



# COLUMBIA JEWISH News



Kislev/Tevet 5774

*A Publication of the Columbia Jewish Federation*[www.jewishcolumbia.org](http://www.jewishcolumbia.org)

## Community lauds DSA recipient Arline Polinsky



2012 Distinguished Service Award honoree Shep Cutler presents 2013 award to Arline Polinsky.

Visionary founder of the Columbia Jewish Film Festival Arline Polinsky received the Distinguished Service Award, our community's highest honor, on Oct. 24 at the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center.

A community leader and volunteer, and amazing mother, grandmother and wife, Arline's tributes ranged from the heartfelt, to the musical, to the comical.

Arline's daughters, Nancy Johnson and Joanna Berens, returned to Columbia with their families from Pittsburgh and Hollywood, Florida to share in this special occasion. They introduced their mother with love, admiration and flair—and enumerated a laundry list of Columbia charities and organizations that have benefited from Arline's contributions. Two of Arline's

three grandsons were unable to join the rest of the family at the event, but joined via video—both sharing their fondest memories of coming to Columbia and hearing non-stop about the Jewish Film Festival and the Nickelodeon Theater. One grandchild admitted thinking his grandmother's passion centered around children's television (i.e., the Nickelodeon channel that features kids

programming) rather than around the Jewish and Jewish-themed films that have the power to educate, entertain and transform.

Guests joined Michael Corvi and Alan Weinberg in a musical tribute, singing "Arline" to the tune of the Irving Berlin classic, "Always."

Last year's DSA recipient, Shep Cutler, presented Arline with both the official award, a handmade menorah from Chicago and an Oscar—something only Shep Cutler could make happen.

Larry Hembree, managing director of Trustus Theater, and Andy Smith, executive director of the Nickelodeon Theater, teamed up to praise Arline in a hilarious sketch that demonstrated not only how hard Arline worked to bring the Jewish Film Festival to Columbia, but how much they genuinely loved her.

In her acceptance remarks, Arline announced that she and Gerry, her husband of 58 years, would be relocating next summer to Hollywood, Fla., to be closer to family. The Columbia community is extremely grateful for the time it has had with Arline, and wishes her the best on the next stage of her journey. Mazel tov and todah rabah, Arline! See more photos on page 11.



It was a fun night for everyone!

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## Darla Moore kicks off Chai Society series



Darla Moore, titan of finance and benefactor of the University of South Carolina School of Business, inaugurated the Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center's Chai Society breakfast series last month at the JCC.

A Lake City native and major supporter of institutions across the state, Moore spoke of the need

for strong community leadership—leadership that both engages the larger community and society as well as motivates and inspires the "boots on the ground." Those boots on the ground become future leaders, and their long-term involvement maximizes impact and strengthens community.

Moore also stressed the need for communities to build themselves. Communities build themselves when leadership is shared, and when individuals and organizations work together to solve problems, rather than attempting to tackle them individually.

Chai Society chair and JCC board member Rick Silver reported that Moore's impact went beyond the inaugural Chai Society members present for her talk: three members joined the Society based on the positive buzz of the event. "Darla Moore is a leader and a visionary," Silver said. "And the perfect choice to kick off a series for the leaders in our community."

The Chai Society brings luminaries from business, politics, sports and the arts to speak to its members several times a year. The group is limited to the first 60 individuals supporting the JCC at the \$1800 or more level annually, and 40 units have already been sold.

# COLUMBIA JEWISH NEWS

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

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

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## Go Digital!

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

Sign up at  
[www.jewishcolumbia.org](http://www.jewishcolumbia.org).

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

## What Will Be Your Legacy?

Giving (tzedakah) is at the core of Jewish life. For millennia, Jewish dreamers have passed on that tradition to their children through their words and deeds. They have left their legacy in the organizations and services that have nourished us, strengthened us, 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 the Columbia Jewish Federation at 787-2023 or cjcoffice@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.**

## Festival of Trees to feature 19 menorahs

From Press Release

The holidays will be a little brighter in the Midlands Nov. 22-24 with Palmetto Health Foundation's 24th Festival of Trees at Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in the Vista.

Sam Tenenbaum, executive director of the Palmetto Health Foundation, shares that nearly 20 menorahs—including ones made in Israel and designed for children—will join a range of other holiday items, including decorated trees, stockings and children's art at the two-day auction.

Proceeds will benefit Palmetto Health Children's Hospital.

## SAVE THE DATE



Tree of Life Congregation  
Jewish Food & Cultural Festival

Sunday, May 4, 2014

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# Our Jewish community: it's up to us to keep it that way

Barry Abels, Executive Director



Since moving to Columbia, it is apparent to me that people here are proud of our community and especially our Jewish community. Why not? The three major streams of our faith are represented and all have infrastructures, education programs, regular services and other activities. We have great rabbis and leadership. Although challenged by debt left from original construction, we have a great Jewish Community Center and campus that welcomes everyone regardless of affiliation, or lack of one, that contributes to both physical well-being and Jewish identity. Our Columbia Jewish Federation is the umbrella for a wide variety of services and programs helping us to remember the lessons of the Holocaust, provides needed social services, nurtures our college students, conducts the communal campaign that allows us to fund these activities and more. For a small community, even though we face many challenges, we have a lot to be thankful for every day.

However, at the national level, a new study conducted by Pew Research entitled the "Religion and Public Life Project." A subset of that study is a "Portrait of American Jews." It has been the buzz throughout the Federation community. (Major analysis highlights appear elsewhere in this issue.) Frankly, all of us need to be concerned about our Jewish religious future if the trends discussed continue. In a nutshell, of Jews born in the early 1900's through 1924, 93% identify as Jewish on the basis of religion with just 7% describing themselves as having no religion. By contrast, our youngest adult generation, the Millennials, those who identify as Jews by religion has dropped to 68%, with 32% describing themselves as having no religion and identify as Jewish on the basis of ancestry, ethnicity or culture.

Do the math. The number of Jews in America in the next 100 years who identify as religiously Jewish could be next to nothing. There are numerous reasons for this trend, too many to discuss here, but one thing is clear. We have to take action now to slow this down and hopefully stop it.

This month begins the 2014 Jewish Federation Campaign. The funds you contribute support every single Jewish organization in Columbia and beyond. With this study confronting us, this year is the year to stretch, to dig deep and invest more in our future, and not in lieu of your support of our congregations. When you invest in Campaign, the contributions from our entire community come together and provide for that much more support for our community, as well as Jews in Eastern Europe, Israel and elsewhere. When you give more, we allocate more to our religious schools, to our day school students, to our local families financially challenged who need our help and programs that bring us together as a community. All of this is due to the values and traditions we learned from Torah and Talmud. Ultimately, this is what makes us Jewish, not lox and bagels and not just our ancestry. It is all three, ancestry, culture and faith.

It is not something that each of our congregations or the JCC or the Federation can do alone. We need to look at ways to support each other, to do more together and to ensure that we are all always reaching out to our entire community. We must reach out, we must teach, and we must engage. We must do this together. Hillary Clinton once said, "It takes a village to raise a child." Perhaps it takes an entire community to preserve and grow a community. Let's work together to find out. I don't want to allow the alternative.



The Katie and Irwin Kahn Jewish  
Community Center  
and Columbia Jewish Federation

Invite the Community to the

Joint Annual Meeting  
December 15, 2013  
2:00pm to 5:00pm



## SAVE THE DATE



Columbia Jewish  
Film Festival

March 29 - April 3, 2014

## Jewish justice imperative

Ginna Green, CJF Community Relations Director

During the first week in my new position at the Federation, one conversation propelled me for a moment right back into my old one.

Laney Cohen, director of Jewish Family Service, walked into my office to say goodbye a little bit early. She was about to do what often becomes the social worker's task, but is the community's responsibility: taking care of children and families in need.

She mentioned common problems among households in South Carolina: not enough food on the table; not enough money in the bank; no home at all. But Laney was working with a family facing another common challenge: avoiding repossession of their car by one of the area's many car-title lenders. (Typical car-title loans are usually made for about \$1,000 at around 300% annual interest, using the vehicle as collateral. Principal and interest are due in full in 30 days.) The family car was in jeopardy—their only mode of transportation and arguably one of their most financially-valuable possessions.

Before I came to the Federation, I was the principal communications manager at the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) focusing specifically on payday loans and car-title loans. One of the last pieces of research I released focused on car-title loans, so I'd been as of recently very immersed in that issue. After hearing from Laney, I was reminded of the real-dollar, real-world impact of my former work on families' well-being—in a way I knew existed, but couldn't see when my focus was on policy rather than on people.

My work is different now, but I still think that we all deserve fair financial products and a fair shot at building wealth. No one should be charged excessive interest: All major faith traditions discourage it, as well the types of loans that only make money because they trap borrowers in debt. When families spend thousands of dollars paying back \$300 loans, that's money unavailable for food, lights, coats or savings.

Judaism asks that we treat others justly, and with compassion and dignity. Practices that lack these components, and take advantage of others—whether it's in finance or friendships—are in opposition to valued Jewish traditions and the world the Jewish people are supposed to help create. "Justice, justice you shall pursue," the Torah says, an imperative applicable across all sorts of issues, including—I believe—predatory loans.

Sadly, a desperate family briefly returned me to the world of my previous job. It wasn't that far of a trip.



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# Thanksgiving + Hanukkah = A Special Occasion

Laney Cohen, JFS Director



Here we are, and I can't believe that it is already November. As the end of the Gregorian calendar ends, I can't help but reflect on all the 2013 has brought. At JFS, we have had the fortune to help send six more students to college, continue our Senior Transportation Network (through a generous grant from the Blumenthal Jewish



Home), won the email campaign from Day Break Adult Services (thank you to all who voted!) and had a very successful food and money drive with the Alan Feinstein Foundation. We begun "Game On" (our weekly gaming sessions on Mondays at the JCC), and started The Culture Bus (our culture trips around the city and beyond). Beginning November 4th, we will begin "Rebuilding," our grief and loss group. It's been a great year at JFS, and I am feeling privileged and thankful at the same time to be a part of it!

Speaking of "thankful," let's take a moment to ponder Thanksgiving. And Hannukah. Or Thanksgivukkah. How fantastically cool that we get to celebrate a day which last happened in 1888, and isn't scheduled to happen again for potentially another 70,000 years. With the first day of Hannukah occurring on Thanksgiving, there is no doubt in my mind, that along with turkey and stuffing, we will also be having our latkes and kugel. As we go around the table saying our "thanks" and what we are thankful for, we can also give our thanks for the oil, which lasted and lasted, and lasted. We can give "thanks" for the battles that our people have fought so that we can live and pray as we do.

As for Hannukah, a wise soul (Laurie Slack, Jewish Programs Director at the JCC), gave me a great idea. As I was struggling trying to figure out how/what to do for Hannukah this year, she shared this list with me:

1. Something to wear
2. Something to share
3. Something you need
4. Something to read
5. Something you want
6. Something to do
7. Something home made
8. Something to save



Thank you to Tree of Life Congregation for your generous contribution to the Jewish Food Pantry !

Every night, we will be using this guide as our gifting to our children. This year, we will remember to give thanks, and keep it simple. I can't think of a better message of Thanksgivukkah.

## Rebuilding

Every other Monday  
beginning November 4th

6:30-7:30

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



## Rebuilding

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

**Rebuilding**  
Group will be held at Beth Shalom Synagogue

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

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



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## TUESDAYS WITH FRIENDS

Senior Program  
Everyone Welcome  
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Beth Shalom Synagogue  
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Tuesday, December 3, 2013  
11:30-1:00

This event is free.

To RSVP call 782-2500 or email  
BethShalomColumbia@att.net

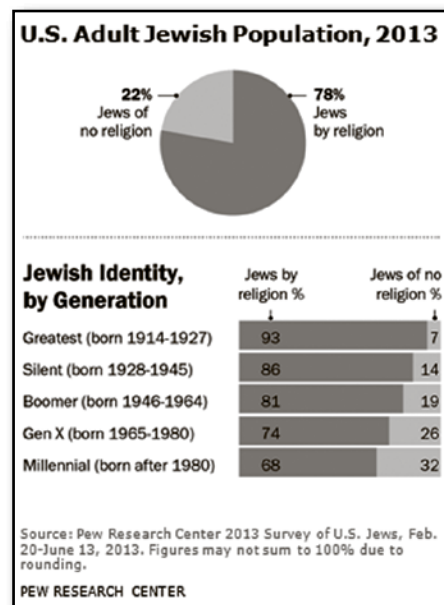
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# Survey: Fewer Jews see Judaism as a religion

Pew Research Center

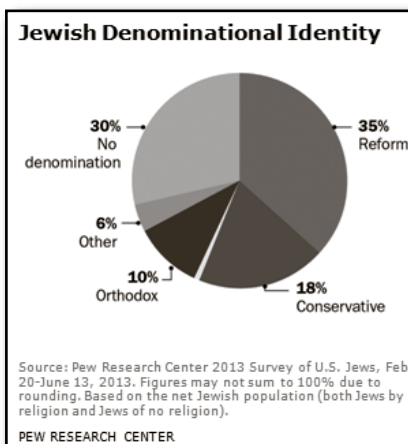


American Jews overwhelmingly say they are proud to be Jewish and have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people, according to "A Portrait of Jewish Americans," a new survey by the Pew Research Center. But the survey also suggests that Jewish identity is changing in America, where one-in-five Jews (22%) now describe themselves as having no religion.

The percentage of U.S. adults who say they are Jewish when asked about their religion has declined by about half since the late 1950s and currently is a little less than 2%. Meanwhile, the number of Americans with direct Jewish ancestry or upbringing who consider themselves Jewish, yet describe themselves as atheist, agnostic or having no particular religion, appears to be rising and is now about 0.5% of the U.S. adult population.

The changing nature of Jewish identity stands out sharply when the survey's results are analyzed by generation. Fully 93% of Jews in the aging Greatest Generation identify as Jewish on the basis of religion (called "Jews by religion" in this report); just 7% describe themselves as having no religion ("Jews of no religion"). By contrast, among Jews in the youngest generation of U.S. adults - the Millennials - 68% identify as Jews by religion, while 32% describe themselves as having no religion and identify as Jewish on the basis of ancestry, ethnicity or culture.

This shift in Jewish self-identification reflects broader changes in the U.S. public. Americans as a whole - not just Jews - increasingly eschew any religious affiliation. Indeed, the share of U.S. Jews who say they have no religion (22%) is similar to the share of religious "nones" in the general public (20%), and religious disaffiliation is as common among all U.S. adults ages 18-29 as among Jewish Millennials (32% of each).<sup>2</sup>



**Jewish Child Rearing**

Among those who are parents/guardians of minor children in their household, % raising their children...

	Jewish by religion %	Partly Jewish by religion %	Jewish not by religion or mix* %	NOT Jewish %	Other %	N
<b>NET Jewish</b>	59	14	8	18	1=100	907
Jews by religion	71	15	7	7	*=100	764
Jews of no religion	8	11	11	67	2=100	143

Among Jews married to ...

	Jewish spouse %	Partly Jewish spouse %	Jewish not by religion or mix* %	NOT Jewish spouse %	Other %	N
Jewish spouse	96	2	1	1	0=100	551
Non-Jewish spouse	20	25	16	37	1=100	257

Source: Pew Research Center 2013 Survey of U.S. Jews, Feb. 20-June 13, 2013. Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\*Includes those who are raising their children Jewish but not by religion as well as those who are raising multiple children Jewish but in different ways (Jewish by religion, partly Jewish by religion and/or Jewish but not by religion).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Secularism has a long tradition in Jewish life in America, and most U.S. Jews seem to recognize this: 62% say being Jewish is mainly a matter of ancestry and culture, while just 15% say it is mainly a matter of religion. Even among Jews by religion, more than half (55%) say being Jewish is mainly a matter of ancestry and culture, and two-thirds say it is not necessary to believe in God to be Jewish.

Compared with Jews by religion, however, Jews of no religion (also commonly called secular or cultural Jews) are not only less religious but also much less connected to Jewish organizations and much less likely to be raising their children Jewish. More than 90% of Jews by religion who are currently raising minor children in their home say they are raising those children Jewish or partially Jewish. In stark contrast, the survey finds that two-thirds of Jews of no religion say they are not raising their children Jewish or partially Jewish - either by religion or aside from religion.

These are among the key findings of the Pew Research Center's survey of U.S. Jews, conducted on landlines and cellphones among 3,475 Jews across the country from Feb. 20-June 13, 2013, with a statistical margin of error for the full Jewish sample of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points.

Despite the changes in Jewish identity in America, 94% of U.S. Jews (including 97% of Jews by religion and 83% of Jews of no religion) say they are proud to be Jewish. Three-quarters of U.S. Jews (including 85% of Jews by religion and 42% of Jews of no religion) also say they have "a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people." And emotional attachment to Israel has not waned discernibly among American Jews in the past decade, though it is markedly stronger among Jews by religion (and older Jews in general) than among Jews of no religion (and younger Jews in general).<sup>5</sup>

By several conventional measures, Jews tend to be less religious than the U.S. public as a whole. Compared with the overall population, for example, Jews are less likely to say that they attend religious services weekly or that they believe in God with absolute certainty. And just 26% of U.S. Jews say religion is very important in their lives, compared with 56% of the general public. (Orthodox Jews are a clear exception in this regard, exhibiting levels of religious commitment that place them among the most religiously committed groups in the country.) But while relatively few Jews attach high importance to religion, far more (46%) say being Jewish is very important to them.

For the complete report, additional infographics, and interactive features, visit the Pew Research Center's Religion and Public Life web site at [www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org).

## What Does It Mean To Be Jewish?

% saying ___ is an essential part of what being Jewish means to them	NET Jewish %
Remembering Holocaust	73
Leading ethical/moral life	69
Working for justice/equality	56
Being intellectually curious	49
Caring about Israel	43
Having good sense of humor	42
Being part of a Jewish community	28
Observing Jewish law	19
Eating traditional Jewish foods	14

Source: Pew Research Center 2013 Survey of U.S. Jews, Feb. 20-June 13, 2013.

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## The State to feature Holocaust Supplement

Lilly Stern Filler

It gives me great pleasure to announce to the entire community that Columbia—just like Charleston--will also have the benefit of a lovely Holocaust insert supplement in our major paper this spring.

Many of you might know that for 13 years, the Charleston community has been able to have a supplement about the Holocaust printed and distributed in The Post and Courier around Yom Hashoah. We have talked about it for a few years, but had no one to “own” this project, to approach the paper and make it happen. Now, we do! Through the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission (CHEC) and with the help of Rick Silver, I have been meeting with Mr. Henry Haitz, President and Publisher of The State newspaper. Mr. Haitz has agreed to print, publish, and insert in a Sunday paper in April a 16-20 page supplement. I, with the help of the CHEC, will provide the text and with Rick Silver will work on the layout to present to the paper. The paper, in turn, will deliver the insert to 85,000 subscribers in the midlands and in 45,000 non-subscriber packages. On The State.com it will be placed in the e-edition which has over 1 million monthly unique visitors as well as digital-only subscribers, placed for utilization in the USC University 101 program for new students and at 20 area schools utilizing the Newspaper in Education program.

I am thrilled to be a part of educating the Columbia community and welcome help from those that would like to write articles, interview survivors and liberators, or more. However, this does come with a price tag. Although The State has been generous with us and is giving us a wonderful price, we need to raise \$20,000 for this inaugural edition. It is my hope that subsequent years will be less expensive as we work out a format and as willing sponsors step forward. I will be applying for grants and will be approaching the greater Columbia community to help with the project.

This is an exciting time and if you would like to contribute to the Holocaust Supplement, please make the checks out to Columbia Holocaust Education Commission and send to the Columbia Jewish Federation, indicating that this money is for the Holocaust Supplement.

Charleston has set a high bar for us to reach, but I know we will be able to do this and have the Supplement for many years.

Second Annual  
Mah Jongg Tournament



Sunday, December 8  
9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Minimum Contribution \$50.00

Dairy Lunch included. Sign-up deadline is December 1. Space is limited.

See the front desk for more information.



## Mazel Tov



Holocaust survivor Bluma Goldberg was presented with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Americanism Medal and the Order of The Palmetto during a ceremony Sept. 11 at The Lace House. She is shown here with her daughter, Esther, left, and USC DAR Chapter Regent Sylvia Waldron, right.

Inez Tenenbaum, former S.C. State Superintendent of Education and current head of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission received the S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center's annual Advocate of the Year Award on Oct. 23.

## The 2014 Annual Campaign

*Compassion*

*Justice*

*Tzedakah*

It's the right thing to do!



Make your pledge today!

*Campaign Chair Joe Sharnoff*

*Women's Division Chair Jackie Dickman Babcock*

*Men's Division Chair David Kulbersh*



## More than 60 kids give it a 'tri'

Lindsay Agostini, JCC Aquatics Director

On Sunday, October 14 the JCC presented its first Give it a TRI kids triathlon on the Katie & Irwin Kahn Jewish Community Center Campus. Nearly 60 youth triathletes participated in the afternoon's events. Participants from ages 5 - 10 years of age completed a 100 yard swim, 1.5 mile bike, and ½ mile run. Participants from 11-14 years of age completed a 200 yard swim, 3 mile bike, and 1 mile run. Award winners included:

### 13-14 girls

1. Tori Agostini
2. Breland Green
3. Cassidy Green

### 13-14 Boys

1. David Munn Carstensen
2. Joshua Rose

### 11-12 Girls

1. Lauren Schwarz

### 11-12 Boys

1. Tomas Robertson
2. Aaron Stark
3. Will Cason

### 9-10 Girls

1. Caroline Agostini
2. Helen Barthe
3. Tori Powell

### 9-10 Boys

1. Mark David Wild
2. Dan Todd
3. Thomas Livoti Jr

### 8&Under Girls

1. Madi Powell
2. Anna Todd
3. Lauren Black

### 8&Under Boys

1. Wesley Black
2. Caleb Welsford
3. Colby First



## Flag football league underway



Young men from the University of South Carolina AEPi Chapter participate in the JCC's interfaith fall football league. AEPi joins four other teams in play at the Gerry Sue and Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus on Sundays through December.

## Give it a TRI!

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## BBYO

### Making challah and friends

Jerry Emanuel



(AIT/MIT 2011) Religious services are a part of the convention weekend.

Six members of the Lena Karesh chapter, BBG, met at the home of Chavi and Rabbi Hesh Epstein early in October to learn how to make challah. They added ingredients, molded the dough and took it home to bake. Other programs are being planned, many including the boys' chapter (AZA).

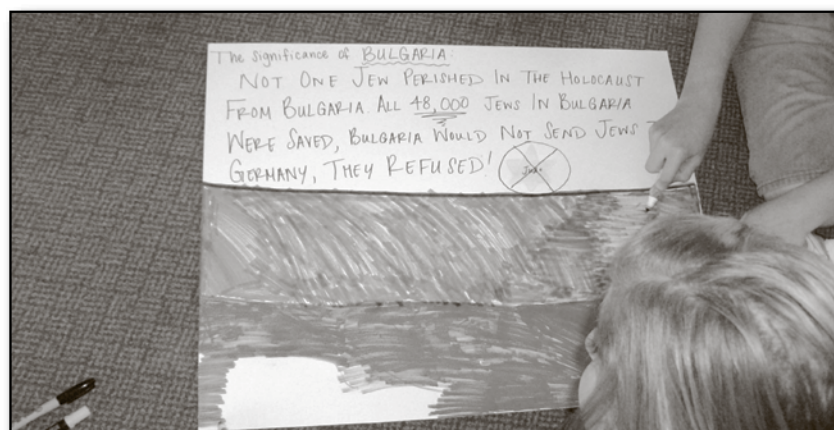
Members of both BBYO chapters, boys and girls, attended the annual AIT/MIT convention held at the Bob Cooper 4-H camp in Summerton, S.C. October 11–13. New members learned the traditions and songs of BBYO while socializing with other members of the order from Charleston, Savannah and Augusta. They also met the council leadership. During the weekend, programming included religious services, icebreakers, leadership programs and the annual South Carolina vs Georgia football game.

Both chapters are actively seeking new members. Any teen is eligible to join. Contact Sarah Brotman for the girls (brotman.sarah@gmail.com) or Grant Kilgore for the boys (00820933@richland2.org).

BBYO also has a program (BBYO Connect) for pre-teens in grades 6–8. For more information contact David Greenhouse (dgreenhouse@sc.rr.com).



Members participate in outdoor activities at AIT/MIT convention.



Informative programming comprise a major segment of the weekend.

## YAD

### More than 50 guests at YAD Rosh Hashanah dinner

Mary Karesh Silverberg

Young Jewish adults came together this Rosh Hashanah to ring in the new year. The Young Adult Division (YAD) of the Columbia Jewish Federation hosted a delicious dinner catered by Taziki's for Hillel at the University of South Carolina. More than 50 people attended the event, which was held at Adesso Condominiums. It was one of the largest Hillel events and a great kickoff for the students for the school year as well as the new year! After the event, students attended services at Tree of Life and Beth Shalom.



Parents' Weekend Shabbat Dinner with Hillel at USC



Meredith Engler interviewed Dr. Moss Blachman on October 1st as part of the Young Leadership series. View the video at <http://vimeo.com/75980109>



# Tree Of Life

## Life in a bunk: The wonders of sleep-away camp

Risa Strauss

Life in the 21st century often means that we need to think ahead, meet deadlines, and make plans. Whether it's for a play date, a car servicing, or to eat at that hot new restaurant in the Vista, if we don't write it down and make arrangements it doesn't happen. It would make sense then that the same energizing brain cells that are needed to put your child on the waiting list for preschool when you're only five months pregnant are necessary to register your child for an upcoming summer camp experience. Though it can be a stretch to think about the summer when the autumn leaves have barely begun to drop, having your child attend a JEWISH SUMMER SLEEP-AWAY CAMP is all the rage and is often the greatest single variable leading to lifelong Jewish commitment! So, get your adrenaline pumping, begin thinking about summer, read on, and then stick that big post-it on the fridge that says, "Don't forget to send my child to camp!" or "Don't forget to make a donation to help send a child to summer camp!" Here is why:

### Why is Sleep-Away Camp Great for Kids, Parents, and the Jewish Community?



Camp is a crucial element of every Jewish young person's education. At a Jewish summer camp, many children get their first real experience of living a fully Jewish life where there is no separation between their Jewish self-expression and their secular life. Activities that often differentiate them from their

friends at home become the activities that unite them with their friends at camp. Campers can sing Hebrew and Jewish songs, say HaMotzi and Birkat HaMazon (grace after meals), attend Shabbat services, and feel completely a part of and accepted by the world around them. As one young camper wrote, "At camp, there is no disconnect between my Jewish self and my secular self. Camp has encouraged

me as I try to find my way Jewishly in a non-Jewish world."

Extensive research has shown that summers at Jewish overnight camp turn Jewish youth into spirited and engaged Jewish adults, laying the groundwork for the strong Jewish communities that we will need in the future to continue our traditions and ideals. As adults many of us recall summer camp experiences as the most significant of our Jewish life. And, as adults, we know how much the informal educational experience of camp can help us in providing all of our children with knowledge and connection to our people and culture.

## Religious School Update

The Jewish month of Cheshvan has been designated as "social action" month, and through various programming events and facilitations, our Temple and Religious School students will be quite busy "repairing the world." Our endeavors will take us straight through the Hebrew month of Kislev when we will enjoy a double celebration of Thanksgiving and Chanukah. As we give thanks for our freedom to practice our Judaism in this great country, we will also commemorate the victories and the struggles of the Maccabees in their fight for religious freedom in the land of Israel. As always, we will support the food banks at JFS, Harvest Hope, and Richland Northeast High School, which are desperately in constant need of food.

Tree of Life Congregation is thankful once again to be participating in the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, which this year will be on Sunday evening, November 24 at Beth Shalom Synagogue. For more information on any of our programming, please go to [www.tolsc.org](http://www.tolsc.org).

### Important Dates in November-December, 2013

- 11/1: KIDZ Shabbat, 6:45 p.m. with childcare; Shabbat Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.; 8th-grade Shabbat Dinner
- 11/3: Religious School Pancake Breakfast with Mayor Benjamin, 9:00 a.m.
- 11/05: Chai-School, 5:30 p.m.
- 11/10: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.
- 11/14: WRJ Book Club, 7:00 p.m.
- 11/15: Teacher Appreciation, Kitah Hey Class Shabbat, 7:30 p.m.
- 11/15-17: NFTY Fall Kallah, Roswell, Georgia
- 11/17: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.; Tree Tumblers Chanukah at 10:30 a.m.
- 11/24: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.; Thanksgiving/Chanukah Chappening
- 12/01: No Religious School - Thanksgiving Weekend
- 12/08: Religious School, 9:00 a.m.

12/15, 12/22, 12/29, and 1/5/14: No Religious School, Winter Break

### How Do I Connect with a Summer Sleep Away Camp?

Study after study has proven that children who enjoy a Jewish summer camp or Israel experience any time during their youth are much more likely to continue to remain positively affiliated with Judaism for the rest of their lives. And not only that, but their children have a much better chance of being raised Jewishly with strong Jewish identities as well! For every teaching, branch, and movement in Judaism there are camps that go hand in hand with each tradition and philosophy. Speak to your Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox Rabbis and educators, as well as JCC staff to find a camp to meet your child's needs.

In Hebrew the word for donation is Terumah with the Hebrew three-letter root, tav, resh, mem. That same word is also actually the name of a Torah portion in the book of Exodus that describes the many contributions needed from the children of Israel to build the Tabernacle in the desert after leaving Egypt. Building a Tabernacle in the desert was a complicated and probably quite costly undertaking. Sending a child to camp is not necessarily complicated, but it can be expensive. As you can imagine, camps are quite costly to run. The price of maintaining infrastructure, quality programming, food, and staffing is high - and understandably so.

### Donations, Donations, Donations

Any terumot - donations - that you can make to the Steve Turner Camp Scholarship Fund are so appreciated and will greatly help to offset the price of summer camp for many of our families.

If a sleep-away camp experience is not possible, then a Jewish day camp is the next best thing. Camp Gesher (meaning bridge in Hebrew), in its inaugural summer, provided a wonderful opportunity for all the children in our community to engage with and learn about Jewish ideas, culture, and practices. Look for more information soon about Camp Gesher 2014!

## FALL into ADULT EDUCATION

TREE OF LIFE CONGREGATION  
6719 N. Trenholm Rd.

**HEBREW**  
with Risa Strauss

*Beginning Hebrew*  
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.  
October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30;  
November 6, 13 & 20;  
December 4  
\$18 TOL members;  
\$25 non-members

*Beyond Beginners Hebrew*  
Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.  
October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29;  
November 12, 19 & 26;  
December 3 & 10  
\$18 TOL members;  
\$25 non-members

**JUDAISM**  
with Rabbi Daniel Sherman

*Introduction to Judaism*  
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.  
October 16, 23 & 30  
November 6  
This is a year-long course & will continue in Winter & Spring.  
\$18 TOL members;  
\$25 non-members

*Judaism Today/Today's Issues*  
Wednesdays, 8:05 p.m.  
October 16, 23 & 30;  
November 6  
no fee

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
for adults

*Camping - It's More than a Bunk Bed!* with Rabbi Daniel Sherman, Risa Strauss & Kara Hoffman on October 13, 9:15 a.m.

*Army Wives: The Real Reality* with Melissa Seligman on November 10, 9:15 a.m.

*Sports Talk, Bagels & More* with Phil Kornblut on December 8, 9:15 a.m.


no fee; bagel breakfast included

Visit [www.tolsc.org](http://www.tolsc.org) for full course descriptions.

REGISTRATION:  
[www.tolsc.org](http://www.tolsc.org)  
Info@tolsc.org | 803-787-2182



## Beth Shalom



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*Islam, the Arab States, and the Modern Middle East.*  
Instructor: Dr. Josef Olmert

**Course 2: 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.**  
*What Every Jew Needs to Know: A Crash Course in Basic Judaism, Prayers, Rituals, and Women in History.*  
Instructors: Rabbi Jonathan Case, Hazzan Michal Rubin, Marlene Roth

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

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PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CCJL COURSE/COURSES \_\_\_\_\_

**(One course is \$100 for ten 1-hour sessions. Two courses are \$150)**

**Total amount paid (Cash) \_\_\_\_\_ (Check) \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed form to Beth Shalom Synagogue.**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Marlene Roth at [malka9448@yahoo.com](mailto:malka9448@yahoo.com)

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

The Columbia Jewish Film Festival,  
USC Jewish Studies Program, and USC School of Music present  
an afternoon to entertain and educate on

Sunday, February 23, 2014  
3:00pm

The extraordinary movie  
“The Return of the Violin”

A Haim Hecht film

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

Saskia Coenen Snyder, History Department

Kunio Hara, School of Music

F.K.Clementi, English Department

USC School of Music Recital Hall, Second Floor

813 Assembly Street

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[columbiajewishfilmfestival.com](http://columbiajewishfilmfestival.com)

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Cakes and more!



**All Food Purchases Are  
À la Carte**





## Chabad

## CJDS

## Chabad of South Carolina

**November 7th****Gerry Sue and Norman  
Arnold Social Hall Dedication****Cocktails - 6:00pm****Dinner by Chef Shira****Guest Speaker: Richard Bernstein  
At the Chabad Aleph House.  
2509 Decker Blvd.****RSVP: [www.chabadofsc.com](http://www.chabadofsc.com)****October 30-December 4th****JLI Presents: *Life In the Balance*****7:00-8:30 PM****Chabad-Aleph House  
2509 Decker Blvd***\$75 pp includes student book***November 27th****Chanukah Car Menorah Parade  
Followed by: Annual State  
House Menorah Lighting****To join the car parade:  
call Rabbi Levi at 237-7330****AEPI & Chabad Present:****Chanukah Party At USC****All Jewish students are invited:**

## Learning by doing

By Rabbi Meir Muller, Ph.D.

The Jewish Day School is based on an inquiry philosophy. The school believes that children construct knowledge by experimenting and exploring with materials, reflecting, asking questions, and sharing ideas. Hence, the emphasis of learning is not on memorization or the transmission of knowledge but on students using higher-order thinking skills to construct their own meaning.

A recent example of this type of learning occurred in kindergarten after the holiday of Sukkot. Some of the children continued to play, think about, and explore the holiday. The children were still interested in the fruit used on the holiday, the etrog.



The children used their senses to smell and touch the etrog. Many comparisons were made to a lemon, inspiring the teacher to bring out a lemon so that the children could compare them side-by-side. Next, the teacher discussed the idea of predictions or thoughtful guesses. One included that the etrog needs a thick protective skin because it is used for a mitzvah. There were many predictions about what we might find inside the etrog. Some predictions were based on past experiences, including the lemon and other fruit. We also had some great creative predictions based on imagination. Finally, we cut open the etrog to get some answers, and began a similar process, feeling, smelling, and looking at it from the inside. The children also did some counting as they explored the seeds.



Federation Executive Director Barry Abels shares a light moment with Federation vice president Josh McDuffie.



Heidi Lovit and Debby Mullen welcome guests



Arline shines in the spotlight



Arline's daughters Joanna Berens and Nancy Johnson toast their mom



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