The Jews and the Pope
Fascinating topic open to the public - Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m.

Join us at the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center at 7 p.m. on May 2 for a stimulating program on “The Pope and the Jews,” co-sponsored by the Columbia Jewish Federation Community Relations Committee and Chabad of South Carolina. Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, Professor of Judaic Studies at Yeshiva University and Chairman of the Jewish Liaison to the Vatican will join us after just attending the installation of Pope Francis.

The relationship of the Pope with the Jewish World community from the years preceding World War II, through Vatican 2 to today, as well as the relationship between Israel and the Vatican, will be topics of Dr. Schiffman’s remarks.

Admission is $10 and can be paid at the door or reservations can be made by calling Melissa at the Federation at 787-2023 ext. 204 or Rabbi Levi Marrus at 237-7330.

You may also become a program sponsor for a donation of $100 which includes admission to the program with preferred seating and a special pre-program reception with our speaker.

Major Donors Recognized

On April 16th, many of the Columbia Jewish Federation’s major donors gathered at the home of Sue and Jerry Kline and received recognition and thanks for their support of the 2013 Campaign. With the 65th anniversary of Israel’s independence as a theme, Federation President Naomi Farber and Executive Director Barry Abels greeted everyone with special 65th anniversary pins and a briefing about the positive impact of the Federation system within Israel and around the world. The Federation would like to thank Sue and Jerry for opening up their beautiful home and hosting a wonderful affair.

The community welcomes the new Chabad-Aleph House on Decker Blvd. See page 13 for details.
Irving Roth Brings Holocaust To Life During Yom Hashoah Program

Holocaust survivor Irving Roth captured the attention of the Columbia Jewish community during the annual Yom HaShoah program as he spoke about his experiences growing up in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia and in Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps. The event took place on April 7 at Tree of Life congregation. The solemn program also featured a violin/piano duet by Meira Warshauer and violinist William Terwilliger performing Warshauer’s original composition “Bracha.” It also included candle lighting by Holocaust survivors, their families and liberators, the chanting of El Male Rachamin by Cantor Michael Rubin, special tributes by religious school students, the blowing of the shofar by Dr. Jonathan Leader and the presentation of colors by the Ft. Jackson Color Guard. The Yom HaShoah program was organized by the Columbia Jewish Federation and the Yom HaShoah Committee, chaired by Dr. Abe Wandersman.

The following day, Roth spoke to University of South Carolina social work students and faculty. The students are studying public policy and social justice.
The Power of Community

By Barry Abels, executive director of Columbia Jewish Federation and Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center

When you open the Columbia Jewish Federation website one of the first things you may see is our theme, “The Power of Community.” In the context of philanthropy and community support the idea that we are stronger as a collective group, verses individually, certainly holds true. Whether we are leveraging our dollars or advocating a position, together we can make more of an impact within our own community and beyond.

Our Federation campaign is a prime example of impact. Each year we raise money that provides additional or primary funding to our local programs and institutions. We supplement the important work of our congregations’ religious schools and BBYO, as well as that of the Columbia Jewish Day School. This impacts most, if not all of our community’s children. We help to educate them and add to their Jewish experiences. Together we support programs for Jewish students on the USC campus through Hillel. We not only provide a small taste of home by helping to organize and ensure a great Seder experience, we also provide funding for programs that help affirm their Jewish identity when such a small presence on campus. Together, through Federation, we do this.

Jewish Family Service, funded in vast majority by campaign, provides an important lifeline to those in our community who are not sure where else to turn in a crisis. We help provide food and financial assistance when needed. We provide counseling and referral services; provide reduced cost transportation for seniors; and partner on many programs for the actively aging. JFS facilitates local applications to the Jewish Education Loan Fund for our college students needing extra help meeting their college expenses. Your support of Federation makes this happen.

Our partnership with the Jewish Federations of North America help us to leverage our funds in support of projects in Israel that assist at-risk youth or in the former Soviet Union that supplement the often meager diets of elderly still living there.

Thousands of people here and throughout the Jewish World benefit from the funds we raise through our campaign. Our ability to fund programs and impact lives is only limited by the money we have available to provide. For the last few years we have kept a steady pace raising nearly $500,000 annually. However our current 2013 campaign has not kept up resulting in reduced funding available for some of our programs and recipient organizations. Working with our campaign chairs, we began to review the campaign concerned about the impact of the economy. Surprisingly we discovered it was not primarily the economy, but instead, it is more a result of both staff transitions and new tracking strategies during the campaign.

Quite simply, over 100 supporters who donated during the 2012 campaign fell through the cracks this year. We have identified the gaps and many of you have already been contacted. This is where the Power of Community can again come into play. For those we still have yet to contact, simply take a few minutes and call the Federation. Make your pledge. By making your call to us you will ensure that our campaign is completed, our $500,000 goal will be reached and those who benefit from our funding and programs will be served. Thank you in advance for heeding this call to action showing how the Power of Community continues to be alive and well in Columbia.

You Belong Here!

Like other JCC’s all over the country, we have adopted the national slogan “You Belong Here.” This is not a hollow boast, but a true feeling espoused by staff, board members and Center members throughout the JCC system, and the Jewish Federation. For those of us with various levels of physical challenges, there is no better place to improve mobility and physical health than our JCC, with trainers knowledgeable in corrective exercise, yoga, stretching and water aerobics. Our re-imagined Camp Geshert is no different. As your executive, but also as a newcomer who has experienced JCC’s around the country, I too hold this value to be true. It is not only because we do have one of the finest fitness and aquatic centers in the country, along with an excellent and dedicated staff, but we are so much more. One of the many challenges I have heard is, “there is not much there for me,” and “there is not enough Jewish programming going on here.” Often it seems these comments are from folks who have felt this way for awhile, but have not been to the campus lately. We recently offered the renowned “Shalom Sesame” series for our younger members, a fun education series with Sesame Street characters teaching about our holidays, culture and Israel. Our weekly game day, co-sponsored by Federation, is popular and a great way to spend the afternoon. Our lobby features the excellent and moving exhibit about the Holocaust and those survivors who settled in Columbia and South Carolina. We’ve hosted lunch and learn programs and are looking at more, and we are working on a series of painting classes. Laurie Slack has just returned from maternity leave and will be ramping up more Jewish programs and we will be doing more in partnership with Federation and JFS. For those of us with various levels of physical challenges, there is no better place to improve mobility and physical health than our JCC, with trainers knowledgeable in corrective exercise, yoga, stretching and water aerobics. Our re-imagined Camp Geshert has been well thought out and not only will feature great standbys like sports, art, swimming and drama, but Gaga, a really fun Israeli style of dodge ball.

Additionally some of our programs occur off campus like our excellent Jewish Film Festival, a special performance on May 9th of “Miss Saigon” at the Town Theater, and in a few weeks a theater road trip in partnership with Federation to Charlotte. Working collaboratively, the JCC and Federation staff are brainstorming and planning new and varied programs and we want you to hear from you. My door is open for your feedback and ideas and I will be holding a series of informal gatherings at the JCC or other venues to discuss your thoughts or concerns. You will also see a new group of Volunteer Staff giving tours and greeting you at the front desk. They will also be giving us ideas for programming and be available to listen to yours. So, if you are a current member you will see us working to give you more. If you are not a member or have left the JCC, we are working hard to help you see that indeed, “You Belong Here,” at the Katie and Irwin Kahn JCC.
Columbia Jewish Federation 2013 Honor Roll of Donors

Donors as of April 10 are listed below. Those who are new to the campaign or increased at least 10 percent are highlighted. Those donors also receive a coupon for delicious cookies from Ally & Eloise Bakeshop on Forest Drive. Donors who gave in honor of Shep and Joni Cutler are noted with double asterisks.

Men’s Division:

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

JERUSALEM ($10,000 - $29,999)
Norman Arnold
Baker and Baker Family
Kahn and Kahn Family
Jerry Kline
Fred Seidenberg
Bill Stern

PRIME MINISTER ($5,000 - $9,999)
Keith Babcock
Bruce Filler
David Lovit
Herbert Niestat

BEN GURION ($3,000 - $4,999)
Robert Berger
Moss Blachman
Sam Elkins
Emmanuel Farber
Henry Goldberg
Stanley Greenberg
Richard Helman
Alan Kantsiper
David Albenberg
Sherwood Stark
Jeffrey Silver
Steven Rosansky
Howard Robinson
David Reisman
Murray Politis
Larry Needle
Howard Nankin
Miles Moriarty
Howard Kline
Larry Needle
Jeff Selig
Steve Terner

MEN’S MENSCH ($500 - $999)
Frank Baker
Samuel Baker
Marvin Biemstock
Allan Brett
Brendan Fleischman
Carl Freedman
Sam Friedman
Ira Greenberg
Pierre Jaffe
Melton Klugman
Richard Kline
Sol Kline
A.M. Lourie
Paul McCadam
Maryn Milman
Marc Rapport
Walker Rast
Ezra Riber
Jeff Selig
Steve Terner

MEN’S HaTIKVAH ($250 - $499)
Gerald Breger
Rabbi Hesh Epstein
Gerald Euster
Martin Lefkowitz
Arthur Levy
Joe Lourie
Miles Moriarty
Howard Nankin
Larry Needle
Michael Owens
Murray Politis
David Reisman
Howard Robinson
Steven Rosansky
Joseph Rosen
Jeffrey Silver
Sherwood Stark

MEN’S CHALUTZIM ($1,000 - $2,999)
Barry Abels
Michael Arnold
Harvey Belson
Alan Brill
Eric Elkins
Harold Friedman
Jay Friedman
Karl Goldberg
Joel Gottlieb
Jeffrey Gross
Harvey Helman
David Jacobs
Hyman Karshes
Howard Levy
Manuel Lifchez
Neal Lourie
Rabbi Sanford Marcus
Henry Miller
Ian Scott Picow
Stephen T. Savitz
Brian Schroeder
Joe Sharnoff
James Speed, Jr.
Samuel Tenenbaum
Michael Tucker
Abe Wandersman
David Zalesne

MEN’S SHALOM ($26 - $99)
Max Babcock
Michael Babcock *new
Richard Balser
Garry Baum
Michael Brown
Jerry Emanuel
AlvaKhassiyot
Jonathan Leader
Bernard Levine
Frank Lourie
Frederic Medway
Harvie Nachlinger
Jerry Rothstein
Gary Rudman
Sid Sasiene
Randy Stark
Alvin Steingold
Neal Sukter
Joseph Weiss
Alan Witten

MEN’S BRACHAH ($1 - $25)
Herb Drucker
Steven Langer
David Polen *new

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
Linda Stern
Laurie Walden (in memory of Pat & Lee Baker)

POMEGRANATES ($2,500-4,999)
Jackie Dickman-Babcock
Kay Gross
Heidi Lovit
Donna Magaro
Nancy Sonenshine

GOLDA MEIR ($1,000 - $2,499)
Gail Anastasion
Toni Elkins
Gloria Goldberg
Carolyn Kressler Goldberg
Esther Greenberg
Peggy Jacobs
Helene Kligman
Shelley Kriegshaber
Susan R. Lourie
Patricia Lovit
Ruth Marcus
Eleanor Niestat
Sandra Poliakoff
Ruth Rast
Hannah Rubin
Jeanie Rubin
Ellen Seidenberg
Henri Silver
Rachel Silver
Erika Swertling
Inez Tenenbaum
Patricia Tucker
Katherine Wu
Anny Zalesne

LION OF ISRAEL ($1,000+)
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Penny Blachman
Debbie Brett
Joane Epley
Dorothy Friedmann
Bessie Garber
Ellen Helman
Ferne Kantor
Claire Kline
Frances Leder
Tracy Miner
Nancy Nankin
Mandy Riber
Walton Selig
Cheri Shapiro
Wendy Stahl
Aileen Sunshine
Alice Terner
Lois Wandersman
Revera Wayburn

WOMEN’S HaTIKVAH ($250 - $499)
Marcie Baker
Melanie Baker
Marsha Belson
Amy Berger
Janet Brownstein
Carolyn Conway
Sandra Euster
Libbie Fechter
Belle Fields
Lois Gibson
Linda Giddings
Bluma Goldberg
Margo Goldberg
Heide Golden
Annette Goldenstein
Elizabeth Gross
Ina Gottlieb
Eleanor Hammer
Jennifer Kahn
Reberta Kares
Kathy Kline
Rose Kline
Eleanor Levy
Nancy Lourie
Minda Miller
Betty Watts Moriarty
Penny Nadel
Cheryl Nail
Heather Norby
Marilyn Picow
Helen Rothstein
Jennifer Savitz
Ellia Schlozberg
Amy Scully
Wendy Sharnoff
Karen Skelton
Susan Stark

WOMEN’S CHALUTZIM ($100 - $249)
Inez Tenenbaum
Michael Tucker
Arlene Cherney
Sue Deutsch
Ann Diamond

...
Columbia Jewish Federation
2013 Honor Roll of Donors

Selma Dickman
Lisa Donovan
Meredith Engler
Roberta Friedland
Jane Friedman
Sandra Friedman
Faye Miller Goldberg
Lycia Golson
Terry Gomberg
Nancy Gottlieb
Lyssa Harvey
Saundra Hertz
Ellen Humphries
Beryl Jaffe*

Belle Jeweler
Gerda Kahn
Blanche Kaplan
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Barbara LaBelle
Faye Levinson
Barbara Levy
Gail Lieb
Rebecca Lourie
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Marlene Mischner
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Sharon Robinzart
Marilyn Safran
Sara Schecter Schoeman
Susan Scouten
Sara Spotts
Julie Strauss
Sue Sussman
Meira Warshauer

WOMEN’S SHALOM ($26 - $99)
Margie Arnold
Ann Barry
Karen Beattie
Helen Bellah
Dana Cason
Sandy Cowen
Sylvia Crémer Friedman
Rheni Denberg
Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor
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Jewel Rotholz
Cindy Saad
Anne Solomon
Judy Small
Cindi Stark
Risa Strauss
Barri Thompson
Beatrice Weinberg
Leatrice Weiner
Ilsa Young

WOMEN’S BRACHAH ($1 - $25)
Stephanie Alexander
Laura Becker
Rae Berry
Shelli Charles *new
Renee Cohen
Helen Coplan
Ronnie Drucker
Blanche Feldman *new
Carol Glass
Sheila Kaffee
Sheila King
Basya Lesov
Kimberly Richey
Marlene Roth
Charlotte Schonfeld
Evelyn Scott
Joan Tucker *new

Family Division:
Linda & Alan Ackerman
David & Kim Bannister
Leeds & Katherine Barroll
Lindsy & Matt Bennett
Eric & Renee Bland
Robert & Sherill Blenner
Calvin & Hiroko Bowen
Jay & Leila Bressler
David & Jill Carr
Rabbi Jonathan & Rivke Case
Dennis & Pamela Cohen
Keven & Laney Cohen
Richard & Debra Cohn* new
Pat & Nina Contino *new
Mark & Pam Crawford
Kenneth & Ceri Cutler
Debbie and Bruce Deutshmann
Stanley & Melissa Dubinsky
Michael & Marilyn Ehmeke
Eric & Pamela Feuerstein
Robert Feinstein & Jessica Elfenbein
David & Lyssa Fischbein
Daniela Friedman & Michael Dojc *new
Ron & Terry Garber
Charles & Gaynelle Geffen
Mark & Debra Gelman *new
David & Deborah Greenhouse
Steven Groshob & Naomi Faber
Karen & Russell Haber
Bobby & Barbara Kahn
Judith & Alex Kalb
Eugene & Elena Kaplan
Steve & Charyl Karetz

Ariel & Maria Kattan-Mondino
Talap & Liza Khaznetov
Paul & Hannah Kirschfeld
Joseph & Vanessa Kligman
Peter & Sheryl Kline
Fred & Susan Kunik
Barry & Lynda Leiben
Gad & Bobbi Matzner
Joshua & Joanna McDuffie
Rabbi Meir & Sheindel Muller
Douglas & Irene Milliman
Sam & Kim Moses
Rachel & Dan Noyes *new
Michael & Kelly Owens*
Michelle & Justin Peterson
Shmuel & Carolyn Playfair
Ron & Melissa Port
Marc & Ann Posner
Felix & Sarra Rabinovich
Tom & Linda Rodgers
Boris & Natalya Rozin
Herman & Adele Salzberg
Howie & Emily Schech

Thank you for your support and demonstrating the Power of 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.

2013 CJF Allocations

By Joshua McDuffe, Ph.D. – Allocations chair
The Columbia Jewish Federation is happy to announce allocations for 2013. Our Federation allocated $243,000 to fund activities and investments in the Columbia community including Jewish cultural programming, education and wellness. Federation was also able to provide support to The Jewish Federations of North America to enhance the lives of Jews around the world.

Education: The Columbia Jewish Day School was allocated $25,000, which will help provide need-based scholarships for Jewish primary school students. The Tree of Life and Beth Shalom religious schools were each provided $3,000 to help support programming and religious education for students, ranging from pre-kindergarten through high school. The Jewish Educational Loan Fund was awarded a $2,500 allocation, which helps to provide interest-free loans for local Jewish undergraduate or graduate students.

Youth Programming: Our local BBYO chapters were awarded an allocation of $2,000 to help provide Jewish teens (8th-12th grade) with meaningful Jewish experiences. Columbia is well represented at regional and national events, and Columbia’s BBYO chapters create regional, national and international BBYO leaders. Federation is proud to support their continued success. Columbia was also able to provide $4,000 to the USC chapter of Hillel. Our local Hillel chapter has been growing and has helped to create a strong and vibrant Jewish presence on the USC campus. The allocation funding is leveraged by Hillel to receive additional funds from the university.

Our JCC: This year Federation was able to allocate $145,000 to the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center. The JCC provides a focal point for Jewish cultural life, learning and health in Columbia, and is widely used by both Jews and non-Jews in the community. Federation is proud to continue to allocate to the JCC, which provides fantastic facilities and enriching programming to our community.

JFNA: Federation was able to allocate $58,500 to The Jewish Federations of North America. JFNA is our parent organization, and provides valuable support and resources to our community, and also to Jews worldwide. JFNA continues to support social welfare, education, social services, and to protect Jews worldwide. We are proud to join them in promoting the values of tzedakah, Torah, and tikkun olam.

Thank You! CJF is able to make annual allocations because of the support of our members. When you donate to Federation’s Annual Campaign you are helping to support these and many other worthwhile programs which enhance Jewish life in our community and worldwide. On behalf of the recipient organizations, I would like to thank all of the members and supporters of the Columbia Jewish Federation who made this year’s allocations possible.
Jewish Family Service  
Written by Laney Cohen, director

I love what I do at Jewish Family Service. It’s a 24/7 “labor of love”. You’re always on call because you never know when someone in the Jewish community will be in crisis, in need of food, in need of a friend. It might surprise many is that it is not at all uncommon for someone in our community to face serious difficulty. Many people, both Jewish and non-Jewish have developed an almost-stereotypical view of Jewish people:

“They’re Jewish... you know they have money. Jewish families are so stable right? How bad can it be?”

It’s time for people to stop living in denial (especially in our community). Crises don’t discriminate. Jewish people go through hard times like anyone else does. A lot of us live in a cocoon and think what happens to others, doesn’t happen to the “Jewish family”. In the last year we have helped families dealing with everything from abuse, to bankruptcy, to divorce and even incarceration. It does happen to our people. It happens to people you know. My own husband lost his job in November. Crisis happens in our community.

Enter JFS. We are here for our Jewish Community. The first key to understanding how JFS can thrive is to accept that JFS is genuinely needed. We are not an organization for a once-in-a-blue-moon situation. A bad economy impacts all people. Divorce statistics or domestic abuse can occur in any household. Everyone can be in need.

The moral of this piece is to let you know that JFS is here for you or anyone you may know in our community that is in need. It might be your family. It might be a friend. It might be a neighbor. Please don’t believe that just because someone is Jewish—that bad things cannot happen in their household. Remember JFS when you hear of someone who needs a friend. Remember JFS when you hear of someone in our community who needs food, or a place to go. Jewish Family Service is for the community. We are here to help.

Calling All Knitters  
(and those interested in learning)!

Mitzvah Knitters will be meeting every Monday at 10:30 in the Multi-Purpose Room at the JCC! Come eat, schmooze, and knit! Start a new project for a soldier (afghan squares will be created to be connected to be sent to soldiers serving overseas), or finish a project you are working on!

Tuesday with Friends was awarded $500 from Day Break Adult Care Services

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G1

Come play, socialize, strategize, and have a good time playing board games, mah jongg, cards, etc.  
Tobias & games will be set up, snacks will be provided!

Members FREE | Non-members $2  
Drop in. No RSVP required

Every Wednesday | 1 – 4 PM
Camp Gesher: A Bridge between Summer Fun and Jewish Identity

A great summer day camp experience is just a few weeks away for your children and grandchildren. Camp Gesher is the new re-imagined summer program offered by the Katie and Irwin JCC and is guaranteed to be full of old favorites and new experiences. The creative energy for our new Camp Gesher comes from Risa Strauss and Alon Segal, Religious School Directors for Tree of Life Congregation and Beth Shalom Synagogue and Elisa Westfall, an elementary teacher in the Lexington 5 District. In addition to various sports, games, swimming, drama, music and arts and crafts; Camp Gesher activities will also include gardening and nature, and Jewish Life and world cultures. Another highlight will be the new JCC GaGa Pit for playing Israeli dodge ball. Each week we’ll also have a value based theme such as respect, teamwork and courage and each week will end with a Shabbat celebration. The new garden area is now being prepared and the GaGa Pit construction is getting underway. If you would like more information or would like to help with the new garden, contact Risa at 803-787-2023 ext. 210 or to register, Adrienne at ext. 216.

Camp Gesher
(with apologies to Dr. Seuss)

Camp Gesher is here Summer 2013
Swimming, sports, drama, and more
For kids, youth and teens!

We’ll play Ga-ga, that’s
Dodgeball, Israeli style
And explore values and friendship
Share music, meals, and smiles!

So register your child
From age 3 through Grade 9
But don’t procrastinate too much
You wanna be in time...

To cultivate our Garden
And celebrate Shabbat
Meet all your counselors and friends
And enjoy a summer...THAT’S FAMOUSLY HOT!
BBYO

BBYO held its spring convention March 22 – 24 at the W. W. Long Leadership Center in Aiken. Teens from Columbia, Savannah, Charleston and Augusta gathered to elect new council officers and take part in a variety of programs and religious services.

The program coordinator for the weekend was Bethany Smith who did an outstanding job planning exciting and interesting things to do.

Joining the teens was Sarah Minion, BBYO’s International BBG president, who took part in the weekend activities and led a program on “how to create successful programs.”

In spite of the rain, spirits were high and the business of Dixie Council was completed with the election of new officers. Columbia continued to be represented on the Dixie Council board as Hannah Greenhouse was elected BBG Mazkirah, secretary.

BBYO now has a program for middle school children called BBYO Connect. Activities will be planned by an advisor and the group will meet at regular intervals. For more information contact Hannah Greenhouse at fastpitchgirl28@yahoo.com or the new Dixie Council director Tamar Sternfeld at tsternfeld@bbyo.org

YAD Masquerade on Main Purim Ball

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION (YAD)

By Robin Goldberg

The Young Adult Division (YAD) of the Columbia Jewish Federation had a great Passover event! The group convened for the second night Pesach Seder at Rosso on Forest Drive. After reading through the Haggadah, the group was served a Kosher for Passover meal, and then completed the Seder after the meal. What a great treat it was to be able to eat out at a restaurant during Passover!

If you would like to be added to the YAD listserve or have a question about the group, please email yadcola@jewishcolumbia.org
Hillel

Hillel recently observed Passover together with a Seder on campus. Current students, along with alumni, future students, and community members joined together for this fun evening. The Seder was filled with singing and activities. Tradition continued as the freshmen stood together and recited the four questions. Following the Seder everyone enjoyed a catered meal and the students began looking for the afikomen. Hillel was very excited to have over sixty people in attendance. With the school year coming to a close it was nice to see Jewish students spending time together before summer vacation. Hillel looks forward to a Shabbat dinner in the coming weeks and an exam breaker at the beginning of May.
Tree Of Life News

Tree of Life Religious School: End-of-Year News

The end of the Religious School year always seems to come too swiftly and yet always brings with it a flurry of activity. Smiling, engaged faces are our goal, and we know that the month of May will provide ample opportunity for all to strengthen their Jewish identity. In the Hebrew month of Iyar, we observe the reunification of Jerusalem with Yom Yerushalayim. In the middle of May, in the Hebrew month of Sivan, we celebrate Shavuot. This holiday is a summer festival, rejoicing in our first fruits and the receiving of the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai, so many generations ago.

Tree of Life Congregation looks forward to celebrating with our congregants in a variety of ways during the next month, including appreciating our youngest Hebrew learners and our teachers at a joint Kitah Alef and Teacher Appreciation Sabbath. The weekend of May 4 and 5 is also the Shabbat that Nicholas Peralis will become a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Sinai in Sumter. All of Tree of Life Congregation is honored to be a part of this "Sumter Simcha." During the month of May, as well, we are lucky to have Dr. Debbie-Zevel, who in recognition of Mother’s Day, will present a very special Sunday School for Adults: "Be the Best Mom You Can Be—Safety Tips and Child Health Open Forum." Get your questions answered on Mother’s Day. A Quiche Breakfast will be served by Brotherhood. All are welcome, male and female!

Please join us as we recognize our 10th graders when they become Bar/ Bat Mitzvah.

Our final day of Religious School for the 2012-2013 year is May 19. As in past years, a special assembly will be held for all of our parents, teachers, students, and friends at 10:00 a.m. with a Brotherhood-sponsored cookout at 11:30 a.m. At this time, as well, we will wish the Contino Family (Pat, Nina, Gabe, and Nick) a heartfelt goodbye as they travel to Germany with the US Army to begin a new chapter in their life. We wish the entire Columbia Jewish community a summer filled with shalom (peace) and say to all, LeHitatev (see you soon)! The first day of Religious School in 5774 is September 8.

Kol Tov,
Rita Strauss
Tree of Life Religious School Director

Join us this Mother’s Day, May 12, for a special Sunday School for Adults

Dr. Debbie-Zevel presents:
“Be the Best Mom You Can Be—Safety Tips and Child Health Open Forum”

Get your questions answered this Mother’s Day and enjoy a Quiche Breakfast prepared by the TOL Brotherhood, Ed Hertz, and friends.

Couscous — All are welcome (male & female)! RSVP to Rita Strauss at rita@tolsc.org or 787-2182

Tree of Life Religious School Teacher Appreciation and Kitah Alef Shabbat Service

Join us on Friday evening May 17 at 7:30 PM as we recognize our 2012-2013 TOL Religious School Teachers:

Lead Teachers (Morim): Linda Rodgers, Robyn Bader, Dori Nudelman, Hannah Goldberg, Leah Nudelman, Adam Fields, Nina Contino, Abby Magaro, Scott Kaplan, Zack Roth, Shanti Bowden, Cheryl Nett, Dr. Jonathan Leader, Kira Moncrieff, Marla May, Elise Westfall, Evelyn Gatto, Rabbi Leora Dobner-Schor

School Director and Administrative Assistant: Rita Strauss, Joan Tucker
Rabbi: Daniel Sherman

Assistant Teachers (Madrichim): Hannah Amado, Simi Rodgers, Hannah Greenhouse, Bethany Smith, David Blau, Sara Brozman, Elena Car, Agnes Barlow, Bailey Koller-Schmidt, Taylor Katz, Jessica Jacobs, Maddy Wassermann, Sarah Feuerstein, Josh Tann, Justin Stomber, David Bowden, Julien Katz, Kaya Novambakht, Sam Mofsky, Ben Kline

Art, Music, and Cooking Teachers: Marvin Bienstock, Dori Nudelman, Linda Kerner, Terri Sobel

This Shabbat service will be led by Rabbi Sherman with help from our first-level Hebrew Insomnians: the Kitah Alef Hebrew Class. Please share in an Oweg Shabbat immediately following the service sponsored by the Kitah Alef Parents and the Tree of Life Religious School Board.

“Educate a child according to his path; then even as he grows old, he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

The Tree of Life Sisterhood is beginning its 60th year of its Holland Bulb Sale. This is one of the Sisterhood’s major fundraisers that helps to support various community services, such as the Woodruff Fund, Sistercare, Harvest Hope Food Bank, and the Cooperative Ministries. If you haven’t received your order form, please visit www.tolsc.org or call the Temple Office at 787-2182. Orders due June 1, for delivery in October. FREE BONUS! For all orders over $30 and received before May 15, you will receive eight Puschkinia Libanotica.

Join us at Trustus Theater on June 13 for a very special performance of the highly acclaimed musical Ain’t Misbehavin’ in support of Tree of Life Congregation.

Tickets are $30 and include free popcorn. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information and to order tickets, visit www.tolsc.org or call 787-2182.

10th Grade Car Wash

When: Sunday May 5
8:45 AM-10 AM
8:45 PM-1:45 PM
Where: Temple
Cost: $6 per vehicle

Mother’s Day Plant Sale
Inexpensive! Great for moms, aunts, grandmas, sisters— anybody & everybody! Please support the TOL 10th Grade Confirmation Class!

The First Annual WRJ Pagels & Books Charity Book Sale
Sunday, May 5
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
TOL Parking Lot
Come to Tree of Life Congregation for book bargains galore! Cash, check, and credit cards accepted! A portion of the proceeds will support Turning Pages, a local nonprofit that promotes literacy.

For more information on all these events & much more visit www.tolsc.org, www.facebook.com/tolsc.org or www.twitter.com/TreelifeSC.
Beth Shalom Religious School News

In honor of Mitzvah Day, 2013 the Beth Shalom Religious School students put together fleece blankets. These blankets were loving handcrafted by the students ages 5-14, and will be presented to residents at National Health Care Center & Atria Forest Lake. As a part of our ongoing commitment to Tikkun Olam, our students are always on the look out for ways to help in our community.

Making bricks from straw and clay, making Matzah over an open fire and navigating an obstacle course to cross the Red Sea. These were all activities that took place as Beth Shalom religious School students celebrated Passover. Every student, from our Pre school class to our post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students enjoyed a morning of fun and games before sitting down to a beautiful participatory Seder.
Israel Begins Harvesting Organs Even After Donors’ Hearts Stop

Posted on April 9, 2013 by JNS.org.

Inspiring hope among patients waiting for life-saving organ transplants, the Israel medical community is expected to launch a pilot program in which organs will be harvested from donors whose hearts have stopped beating. Until now, organs have only been harvested from donors who were classified as brain-dead, but whose hearts were still beating.

The main objective of the program is to reduce the number of patients waiting on organ donation lists. In the first stage of the program, organs will only be harvested from deceased individuals who had consented to organ donation in life, and only in large hospitals where organ transplants are also performed.

About 50 percent of the Israeli public has consented to donate organs, a percentage that has remained relatively steady over recent years. But in the last year, there was a decline in the number of brain deaths, and a consequent decline in organ transplants.

Dr. Hadar Merhav, head of the organ transplantation surgery unit at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, said, “There is a bigger advantage to using an organ harvested from a brain-dead donor [than from a heart-dead one], because there is blood flowing to the organ up until the very last minute. Without blood flow, gangrene can develop, or other types of damage, some of which is irreversible. Despite all that, when presented with the question of whether it is preferable for a patient to be hooked up to dialysis or get a kidney that will only last five or 10 years, the answer is clear.”

An Israeli Health Ministry official said, “In the event of a heart death, tracheotomy tubes can be inserted into the donor’s groin, through which a freezing agent is pumped into the body to help preserve the organs. Within a two-hour timeframe, if the family’s consent is obtained, a procedure is performed to harvest the organ.”
Chabad

When US Army Chaplain Rabbi Henri Soussan suggested the idea that the Aleph Institute might be interested in partnering with Chabad of SC, none of us had any idea of what the final results would be. Who could have imagined that on Tuesday March 12 over 200 people would gather in a luxurious setting with the most delicious gourmet food and cut the ribbon on the brand new Chabad Aleph House?

The evening was dedicated to honorees Shep and Joni Cutler, Jeff and Kay Gross and John and Debra Lowsky. Each of whom have made significant contributions of time, effort and resources to help accomplish this dream.

The merger between Chabad of South Carolina and the Aleph Institute brings together two organizations with over 50 years of experience between them in the area of Jewish education and outreach.

Based in South Florida, Aleph specializes in reaching out to the men and women in the US Armed services with Passover supplies, kosher meals, chaplain training and endorsement. With the arrival of the Center for Chaplain Training at Fort Jackson just a few years ago, it was only natural that Aleph would look for a partner in the area to help serve the military community.

Two years ago the opportunity arose, when a Blockbuster Video Store on Decker Blvd came on the market. After some skillful negotiations by the acquisition team the deal was made and Chabad of SC which had searched for a home for so long had finally found it.

Programming at the Chabad Aleph House will include the Jewish Learning Institute, guest speakers, weekly services, Talmud classes, children’s educational programs, holiday parties and events. The Chabad Aleph House is a place for making friends and feeling a part of something bigger than ourselves.

For more information please visit our website at www.chabadofsc.com

Columbia Jewish Day School

Columbia’s Book of Kindness

This exciting Columbia Jewish Day School project centers on increasing the local dialogue about acts of kindness. Morah Sheindal, CJDS Judaic coordinator, has created a 1000 page hard covered book (approximately 12" x 15") to house testimonies of kindness from our Columbia community. The cover of the book features gears showing that acts of kindness can be interlocking and lead to further acts. Columbia’s Book of Kindness will circulate to a variety of locations in our community over the next couple of months. Morah Sheindal has introduced the book to CJDS students who have entered descriptions and depictions about an act of kindness that they have done or about an act of kindness that someone did for them. Other locations that have expressed interest are stores, libraries, schools, attractions (like the zoo) and art venues like Open Studio and galleries. At each location, people will be invited to add their comments on the book’s pages. Descriptions might take the form of writing, poetry, drawing, collage, photographs, etc. The goal is to have at least 1000 individual entries by community members of all ages and socioeconomic groups by the time of completion.

ADHD Alternative Treatments Discussion To Be Held At The JCC

Recent national studies have found that ADHD medications are being overprescribed and misused. But there are alternatives. The Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center is hosting an evening of lectures by several experts in the field who will discuss Complementary and Alternative medicine. Complementary medicine works along with traditional medicine and Alternative medicine works without standard medication.

The event is Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, located at 306 Flora Drive in Northeast Columbia. The program is free and open to the public.

Well known Columbia developmental pediatrician Dr. Joel Sussman will moderate the event and discuss non-prescription supplements, lifestyle issues and the interactive Metronome therapy that can treat a host of problems from ADHD to autism to learning disabilities and many other disorders.

Brad Benik, a certified massage therapist and a physical trainer at the Jewish Community Center will discuss massage therapy and its benefits, along with how exercise is effective in treating ADHD, depression and anxiety and other problems.

Tia Gamelin is an Occupational Therapist in Lexington District I. She has a 15 year experience in Sensory Processing disorders. These disorders make people oversensitive to various stimuli, such as touch, sound, visual, taste, smell and positioning stimuli. These problems can make some people very anxious and treating them can make medicines for anxiety much less necessary.

Dr. Frederick Mau is a licensed hypnotherapist. He is well known in the Columbia area for treating anxiety, insomnia, weight control, smoking cessation and many other conditions. He has helped people with Tourette’s Syndrome and other tic disorders.

Interested in reading family stories and about Jewish History in Russia?

You can find Jacob Lesov’s memoir titled “Legendary Patriot from a Forgotten Shtetl” on the website of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Access it at: http://www.jhssc.org/legendarypatriot.html.

Copyediting is by Dale R. Rosengarten. Publishing assistants are Ann Meddin Hellman and Heather Joanne Gilvert (all from Charleston, SC).
Mazel Tov!

Alex Bernstein, son of Charlene & Barry Bernstein, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Lauren Kuperman, daughter of Faye & Roger Kuperman, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Louis Tedeschi, son of Debra & David Tedeschi, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Nicholas Perales, son of Bari & Robert Perales, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Carolina Rodgers, daughter of Linda & Tom Rodgers, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Dan Kline, son of Sheryl & Peter Kline, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Caroline Matson Lampen and Bret Alec Miller will be married on May 11, 2013 in Miami. Parents are Susan and Richard Lampen of Miami and Minda and Henry Miller of Columbia. The couple met while attending Duke University. Bret, 27, is a vice president at Lazard Asset Management in New York City. Caroline, 25, is the assistant to the executive director of Amnesty International USA, in New York City.

Esther and Ira Greenberg are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Leah Stephanie Greenberg, to Richard Jay Davis, son of Ann and Jay Davis, on June 1, 2013 in Atlanta. The couple was introduced by Richard’s first cousin, Emily Sonenshine, daughter of Nancy and Gerald Sonenshine of Columbia. Richard and Leah will live in Atlanta.

ConGRADulations to all of our high school and college graduates. Best wishes for your future success!

PLEASE SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS AND SIMCHAS WITH US!
EMAIL CJFOFFICE@JEWISHCOLUMBIA.ORG.

Dr. Emmanuel Farber was elected as a Fellow of the inaugural class of the American Association for Cancer Research Academy. The Academy recognizes and celebrates distinguished scientists whose major scientific contributions have propelled significant innovation and progress against cancer. Dr. Farber’s research looked at the causes and prevention of cancer, especially cancer caused by tobacco. He was honored in Washington D.C. at an Induction Ceremony and Celebration Dinner.

History Major Receives Scholarship To Study In Israel

COLUMBIA, S.C., (Apr. 5, 2013) - The Study Abroad Office is pleased to announce that Sandra Godbold, a third-year history major with a minor in International Studies, received $2,500 from the Jewish Studies Travel Grant to study abroad in Israel this summer.

Godbold will spend a month studying at the Rothberg International School, an institute of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her courses will focus on Israel, particularly on its relationships with neighboring states. In her application for the grant, Godbold described her desire to become immersed in the Israeli culture and to learn the basics of Hebrew.

“I also hope to leave with a greater understanding of Israel as a nation, as well as Israel’s role throughout history and in an international context,” wrote Godbold.

A Capstone Scholar, Godbold excels in academics and is no stranger to awards. She is also a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship, a South Carolina state scholarship that awards money based on merit. Godbold says she hopes to pursue a career as either a government analyst or a high school teacher. She recognizes the advantages a study abroad program could provide in securing a job.

The Jewish Studies Travel Grant is a financial award to help fund a study abroad experience or research travel in Israel for five undergraduate or graduate students who have an established interest in Jewish studies. This year’s grant was made possible by a gift from the Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation, a nonprofit foundation in Charleston, S.C.

For more information on this and other scholarship opportunities for study abroad, visit the Scholarships & Financial Aid section of the Study Abroad Office’s website at studyabroad.sc.edu.

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