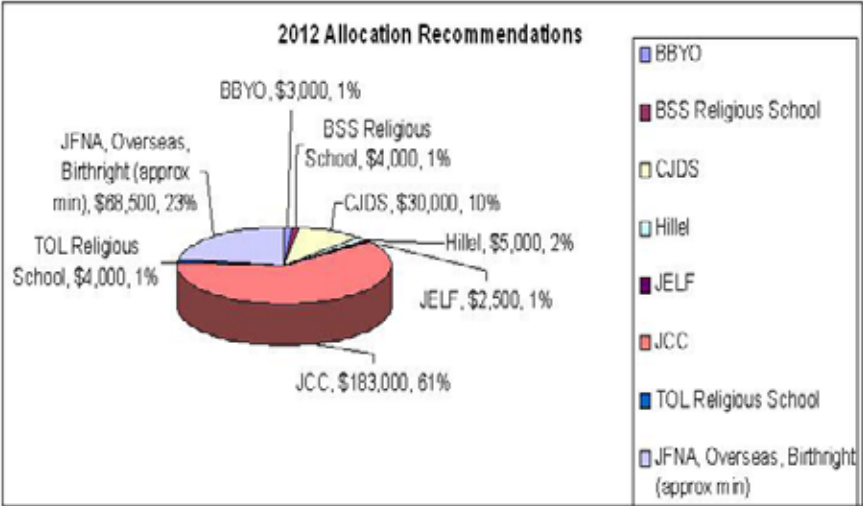
YAD on the Town

By Jeni Perkins
Young Adult Division
of the Columbia Jewish Federation



Jewish communities all over South Carolina celebrated Chanukah together in the month of December. In Columbia, the Young Adult Division (YAD) held their annual Chanukah Potluck Dinner to commemorate the eight-day holiday, the Festival of Lights. A special thanks to Marci and Will Saltzman for hosting this year at their lovely home. The specialties included a Columbia twist on the traditional latke, using a local pimento cheese to adorn the potato pancake. Freshly fried donuts and other pastries complemented the meal as well. The Young Adult Division of the Columbia Jewish Federation is a social group of young Jews in the Columbia, SC community. It is comprised of singles, couples, and young families who gather monthly for various social events. We went to the Mellow Mushroom in January to participate in their trivia night, and one of our teams won! The picture shown is from trivia night. This month we are taking a road trip to Beech Mountain for a ski/snowboard trip. To learn more about this growing group or to attend one of the many events, visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/yadcjf>. You may also contact yadcola@jewishcolumbia.org for information on upcoming events or general information about YAD.

Breakdown of 2012 Allocations





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 February 10, 2012.

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
Kahn & Kahn Family
Jerry Kline
Fred Seidenberg
Stephen Serbin
Bill Stern

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
Richard Helman
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
Robert Burg *new
Harold Friedman
Jay Friedman
Karl Goldberg
Joel Gottlieb
Jeff Gross
Harvey Helman
David Jacobs
Joe Jacobson
Hyman Karesh
Harold Kline
Morris Kline
Robert Kriegshaber
Phillip Levin
Manuel Lifchez
A.M. Lourie
Neal Lourie
Sanford Marcus
Henry Miller
Andrew Safran
Stephen T. Savitz
Joe Sharnoff
Samuel Tenenbaum
Steve Turner
Michael Tucker
Abe Wandersman

MEN'S MENSCH (\$500 - \$999)

Frank Baker
Samuel Baker
Marvin Bienstock
Allan Brett
Bernard Fleischman
Carl Freedman
Sam Friedman
Bruce Greenberg
Ira Greenberg
Pierre Jaffe
Ram Kalus
Melton Kligman
Richard Kline
Sol Kline
Ben Kranitz
Marvyn Milman
Ian Picow
Marc Rapport
Walker Rast
Jeff Selig
Todd Serbin
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 Levy
Joel Lourie
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)

David Arnold *new
Kenny Berger *new
Rabbi Jonathan Case
Sanford Daniel
David Fischbein *new
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
Joseph Lipton
Ronald Maris
David Miller *new (OBM)
Jeffrey Miller
Everett Ness
Ben Pearlstine
Gerald Polinsky
Alan Pollack
Jay Price *new
Joseph Roberts

Jerry Rothstein
Michael Safran
Arnold Schraibman
Albert Schultz
Howard Sheftman
Edward Shmunes
Ned Strauss
Steven Wagner

MEN'S SHALOM (\$26 - \$99)

Jeff Abrams *new
Peter Adelman *new
Richard Balser *new
Garry Baum
Herb Drucker
Jason Fischbein
Leon Ginsberg
Jonathan Leader *new
Bernard Levine
Frank Lourie
Frederic Medway
Harvie Nachlinger *new
Donald Portnoy
Stan Ross *new
Gary Rudman
Robert Scully
Randy Stark
Neal Sutker
Saul Wasserman
Joseph Weiss
Alan Witten

MEN'S BRACHAH (\$1 - \$25)

Max Babcock *new
Stephen Batey
Steven Cohen *new
Elchanan Cohn
Bruce Deutschmann
Steven Langer
Henry Rothenberg *new
Alon Segal *new
Alvin Steingold
Saul Wasserman
Bruce Wolff

Women's Division:

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

LION OF JUDAH (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Gail Anastasion
Barbara Blau
Lilly Filler
Jane Kulbersh
Donna Magaro
Linda Stern
Rhea Stern

POMEGRANATES (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Kay Gross
Victoria Serbin
Nancy Sonenshine

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

Jackie Babcock-Dickman
Jocelyn Burg *new
Toni Elkins
Katherine Friedman
Bluma Goldberg
Gloria Goldberg
Carolyn Kressler Greenberg
Esther Greenberg
Peggy Jacobs

Helene Kligman
Susan Reiner 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
Alice Turner
Patty Tucker
Katherine Wu
Anny Zalesne

WOMEN'S KADIMA (500 - \$999)

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Ann Lee Baron
Beth Bernstein
Bernice Berry
Thalia Birch
Penny Blachman
Debbie Brett
Joanne Epley
Dolores Friedman
Heide Golden
Ellen Helman
Ferne Kantsiper
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Frances Levin
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Nancy Rosenzweig Nankin
Walton Selig
Cheri Shapiro
Wendy Stahl
Aileen Sunshine
Lois Wandersman
Revera Wayburn
Fran Weiner

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

Linda Ackerman
Marcie Baker
Marsha Belson
Amy Berger
Janet Brownstein
Sandra Euster
Libbie Fechter
Belle Fields
Bessie Garber
Lois Gibson
Linda Schoen Giddings
Margo Goldberg
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
Amy Scully
Wendy Sharnoff
Susan Stark

Columbia Jewish Federation 2012 Honor Roll of Donors



WOMEN'S CHAVERIM (\$100 - \$249)

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Barbara Berry
Linda Blazek *new
Susan Brill
Arlene Cherney
Sue Deutsch *new
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Lisa Donovan
Lyssa Fischbein
Doris Frank
Roberta Friedland
Jane Friedman
Sandra Friedman
Annette Goldstein
Lycia Golson
Nancy Gottlieb
Lyssa Harvey
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Blanche Kaplan
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Gail Kinard
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Margie Arnold
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Harriett (Booty) Bedinger
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Rae F. Berry
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Joy Cameron *new
Nancy Cartiff
Dana Cason *new
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Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor *new
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Ina Rae Hark
Suzy Herzog *new
Susan Hitt

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Paula Karesh
Ilene King
Cathy Kline
Adrienne Krislow
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Shirley Levine
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Jane Littmann
Susan A Lourie
Joan Gelfman McGee
Ethel Miller
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Annabelle Mischner
Joy Parks
Arlene Pearlstine
Irina Plotkin
Carrie Raines
Barbara Rast
Nancy Reeves
Roselen Rivkin *new
Carole Rothstein
Michal Rubin
Diana Rubinger
Nancy Russo
Cindy Alpert Saad
Cindi Stark
Risa Strauss *new
Barri Thompson *new
Beatrice Weinberg
Leatrice Weiner
Ilsa Young

WOMEN'S BRACHAH (\$1 - \$25)

Cheri Alexander *new
Laura Becker
Cydney Berry
Rimma Brandin *new
Carol Cameron *new
Renee Cohen *new
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Steven Grosby & Naomi Farber
Alex & Barbara Grossberg *new
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Alan & Shannon Jolles
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Tristan & Ella Weinkle *new
Jack & Sandra Whitton
Larry & Suzanne Wright *new

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

At the time of print, \$462,452 had been pledged to our campaign. Thank you for your generous support in helping us *build a giving community!*



Laney Cohen

Beginning this month, Jewish Family Service will begin a program series on "The Aging Parent." My goal is to provide worthwhile programs and resources to our seniors who aren't quite seniors and who may be caring for their senior parents. On March 18th JFS, along with Always Best Care, will host the beginning of a series of classes. These classes are Red Cross sponsored and are free. Attendance is limited due to the materials given by the Red Cross. The first in our series will be "Positioning and Transferring," caring for those who need assistance in getting up and moving around. This class will allow the caregiver to learn how to help move those who need help getting around without hurting themselves in the process - extremely worthwhile if one has a family member who is chair bound, bed bound, or eventually could be either. Our second class (April 15th) will be "Assisting with Personal Care." Upcoming topics are: Caring for the Caregiver; Alzheimer's and Dementia; Advanced Directives Made Easy. I strongly invite all who may be encountering these difficult situations as these courses are designed to help ease the burden of care. All classes will be held at the JCC.

Starting March 1st there will be a community-wide challenge to fight hunger. Through the Feinstein Foundation, JFS will be eligible for matching funds for every dollar and every food item donated to the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry. Here is an excerpt of the letter written by Mr. Feinstein for his mission:

*Please use MY money to help your neighbors in need!
My name is Alan Shawn Feinstein. For the past 14 years, I have been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country.
This year, I am doing it again...*

Why am I doing this? Because I believe each of us was put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need. You got this letter because we feel that YOU believe that, too.

My money started this campaign but it is YOU who will help decide how many needy people in your city or town will be fed this year. All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those who needed us.

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Please give whatever you can - I will gladly add some of my money to yours. (My \$1 million will be divided proportionately in full among the agencies receiving donations toward my offer.). Thank you for sharing my heart, and the hope that—someday—no one will ever go hungry.

*Sincerely Yours,
Alan Shawn Feinstein*

There will be drop off locations at BSS, TOL, and the JCC for food (non-perishables please). Also, the only stipulation is that we must know who the food comes from - if you donate a can, please write your name on it. This information will not be released, but they have requested a list of names for IRS purposes. If anyone in the community wishes to donate money, please make checks out to JFS. JFS has been in contact with the Foundation, and the Food Pantry is registered and ready to go!

Once again, thank you to the Community for your strength and support!

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Ask a Rabbi

Rabbi Daniel M. Sherman

Preparing for Passover 5772

How long is Passover?

Passover, or *Pesach* in Hebrew, is a seven-day festival. As we read in the Book of Exodus: "This day shall be to you one of remembrance: you shall celebrate it as a festival to God throughout the ages; you shall celebrate it as an institution for all time. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the very first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day to the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. You shall celebrate a sacred occasion on the first day, and a sacred occasion on the seventh day - no work at all shall be done on them; only what every person is to eat, that alone may be prepared for you. You shall observe the Festival of *Matzot* (Unleavened Bread), for on this very day I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt; you shall observe this day throughout the ages as an institution for all time. In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. No leaven shall be found in your houses for seven days..." (Exodus 12: 14-19).

The Torah makes it very clear that Passover was intended to be a seven-day festival. However, a later tradition added an extra day to the holiday, as celebrated by Jews in the diaspora. Therefore, outside of Israel, some Jews celebrate seven days of Passover, and some Jews celebrate eight days.

Is it unusual for Passover to begin on Shabbat? Do I have to do anything differently?

The answer is yes and no. Yes, it feels odd to have Passover begin this year on Shabbat. That is because it has not happened this way for quite some time. The last time Passover began on Friday evening was in the year 5758 (April 10, 1998). This is the longest we have gone without a Shabbat-beginning *Pesach* in a very long time. Usually it happens much more frequently. And we should get used to beginning Passover on a Friday evening, as this will be the case again in 5775 (2015), 5776 (2016), 5778 (2018), and 5779 (2019). After that it averages about once every three to seven years.

There are only slight changes to the seder when it occurs on a Friday evening. We add Shabbat to the candle blessing, which now concludes: "*lehadlik ner shel Shabbat v'shel Yom Tov* - to kindle the lights of Shabbat and this Festival day." The (longer) *Kiddush* recited over the first cup of wine is also changed to include Shabbat. The only other changes occur in the *Birkat HaMazon* - the Blessing After the Meal - which includes additions for Shabbat.

For those who celebrate the second night of Passover with a seder, there is one major change for a Saturday evening. After *Kiddush* is recited over the first cup of wine, *Havdalah* is included. The blessing over the multi-wick candle and the blessing of separation are recited before drinking the first cup of wine or grape juice.

Why are there so many types of matzah these days?

Yes, it does seem that every year or two we are introduced to another brand of *matzah*. When choosing a *matzah* for Passover, the key is to look at the ingredients. Kosher *matzah* has only two of them: water and special flour. Only this type of *matzah* counts for fulfilling the *mitzvah* of eating *matzah*. Egg *matzah* is kosher, but because it is not pure *matzah*, it is traditionally not used at the seder for the *mitzvah* of *matzah*. Several of the major brand names make *matzah* that is not kosher for Passover, so please beware. Our local grocery stores often cannot tell the difference.

What is chometz?

Chometz or *chametz* is what we try to avoid eating on Passover. It is defined as food containing any amount of leavened product derived from five types of grain: wheat, barley, oats, spelt, and rye. What is "leavened"? Leavened refers to the process of fermentation that results when flour from these five grains is mixed with water and allowed to sit 18 minutes or longer. After 18 minutes, the dough created by the mixture of flour and water begins to ferment and rise, thus creating "leavened bread." "Unleavened bread" (*matzah*) is bread made with flour ground from these same grains (usually wheat) which has been kept absolutely dry until mixed with water and then baked before the 18-minute point of fermentation. This flour, when baked, becomes a flat cake of *matzah* because the dough was not allowed to rise. The hurried nature of baking *matzah* in less than 18 minutes is what reminds us of the hurried flight of the Israelites from Egypt during the Exodus.

During Passover, we are instructed to avoid any and all forms of *chametz*. That's the negative command: don't eat *chametz*. The positive command, as we read above, is simple: eat *matzah* each of the seven days of Passover.

What's the deal with kitniot/legumes? And why do some Jews eat rice on Passover and some don't?

In addition to *chametz*, another set of restricted foods is called "*Kitniot* - legumes." Most Ashkenazic authorities forbid the use of *kitniot* on Passover because they can be ground into a kind of flour and made into foodstuffs that might appear to be *chametz*. These include beans, rice, corn, and peas. Green beans are usually permitted because the kernel in them has not yet grown. Some authorities allow for peanuts and peanut oil, while others forbid their use in any form. In general, Sephardic, Yemenite, and *Mizrachi* Jews permit *kitniot* for Passover.

For more information (and the information above) on keeping kosher for Passover, I recommend the book: *The Art of Jewish Living - The Passover Seder* by Dr. Ron Wolfson, published by Jewish Lights Publishing. And, as always, you can contact your rabbi for additional answers to your questions.

Chag Sameach - Have a very happy Passover!

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



Jordane Mills Harvey of Charleston, SC, and Joseph Lotts of Natural Bridge, VA, were married on November 20, 2011, at The Carriage House at Magnolia Plantation in Charleston.

The bride is the daughter of Lyssa and Jonathan Harvey of Columbia, SC. She is the granddaughter of Helene and Melton Kligman of Columbia, SC. She graduated cum laude from USC with a BA in School Counseling and The Citadel with an MEd Masters of Counsel at Mary Ford Elementary. She is employed as a school counselor with the City of Charleston.

The groom is the son of Joanna and Michael Lotts of Natural Bridge, VA. He is the grandson of Malcom and Mary Katherine Lotts of Natural Bridge, VA. He graduated from Brevard College

with a BA in Wilderness Leadership and is a certified U.S. Coast Guard Captain. He is self-employed and owner of Charleston Outdoor Advertising.

The couple went to Aruba for their honeymoon and to the New Year's Eve Wide Spread Panic concert in Charlotte.

Mazal Tov to...

* John Baker, who will be honored as the United Way's 2011 Humanitarian of the Year, a major recognition in our community, on Thursday, March 1.

* Roger and Barbara Blau, who will receive the Living and Giving Award from the JDRF Palmetto Chapter during its 15th annual Wings of Love Gala on Saturday, March 3, 2012.

* Alyssa Greenhouse, a senior at Richland Northeast, for being named a National Merit Scholarship finalist. Alyssa will be attending Duke University next year.

* Akiva Muller, son of Rabbi Meir and Sheindel Muller, on his Bar Mitzvah

* Sarah Shtessel, daughter of Vladimir and Tat'Yana Shtessel, on her Bat Mitzvah

Community Voices

From Columbia to Israel

By Josh Sussman

Josh Sussman made Aliyah to Israel in 2004 with his wife Romi and two sons. Little did he know what his new life would bring, and who could have imagined that the two boys would soon be followed by four more brothers. The Sussmans live in the small mountaintop community of Neve Daniel and look forward to welcoming any of you who find your way to Israel! The Sussmans can be reached at home@thesussmanfamily.com.

It has been almost 20 years since I left Columbia and first came to Israel. I did so shortly after I graduated from USC, newly minted Psychology degree in hand. Off I went to participate in a 10-month social service program in Israel called Project Otzma. Little did I know that I would soon meet my wife; fall in love with the country; gradually take on the religious observances of traditional Orthodox Judaism; change my choice of career; eventually become the father of six beautiful sons (if I do say so myself); and live in a small town 10 minutes south of Jerusalem and work for an amazing organization that assists Jews from all over North America and the UK in following their dreams to Israel.

My parents, Dr. Joel and Sue Sussman, first brought me to Columbia over 35 years ago. Like many of the Columbia natives reading this, I had what I believe is a typical childhood for young Jews in the South in the '70s and '80s: Hebrew school at Beth Shalom three days a week, bar mitzvah, and some sprinkling of AZA participation (admittedly under some subtle parental pressure), while working to fit in with my completely non-Jewish peer group. I had very few issues growing up Jewish in Columbia, but I never felt completely at ease either.

After reading Leon Uris' *The Haj*, whose imagery of pre-state Israel drew me in, I decided to spend the year after college in Israel. Within a week of my arrival in Israel I was writing to my parents (yes, I actually wrote them letters with pen and paper; emails were but a dream, and the Start Up Nation had not quite taken off) that I had never been more comfortable, never been more happy. I was exploring my Jewish heritage and experiencing things I had never dreamed of. Within two months, I was writing to tell them I had met the girl who I was going to marry.

My 10-month program wound down, and I followed that girl, by then my fiancé, to Boston while she completed her graduate work in Education at Boston University. We then moved to the Washington area where we would spend the next nine years as I earned Masters' degrees in Judaic Studies and Social Work. Throughout this time, in an effort to capture the magic we felt in Israel and to further cement our commitment to the Jewish community, we embarked on a spiritual journey that eventually led us to lead a fully observant Orthodox lifestyle. I began working on Capitol Hill as a lobbyist for the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (the OU), but after five years, the siren call of Israel finally led us to make Aliyah (literally, "move up"). We look forward to sharing the continuation of our unlikely journey with you.

Chag Kasher v'Sameach — Have a Wonderful Pesach



Josh and Romi Sussman and family



The Shalom Baby program of the Columbia Jewish Federation would like to say Mazal Tov to Nomi and Darryl Jones, Stephanie Driver and Jay Kline, Mary and Jeff Silverberg, and Marcia and Geordie Zug 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 Carolyn Kressler Greenberg, Debbie Greenhouse, and Cindi Stark for volunteering their time to deliver bags. Contact crc@jewishcolumbia.org to submit a name to the Shalom Baby program.

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Community Voices

Shalom in the South of India

An Observation of the History of a Jewish Community

By Julie Kriegshaber

Julie, who grew up in Columbia, SC, has spent the last five months exploring Asia, including two and a half months in India.

Through my travels I was fortunate to attend Friday night services and dinners at synagogues in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Mumbai and Cochin, India. I loved the warm and welcoming atmosphere of each one and appreciated that universal Jewish vibe that emulated from their walls; they always gave me a familiar feeling amidst a wildly foreign backdrop.

Of all the synagogues I visited in Asia, the community (or lack thereof) that sticks out is the Paradesi Synagogue, located in Cochin, Kerala in the south of India. This was one of the most exquisite synagogues I have ever seen, with beautifully imported chandeliers from Belgium and unique porcelain tiles from China. The 450-year-old synagogue also happens to be the oldest active synagogue in India, as well as the entire British Commonwealth. As an example of the benevolence Hindu rulers have shown to the Jews in Kerala throughout the ages, the land the synagogue was built on was gifted from the local Raja. Today, the area around the synagogue is referred to lovingly as “Jew Town” and for centuries was the center of Jewish spice trade.

A unique aspect to the Jewish community in Cochin is that the Jews were traditionally classified into two groups: the Malabars, or ‘Black’ Jews, whose arrival date is still disputed but could have been during King Solomon’s reign, and the Paradesi, or ‘White’ Jews, who emigrated from Europe in the 1500s. Some argue that the influence of the Hindu caste system caused the stark prejudice that White Jews had of Black Jews, who were heavily discriminated against. Intermingling between the two groups was frowned upon, and they had separate synagogues yet practically identical customs.

At the height of their society, the Jews of Cochin numbered over 2,000. Today, there are less than 30. The cause for this massive decline in the Jewish population is bittersweet - after the state of Israel was formed, there was a massive exodus to Israel of most of the younger generations. It is estimated that within the next 20 years, this once flourishing Jewish community will be entirely gone. Currently the congregation can only make minyan with the help of the foreign tourists. This experience was very meaningful for me because other than the Rabbi, the congregation was made up entirely of foreigners who all shared a common bond. As I sat with women, who were also traveling from all over the world, we chanted the same prayers with many of the same melodies that each of us carried from childhood in a language that made me feel at home, even in the heart of India.



Julie in a Jewish area of Cochin, India

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of community events, visit our calendar:
www.jewishcolumbia.org/calendar

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Mitzvah Day in Photos





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Community Voices

LETTER ANNOUNCING THE RETIREMENT OF ARLINE POLINSKY AS DIRECTOR OF THE COLUMBIA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Dear Friends of the Columbia Jewish Film Festival:

The first Jewish Film Festival in the United States was held as recently as 1981, and over the past thirty-one years most of the larger cities in the U.S. have organized Jewish Film Festivals. As a Jew and as a lover of films, I thought that it would be a wonderful addition to the culture of Columbia's Jewish and non-Jewish community to have such a festival in our city even though we would be, at that time, the smallest city in the U.S. to have one. We didn't let that fact hold us back, and through the cooperative efforts of the Cultural Arts Committee of the Jewish Community Center, the Nickelodeon Theater, dozens of generous donors, and hundreds of persons like you who wanted to see Jewish films, the first Columbia Jewish Film Festival was launched in 2001.

Personally, it has been a wonderful experience for me to have served as your Festival Director over the past eleven years, but it is now time for me to turn the project over to new leadership, and I am extremely pleased that the baby that was born eleven years ago will continue to grow into adolescence with new parents. We are moving our festival to the new Nick on Main Street this year where I will still be involved, mainly with film selection. I look forward to seeing each of you there for many years to come, and, of course, as the ushers always say when you enter a movie theater "Enjoy the Show." I know I will!

With warm regards to all,
Arline Polinsky



An open Letter to the Board of the JCC:

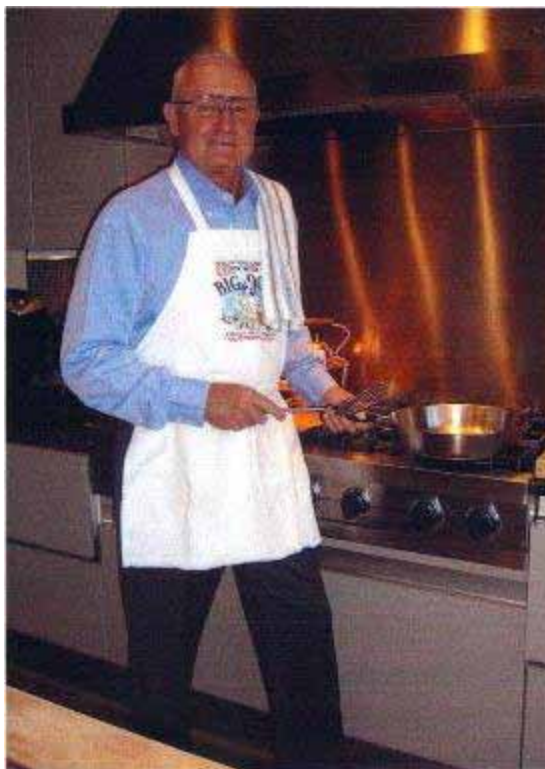
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi and Ruth Marcus for their generous donation of an electric, remote-controlled lift, which enables physically challenged individuals to use our delightful pool at the JCC. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to stretch and exercise, which is so necessary to my well-being. The JCC community and staff were so welcoming and encouraging.

I want to thank the JCC staff members who were instrumental in assisting me. First and foremost is our very well-loved fitness expert, Kaytina Haack. Kaytina has made every effort over the past year to find exercise opportunities to meet my needs. She encouraged me to try chair aerobics and chair yoga. She gave up her free time to help me find which exercises were beneficial and which weren't. She came in between her duties at the JCC to get into the pool and show me how to use the new lift. She even contacted my doctor to help set up a program which would be most beneficial. Kaytina introduced me to Barbara, the water fitness person, to see how she could help me. Ben Kranitz, our executive director, even came to see me in the pool. Lindsay, the new pool director made the time to see how she could be of help to me.

This past month has shown me what a wonderful institution our JCC is and what a caring staff we have here. This is not just a job for most of the staff; it is a mission.

Thank you so much.

Gratefully,
Bobbi Matzner



COOKING BASIC WITH BOB

If you are an accomplished chef or a Culinary Institute graduate, this course is probably not for you; but if you would like to feel more confident in your kitchen with the everyday dishes that are the fare of most households, you will enjoy and benefit from "Cooking Basic with Bob."

As part of this small class (10 people maximum), you will learn and be able to participate in the preparation of the dishes that will make you and your family look forward to mealtime. You will learn food preparation from eggs the way you like them, to a boned roast duck with all the trimmings, and everything in between. Cutting, slicing, chopping, grating, sauteing, baking, roasting, braising, and all the little techniques that go into successfully getting a dish to the table will be demonstrated, and you will actually do the preparation and cooking.

There will be a discussion of the appropriate wine to be served with each dish, and we will learn how to select, open, present, serve, taste, and enjoy wine as we enjoy the meal that we have prepared.

The classes will be held on Sunday evenings from 4:00-6:00 pm in a modern, well-equipped kitchen in a very relaxed, fun atmosphere where everyone will be involved in the most-so-mysterious art of cooking.

The cost of the course is \$100 per class for a series of five, or \$125 for each individual class. The menus for the upcoming classes will be posted on the "Cooking Basic with Bob" website so that if you don't want to take the entire series you can pick and choose the classes that interest you.

Looking forward to sharing my kitchen with you.

Bon Appetit,
Bob Burg

bob@cookingbasicwithbob.com
Work (803) 699-2225 / Cell (803) 608-8088

Community Voices

TOP SOUTH CAROLINA BUSINESS & RESEARCH EXPERTS BUILD ECONOMIC BRIDGES TO ISRAEL
Israeli Corporations Eager to Promote Collaboration with One of America's Fastest Growing Economies
Jonathan Zucker and Tom Glaser

(JERUSALEM- November 17, 2011) - A delegation of twenty-six top level researchers and business executives from South Carolina visited Israel this week. Arranged as an initiative of the recently formed South Carolina-Israel Collaboration, the group spent their time in Israel promoting business relationships between Israel and the southern US state. Over 50 partnerships are currently being explored between Israeli and South Carolina companies and research institutions as a direct result of the delegation's visit.

Tom Glaser, President of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce who organized the mission, said that South Carolina has a great deal to offer Israeli companies looking to expand their operations in the US. "As we develop research and business relationships between South Carolina and Israel, we expect that Israeli companies will be attracted to South Carolina as a logical place to establish regional or US operations," he said. "Our objective this week was to connect with the Israeli companies and researchers that have unique solutions in our six key cluster areas that we can bring to South Carolina, and by extension, to the rest of the United States."

Glaser said that he is aware of numerous collaboration efforts that are being explored as a result of the time spent in Israel. "This mission proves the value of coming and meeting with potential Israeli partners and showing them the benefits of developing business with a state like South Carolina," he said. "It's rewarding to see things are already really happening as a result of meeting with key Israeli executives and researchers, and I'm confident that this is just the beginning."

A principal focus of the week-long mission was to build mutually beneficial investment partnerships in six major fields in which Israeli companies have already proven themselves: Biomedical, Sustainable Systems (agriculture, water and energy), Defense & Security, Insurance/Health IT, Transportation (aerospace and automotive) and Advanced Materials. The group has garnered support from the Government of the State of South Carolina as well as the administrations of the leading universities within the state - all of which are represented within the delegation.

While the delegation was intended to promote expansion in business cooperation, significant collaboration does already exist. This week alone, six Israeli Professors from Technion University are attending a stem cell and regenerative medicine research symposium in the southern state.

Jonathan Zucker, President of The InterTech Group, a holding company and operator of a diverse, global group of businesses, is the Chair of the South Carolina - Israel Collaboration. Son of a Tel-Aviv born entrepreneur and grandchild of four Holocaust survivors, Zucker acknowledges that Zionism and support for Israel is a part of what has driven him in the development of this group. "Where else but Israel does technology and good will work so closely together? This mission isn't just about making investments, it's about Tikkun Olam - repairing the world," he says.

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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

The Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education

The Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education is in the process of developing their website. The site will be ready in March. Funding for the site was made possible by a donation from Alex Freedman in Spartanburg, SC, who raised money for the Foundation as his Bar Mitzvah project and requested that his donation go towards the creation of a website.

The Foundation was formed in May 2010 to further the programs of the SC Council on the Holocaust. The Foundation functions as a private source of funding for support of Holocaust educational activities and community awareness events in South Carolina and has a 501 (c) (3) status. Current economic conditions and cutbacks in state appropriations have resulted in the need for private funding to ensure the future of various educational projects in our state. In 2010 the directors of the Foundation launched a three-year campaign to raise \$100,000. As of February 2012, a total of \$52,618 has been raised statewide.

The purpose of the Foundation is to strengthen the Council's activities in memory, history, and education. The Foundation will honor those survivors who moved to South Carolina and the soldiers from South Carolina who liberated the concentration camps. It will also address related issues of international conflict, genocide, prejudice, and intolerance. Funding is provided to schools, colleges, churches, synagogues, civic groups, and individuals. Projects include teacher grants, classroom supplies, student field trips, teacher training and workshops, Holocaust speakers, exhibits, and other related educational programs.

The Foundation carries the name of Dr. Selden Smith. Dr. Smith is a retired history professor from Columbia College who became interested in teaching the Holocaust over three decades ago. This special interest brought him in contact with survivors and liberators in South Carolina. He acknowledges that these friendships have enriched his life. He was appointed to the Council and served as the chair for many years.

Please visit the website, holocausteducationfoundation.org, and consider making a donation. It is extremely important to continue teaching and reminding both children and adults the lessons of the Holocaust, especially now, since so few survivors and liberators are alive to give first-hand testimony. Please honor their memory with a contribution to help fight hatred and intolerance.

Contributions can be sent to:
The Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education
PO Box 25740
Columbia, SC 29224
Tax ID # 27-2776720

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Beth Shalom

Attention
Seniors

*Tuesdays
with Friends*

Senior Program—Everyone Welcome

Come Enjoy the Fun, Food & Friendship

What a metzia! All for just \$4 bucks!

Tuesday, March 6, 2012
11:30 am-1 pm

Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road

Featuring: Vocalist, Mazen Cotran, singing popular standards made famous by such artists as Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond, and Elvis.

Fun Fitness with Kaytina & Birthdays Celebration!

To RSVP call Beth Shalom at 782-2500, by March 1st

No April program due to the Passover holidays.

Next Tuesdays with Friends on May 1st -

Featuring members of Southern Klezmer

This program is funded in part with a grant from The Columbia Jewish Federation and the BJH Foundation for Senior Services.



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



**Come Eat, Drink,
and be Merry!**

As we celebrate **Purim** with members of Tree of Life & Beth Shalom
for a community Masquerade Ball at Beth Shalom

Purim Masquerade Ball

Wednesday, March 7th

6:15 p.m. Megillah Reading, Havdallah service

7:30 p.m. Live music from the *Atlantic Coastline Band*, heavy hors d'oeuvres, build-your-own sundae bar, costume parade

Bring the whole family. Babysitting will be available.

This is a joint event hosted by
Beth Shalom and Tree of Life Congregation.

There is NO charge for this event.



Beth Shalom Shabbat Playtime

Come visit with Queen Esther as she tells the story of Purim

Puppet Show, Singing,
Dancing, Torahs, and Challah!

Saturday, March 10th
11 am
In the Chapel

Come have fun with Morah Leah & Alon



Tree of Life

The highly successful, third annual Big Nosh event will celebrate "everything Jewish" including food, entertainment and education. The Big Nosh will be held at the Tree of Life Congregation on N Trenholm Road in Columbia on Sunday, April 22nd from 11 am to 7 pm with extended hours to meet the growing demand. Join us and Support Columbia's Cultural Diversity!

Sunday, April 22, 2012 - 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Tree of Life
6719 N Trenholm Road - Columbia, SC 29206
Free Parking * Free Admission



Please return this order form with payment (cash, check or credit card) by Monday, April 16.

Mail or Deliver:
Tree of Life Congregation
6719 NorthTrenholm Road
Columbia, SC 29206

Fax order form to: 803-787-0309
Email order form to: info@tolsc.org
(do not send questions to this address)

Express Pre-Festival Pickup Orders with quick on site 10 minute parking will be available from 9am - 10:30am on the day of the festival (April 22, 2012). We recommend you avoid the crowds and pick up your orders early!

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

PRE-ORDER MENU 2012

Sponsored and cooked with love by Tree of Life Congregation

Item	Price	Qty.	Total
NEW ITEM Whitefish Salad (pound)	\$13.00		
Quart of Bubbe's Chicken Soup with Matzah Balls	\$ 9.00		
Quart of Rabbi Marcus' Special Cabbage & Beef Soup	\$ 9.00		
Stuffed Cabbage (package of 4)	\$10.00		
Noodle Kugel (9x9 pan)	\$15.00		
Beef Brisket (pound)	\$13.00		
Kosher style Corned Beef (pound)	\$13.00		
Kosher style Pastrami (pound)	\$13.00		
Chopped Liver (pound)	\$ 8.00		
Knish (each)	\$ 3.00		
Rugelach (dozen)	\$12.00		
Challah	\$ 5.00		
Ed's famous Apple Strudel (whole)	\$12.00		
Total			

All Items will be packaged refrigerated.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____ Check #: _____

(please make check payable to Tree of Life Congregation)

Credit Card #: _____ Type: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Name on Credit Card: _____ CCID #: _____
(three numbers on back of card)

Looking for a sandwich or a blue plate special? Take-out containers will be available at the festival all day! For more information call visit our website at www.bignosh.org or call 803-787-2182.

**ISRAEL
ISREAL....**

"HANG OUT IN ISRAEL FOR A NIGHT"

SEE ISRAELI LIFE THROUGH THE EYES OF
AN 18 YEAR OLD: THE ARMY, HIGH TECH
INVENTIONS, COOL ISRAELI RAP AND ROCK,
STREET FOOD AND LOTS, LOTS MORE!

Who: Grades 4 through 8

When: March 17 from 6-9 pm

Where: Tree of Life Congregation

Why: To get together, do great informal
programming, and give parents a NIGHT OUT!

Cost: Nothing!

RSVP to Sara Simmons at
BSSReligiousSchool@att.net or
by calling the office at 782-2500

This program is funded in part with a grant from The Columbia Jewish Federation.



Columbia Jewish Day School

If you were present at the Posh Nosh Auction you know the incredible energy and joy that the supporters of the Columbia Jewish Day School created that evening. Due to the passionate and professional work of our auction committee led by Dianna Arnold, the incredible procurements, and the extreme generosity of a community deeply committed to CJDS, the school was able to meet all goals by raising at least \$14,000 over the projected budget.

Rabbi Meir Muller, school principal, appreciated that the teachers of CJDS were honored at the event. He stated, "The school is the community jewel due to our great staff. With 100% of the teachers holding degrees and 50% of the assistant teachers holding degrees, CJDS has a highly qualified nurturing staff."

Michael Arnold, CJDS president stated, "This auction proved to ourselves that we are a school community that can do what it takes to move forward in challenging times. We are building capacity, sharing our strengths and assets, and enriching the children of our Jewish community." While these economic times have caused challenges to the school, the amount raised is an incredible accomplishment that gives the school confidence that along with continued community support the school will meet all of its financial obligations.



Jill Migliore, Dianna Arnold, Lisa Arnold, Shep Cutler, and Mike Arnold





PJ Library enjoyed visiting Tree of Life Congregation and Religious School in February to celebrate Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat. Religious School Director Risa Strauss and Rabbi Daniel Sherman helped bring the story of *Bim and Bom* to life during KIDZ Shabbat, and 7th-grade students partnered with 1st graders to explore the Tu B'Shevat theme of *Dear Tree* through drawings and the creation of edible fruit trees. Tree Tumblers listened to the same story as PJ Library staff helped them make trees of their own to enjoy, including a toddler-sized tree full of Tu B'Shevat surprises.


Gabe Contino helps Emma Iskhakov make an edible fruit tree as part of PJ storytime.

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John & Jen **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**
January 13 - 28 March 16 - 31

Wild Party
May 18 - June 2

Hairspray, 2011

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www.workshoptheatre.com



Look what's happening at the Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC

March/April 2012

12th Annual Columbia Jewish Film Festival

March 17-22, 2012

Saturday March 17:

Nicky's Family - 8:00pm
This is Sodom - 10:30pm

Sunday March 18:

David - 3:00pm
Dolphin Boy - 5:30pm
The Matchmaker - 8:00pm

Monday March 19:

Reuniting the Rubins - 5:30pm
David - 8:00pm

Tuesday March 20:

The Matchmaker - 5:30pm
Reuniting the Rubins - 8:00pm

Wednesday March 21:

Dolphin Boy - 5:30pm
This is Sodom - 8:00pm

Thursday March 22:

Nicky's Family - 5:30pm

*All Films will be shown at the Nickelodeon Theatre (937 Main Street)

Contact Laurie Slack at 787-2023 ext 201 or
lauries@jcccolumbia.org for more information

Family Black-Light Miniature Golf Tournament

Saturday March 31, 2012

Sponsored by Mid-Carolina Steel & Parker-Poe

Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC Gym

Times: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

\$5 per person or \$25 per family

10th Annual Anniversary Golf Classic

Sunday April 1st, 2012

Sponsored by Mid-Carolina Steel & Parker-Poe

The Members club at Wildewood

Shotgun start at 12:30pm

\$125 per player

Contact Kaytina Haack at 787-2023 ext 210 or
kaytinah@jcccolumbia.org for more information

Announcing a call for photographs of Israel!

Have you taken a trip to Israel and have photos you are willing to share? The Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center will be hosting an exhibition of photographs of Israel and we encourage you to participate! We invite submission of any subject matter: from landscape to people to cultural life to whatever else struck you— we want to see Israel through your eyes! Digital images can be emailed to lauries@jcccolumbia.org and physical copies of photographs can be dropped off at the front desk of the JCC.

The exhibit will open on Sunday, April 29 as part of our Annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

The deadline to submit photographs is Sunday, April 1.

Monthly Lunch & Learn w/the Rabbi

2nd Wednesday of the
Month

Upcoming Dates:
March 14th/April 11th

Camp Chaverim 2012

10 weeks of summer fun that includes Jewish culture, specialty camps,
swimming lessons, arts & crafts, field trips and MUCH more!

Ages: 2-14

June 4th - August 10th (10 weeks)

Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Members: \$165/week; Non-members: \$195/week

Contact Nicole Moracco at 787-2023 ext 206 or nicolem@jcccolumbia.org for more information



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12TH ANNUAL
COLUMBIA JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 17 - 22, 2012



	Saturday, March 17	Sunday, March 18	Monday, March 19	Tuesday, March 20	Wednesday, March 21	Thursday, March 22
3:00 pm		David				
5:30 pm		Dolphin Boy	Reuniting the Rubins	The Matchmaker	Dolphin Boy	Nicky's Family
8:00 pm	Nicky's Family	The Matchmaker	David	Reuniting the Rubins	This is Sodom	
10:30 pm	This is Sodom					



David | 80 min

As the son of the Imam of the local Brooklyn mosque, eleven year-old Daud has to juggle the high expectations of his Father and his feelings of isolation and difference— even from his peers in the Muslim community. Through an innocent act of good faith, Daud inadvertently befriends a group of Jewish boys who mistake him as a fellow classmate at their orthodox school, in the neighboring Jewish community.

Dolphin Boy | 72 min

A teenager from an Arab village in the north of Israel disconnects himself from humans following a violent attack that he experienced. As a last resort before hospitalization in a Mental Institution, he is taken by his devoted father to be treated with Dolphins in Eilat. This is a documentary about the devastating havoc that human violence can wreak upon the human soul, and about the healing powers of nature and of love.

The Matchmaker | 112 min Hebrew with English Subtitles

Arik, a teenage boy growing up in Haifa in 1968, gets a job working for Yankele Bride, a matchmaker. The disparate parts of Arik's life collide in unexpected, often funny and very moving ways as he lives through a summer that changes him forever.

Nicky's Family | 90 min

Nicky's Family tells the nearly forgotten story of Nicholas Winton, an Englishman who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of World War II. Winton's story is a very emotional one, and thousands of children in many countries have decided to follow in his footsteps and do something important. They think up various charity projects and even help in the saving of lives of undernourished and sick children in Cambodia and Africa.

Reuniting the Rubins | 97 min

One man's mission to follow his dream is comically halted in its tracks at the request of his dear, but difficult, aged Jewish mother who is hell-bent on seeing her warring dysfunctional grown up grandchildren together one last time before she dies. It is going to take a whole lot of soul-searching and sacrifice for everyone to come together in this comic drama.

This is Sodom | 90 min Hebrew with English Subtitles

In this satirical comedy God is a young and ambitious entrepreneur trying to recruit his first customer, a cranky old man named Abraham. Old Abraham is a fearless negotiator, with a "deal breaker" demand: the immediate rescue of his nephew Lot - the only righteous man in Sodom - from the city which is about to be obliterated.

NICKELODEON THEATRE | 937 MAIN STREET | COLUMBIA, SC

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS GO ON SALE 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO SHOWTIME
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE A FESTIVAL PASS: 803.787.2023

Hillel



**Meet Zach Roth -
2012 Hillel at USC President**
Take a moment to meet this remarkable sophomore from Silver Spring, MD who is heading up our growing Hillel.

How did you decide to come to USC?
"I knew I wanted to major in International Business since I was 10 years old. With USC having the number one International Business program in the nation, it was a no brainer... I'm a double major in International Business and Real Estate because I plan on becoming an international real estate developer."

What languages do you speak?

"Hebrew (proficient), French (intermediate), Latin (intermediate) and Spanish (intermediate)."

What was your Jewish background prior to USC?

"I [have] attended Jewish day schools since I was 2 years 7 months old. I regularly attended synagogue and led a minyan at my high school every morning. Clearly, it was a bit of a culture shock going to USC. I believe, however, that you can become more involved and closer to your religion when put in a new or different situation."

How did you get involved with Hillel? How did you become Hillel president?
"I got involved with Hillel immediately upon reaching USC. By December of my freshman year, I was Vice President. Everyone really respected me as Vice President and liked my leadership style. At that point, I knew being the President of Hillel was going to be a good fit. Furthermore, I had some great ideas to expand Hillel that I've been able to implement as President."

Do you know a Jewish student who is considering attending USC? Hillel students are available to meet with prospective students to share about being Jewish at USC! Email rabbileah@gmail.com to be put in touch with a student.

In the future, Zach hopes that Hillel will have a house on campus with a strong support base. "For now, I'd like to see Hillel become popular with students who would like to get back in touch with their Jewish roots."

What is your favorite Hillel memory (so far!)?

"As of yet, my most favorite Hillel memory was our dinner at TOL over Parents Weekend. It was a great time, and lots of new Jewish students came out to eat and worship."

What other activities are you involved in?

"I'm the Social Chair of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (the only Jewish fraternity on campus) as well as the Internal Events Coordinator for Dance Marathon, a 24-hour event that raises awareness and funds for the Children's Miracle Network. Off-campus, I teach Hebrew to grades 5, 7, 8 and 9 at Tree of Life [Congregation] every Sunday. I love teaching at TOL and sharing my knowledge of the Hebrew language and Jewish tradition. Also, hearing [my students'] stories of being a Jew in the South - something extremely foreign to me - is inspiring."

Share your experience of bringing students from your high school to USC.

"When I first applied to USC, no one from my high school even knew of USC, let alone went there. Keep in mind, I went to a Jewish high school, so most of the students went to colleges with a strong Jewish population. When I went back to my high school this past winter break, I had multiple students come up to me saying they had applied to USC and were seriously thinking of attending. I was so pleased to see students looking at USC, even though the Jewish population is not as strong as Brandeis or University of Maryland. It really goes to show that the Jewish population at USC is on the rise and can greatly help Hillel succeed."

Other hobbies/interests?

"This past summer, I achieved my Divemaster certification, achieved by less than 1 in 10 divers. It is the first step in becoming a diving professional. In addition to scuba diving, I like any sort of water sport - wakeboarding, skimboarding, or surfing, for example. I also love hanging out with friends and planning parties."

BBYO

Columbia BBYO remains very busy with local and statewide activities. Our teens joined with Atlanta Council in Georgia for the Southern Regional convention in February. The Region bonded through Shabbat services Friday night and Saturday Morning and participated in some healthy competition during AZA and BBG runoffs. Once again, Dixie's creativity and enthusiasm led to a great showing with Lena Karesh BBG taking the top spot for the girls. My wife and I joined the fun on Saturday for a lakeside Havdalah service and then listened to the outgoing Council Godol and N'siah give their State Council speeches. Alyssa Greenhouse, Council N'siah, urged her fellow teens to make an impact in what they do. In one of the most moving programs of the weekend, Dixie's participants created their own "BBYO Story" video. See how your favorite BBGs and AZAs feel about our amazing movement by visiting http://youtu.be/UsZ3sHK_x8Q.

An AZA/BBG Superbowl party finished out the football season. Congratulations to Sam Lourie and Grant Kilgore on their election as co-Godols. Harrison Lapin and Davis Bland are responsible for new members.

New officers were elected for BBG: Bethany Smith, Nsiah; Sarah Brotman, S'ganit; MIT Mom, Lauren Cherney; and Mazkirah, Hannah Greenhouse.

Six of our teens will attend the International Convention in Atlanta at the end of February. They will meet with one thousand teens from across the country and world for four days of Jewish programming, community service and celebrating together as Jewish youth. This year's theme is Our Future Starts Today. Our own regional director, Rona Goldstein, is planning the event.

We enjoyed participating in Mitzvah day as the entire Columbia Jewish Community came together.

The Columbia Dance is March 23-25. We are planning a full weekend including Shabbat services, our Council basketball tournament, and dance. We would like to extend an invitation to all Jewish High Schoolers to attend our dance. The cost will only be \$10 at the door. The dance will be held at the JCC on Saturday, March 24 from 9 to 11. For more information, contact Eden Picow or Geoffrey Corvi.

Columbia has launched their BBYO Connect program specifically for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The group will be meeting throughout the school year. For

more information on the program and upcoming events, contact Rona Goldstein at RGoldstein@bbyo.org.

The Friends and Alumni Network campaign is off to a great start. We have been busy reconnecting with alumni and their parents in Columbia and across the nation. Many have told us some wonderful stories about their involvement in BBYO and what it has meant in their lives. Help reconnect at bbyo.org/columbia.

Dixie Council is looking for advisors in each of its four cities (Augusta, Charleston, Columbia and Savannah). If you are someone you know, are over 22 years of age and interested in volunteering, please contact Rona Goldstein at RGoldstein@bbyo.org.

David Greenhouse
Chair, Columbia BBYO
dgreenhouse@sc.rr.com



Members of AZA and BBG had dinner prior to watching the Super Bowl Feb. 5.

Columbia...
BBYO Connect is Here!



BBYO Connect is the BBYO experience made just for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students offering social and meaningful experiences that will serve as a gateway to continued involvement in Jewish life.

Sat., April 21st
J-Serve
Susan Komen
Walk for
the Cure in
Savannah, GA

Sun., May 6th
A Day at
the Theater
Trustus Theater,
Columbia
3:00 - 6:00 pm

For additional information regarding BBYO Connect please contact Rona Goldstein at RGoldstein@bbyo.org



Opera-tunity's Week of Remembrance

By Janet Hopkins

Opera-tunity Foundation, the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, and The Columbia Holocaust Education Committee will be presenting the children's opera *Brundibár* as part of "Week of Remembrance....a Celebration of Jewish Culture," April 15-21, 2012. Composed in 1938 by Czech composer Hans Krása with a libretto by Adolf Hoffmeister, children in a Jewish orphanage first performed *Brundibár* in 1942. It was then performed 55 times in 1943 by the inmates of the Terezín concentration camp.

Holocaust survivor and the original "Cat" in the performances of *Brundibár* in Terezín, Ela Weissberger will speak - and perform - at each of the three performances (Friday, April 20th, 11am, JCC; 11am and 1:30pm on Saturday, April 21, Dreher High School). Cost is free, but reservations to ensure seating must be made. Please contact Janet Hopkins at OperatunitySC@gmail.com or (803)777-0772.

Brundibár is a children's fable and features a young brother and sister, Pepicek and Aninku, who are trying to help their sick mother. The themes that infuse this charming score are the importance of courage and of uniting together against tyranny. The character Brundibár is a bully who brutally monopolizes life in the town, a parody on Hitler's dominance and dictatorship during this time period. He is sarcastic and oppressive. Together the children overcome his dominance and defeat him.

In the the original *Brundibar* production, Ela Weissberger is the cat, to the right of the boy with the fake mustache in the propaganda photo (to the right) taken by the Nazis.

Weissberger's participation provides a unique opportunity to hear stories from Terezín first hand. Ms Weissberger will also be speaking at Yom Hashoah, April 19th, 7pm at Beth Shalom Synagogue.

Brundibár is only one event in the "Week of Remembrance." The opening event on April 15th at the Koger Center for the Arts, also sponsored by the USC School of Music, is "Defiant Requiem-Verdi at Terezín." The Defiant Requiem is a powerful multi-media production which tells the story of the courageous and innovative prisoners who used their performances of the magnificent music of Verdi's *Requiem* to show their defiance to their captors. The work interweaves Verdi's *Requiem* with video clip interviews of actual Terezín survivors, dramatic readings from inmates' diaries, and Nazi film footage. There are different community events daily, many free. The "Week" honors the different mediums of orchestral, voice, art, film, choral and symphonic that both came from the Terezín concentration camp and from the Jewish heritage. The prisoners spoke of their ability to find strength and solace through the arts and how these simple acts of creativity served as an act of defiance in the face of oppression.

To see the full schedule of events, please visit
Opera-tunityFoundation.webs.com.






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