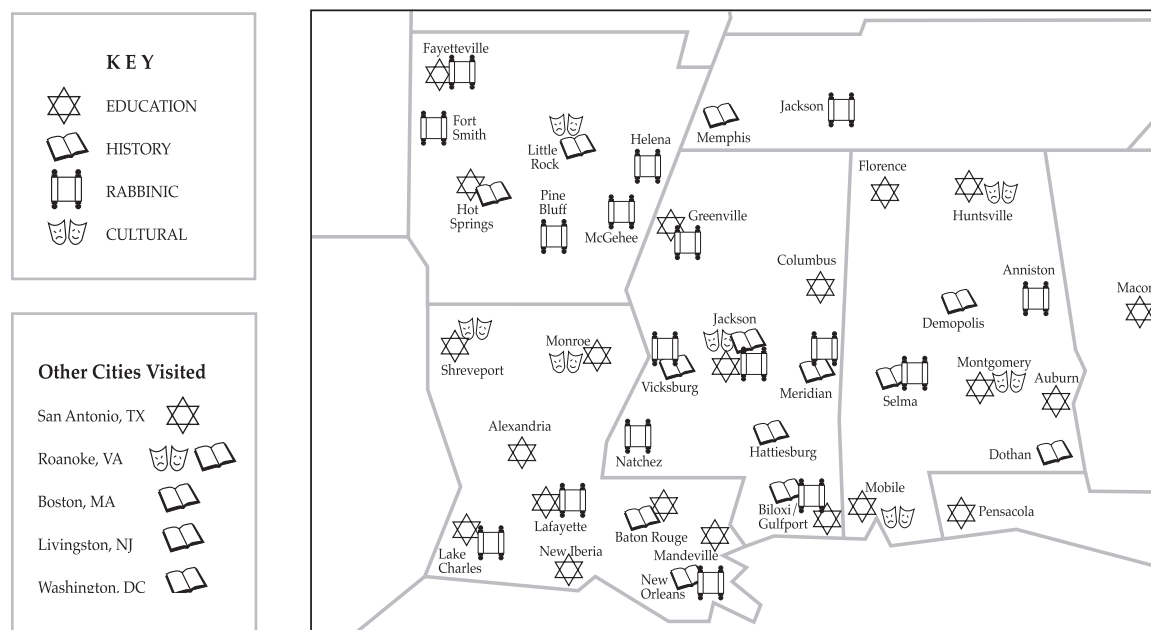


The mission of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life is to preserve and document the practice, culture and legacy of Judaism in the South. The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience operates under the auspices of the Institute.

ISJL Making a Difference

As the map below indicates, the ISJL has served numerous Jewish communities across the South in the past year. We thought we would focus on one to show the effect the ISJL is having on Jewish life in the region. Huntsville, Alabama, is home to two congregations and approximately 750 Jews. Both the Reform B'nai Sholom and the Conservative Etz Chaim are participating in the Institute's pilot education program through their joint religious school of about eighty children. The Jewish community of Huntsville has also been host to several other ISJL-sponsored programs that have brought additional religious and cultural opportunities to the city. Below, a leader of the Jewish community describes the impact the ISJL has had on Huntsville.



by Rabbi Jeffrey Ballon, Temple B'nai Sholom, Huntsville, Alabama

Emily Dickinson said, "Let me count the ways." Moses said, "Lift up the heads of your tribes." And I shall say, "Lemme tell ya what's hap'nin'."

The ISJL has hit this community full force and changed the way we do business with regard to community education. As a result of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life and the cooperation of our community's leadership, the entire Northern Alabama Jewish community has been energized.

One of the first challenges we accepted was getting the message out that the Southern Jewish Experience was exciting and noteworthy. Bill Aron's book *Shalom Y'all* and his ISJL-sponsored lecture in Huntsville proved that. The community felt a tangible change in two ways. First, we realized we could get a nice size crowd to do serious Jewish scholarship without being a 1000 family congregation. The second was that we could get plenty of cotton bolls to decorate our Sukkah in the finest Southern tradition.

The second challenge we accepted was that we would be deliberate about the style of Jewish education we would

offer. About a dozen different families from Huntsville have attended one of the curriculum conferences in the past year. We learned about "set induction" and proper planning. With the help of the Education Fellows a full year's classroom was equipped and provided with minute-by-minute lesson plans for each week of the year. Local notions for local teachers were wrapped into a thoughtful consideration of topics suited for youngsters from kindergarten to the confirmation class. Teachers who had been shy about stepping into the classroom experienced the confidence that comes with being prepared and skilled.

The parents, teachers and students of Huntsville's religious school have been overwhelmingly pleased with the ISJL religious school curriculum. The curriculum has been particularly useful since it provides non-denominational Jewish learning to children of both Reform and Conservative backgrounds. It is perfectly suited to our joint religious school. ISJL Education Fellow Amanda Abrams helped launch the religious school year with a visit in September, and she returned in April

(continued on page 7)

Message From the Institute Board Chair



Where would we be without humor in our lives? We Southern Jews enjoy the intersection of two comedic strains. Certainly, Jews have played an important, if not dominant, role in keeping Americans laughing. Jewish humor demonstrates our ability to laugh at ourselves, but more importantly, it has informed our non-Jewish friends and neighbors that we recognize and celebrate our differences. I love the joke about the first Jewish president of the United States. After the inauguration he phones his mother from the oval office. When told that her son is calling, she asks, "Is it the doctor, or the other one?"

Together with this Jewish humor, we can also laugh about our Southern heritage. We are all familiar with the playfulness of the redneck joke, or of the stories that highlight the simple lifestyle. Often, the target of Southern humor turns toward our historical rivals from up North. Some of you might have seen this joke making the email rounds of late:

Three Southerners and three Yankees are traveling by train to the Super Bowl. At the station, the three Northerners each buy a ticket and watch as the three Southerners buy just one ticket.

"How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" asks one of the Yankees.

"Watch and learn," answers one of the men from the South.

They all board the train. The three Yankee men take their respective seats but all three Southerners cram into a toilet together and close the door. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor knocks on the toilet door and says, "ticket please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The Yankees decide to do the same thing on the return trip and save some money. When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip, but see, to their astonishment, that the three Southerners don't buy any ticket at all. "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed Yankee.

"Watch and learn," answers the men from the South. When they board the train the three Northerners cram

themselves into a toilet and the three Southerners cram into another toilet just down the way. Shortly after the train is on its way, one of the Southerners leaves their toilet and walks over to the toilet in which the Yankees are hiding. The Southerner knocks on their door and says, "ticket please."

I have written before about my interest in the role that rural Southern Jewry has played in strengthening the fabric of the Southern town, and by extension, the country. We have enthusiastically adopted both the labels of "Jewish" and "Southern." By becoming integral to our communities we do not deny what is Jewish about us, but rather we contribute the value of our heritage to the culture at large. The very fact that our family members are town merchants, or doctors, or lawyers, or police chiefs, or cotton farmers, gives us the right to claim a piece of America. America is a fabric of dreams and work, woven tightly into a quilt that protects us all.

We are fortunate that our Jewish families took part in the American migration from ports of entry to places like Port Gibson, from North to South, from city to farm. This ensured that the American quilt would have a little of our values and our history woven all the way through, and not just at the edges. By now you know that the mission of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life is to preserve and to celebrate this living history. We are working hard to lend a hand to those who continue to live Jewishly, to sew fresh threads of our values into the quilt, and do it in places that they love but where being Jewish isn't easy.

The next time you laugh at the image of the Southerner still trying to outwit the Yankee, or the Jewish mother still worried over her children, think about both traditions. Think about how nice it is to be a part of each. And think about the importance of that American Quilt that warms us all. I hope you will want to take some responsibility in helping us with the handiwork.

B'shalom,

Jay Tanenbaum, Chairman

Message from the Institute President



Page 9 of our last edition of CIRCA was quite a summary, a coming out party of sorts. It reported that we had delivered 84 programs in 36 different communities in less than 12 months. As we reflected on the significance of such a set of facts, it was like breaking out the champagne after winning a championship. We were ecstatic at the accomplishment but ever cognizant of the reason why we exist. Where was this concentration of programming before the ISJL was created? Instead of the euphoria that usually accompanies a "championship," our success only further spurred us on. Now on the front page of this edition we have a testimonial that speaks clearly to the impact the ISJL is having. The reason is simple: the Need is there; the Desire to have ongoing Jewish enrichment is there; and the opportunity to participate will be seized.

When you read this edition we will have already had our latest Education Workshop that delivers the Institute's increasingly acclaimed K-10 Sunday School/Hebrew School/Sabbath School curriculum. As we begin the second year of this project, the number of participating congregations has grown to over 20. We have already outgrown the two traveling Fellows and are looking to add a third as soon as possible. Our goal was to put in the hands of our region's largely volunteer teachers a tool that helps and guides them in imparting Jewish Education in those critical few hours each week. Now we are receiving requests for the curriculum as the concept of a Common Body of Jewish Knowledge gains popularity. We are pleased that the congregations we serve are Conservative,

Reform, and Reconstructionist. Their common denominator is Jewish, what it should have been all along.

Success has come in other areas as well as you will read throughout this issue. The coming year will see us committed to expanding more services as we grow this organization. We turned four on February 13, 2004 and continue to build our infrastructure while we expand our programmatic staff. The concept of creating and offering so much is due to the approach that presumes that the multiple states are one congregation. Using that model, we can channel all of our efforts in making a great program that by its nature continues to "tweak" itself. Hopefully other areas of the country will begin to look at this model for it "just makes good sense."

As I close and recommend that you read this entire issue, I do ask that you put the ISJL on your charity or support list. We are delivering all of these programs and are funding it mostly through grassroots support. Our entire operational budget is made up of gifts from many friends from all over the United States. If you are not already, please consider making a commitment to the extraordinary work we are doing. The success of the Institute means that emphasis is on the underserved, often isolated communities that are part of the Jewish people too.

Macy B. Hart, President

Message from ISJL Rabbi Debra Kassoff:



Photo by Alec Kassoff.

June 2004 marks one year since I joined the Institute of Southern Jewish Life. It has been a year of adventure, exploration, and experimentation for me and, I suspect, for many of the people whom I have encountered this year, whether as congregants, co-workers, or friends of the Institute. There are both challenges and rewards in being the first Institute Rabbi, in having to build something that never existed in quite this way before. I feel privileged for the opportunity to do this work, and grateful that I am not doing it alone. So many of you have contributed your time and energy, your skills and ideas, to making this project work. You have challenged me with your questions, strengthened me with your suggestions, and warmed me with your encouraging words. Todah rabbah—many thanks.

As I review the past year and consider my goals for the future, I am comforted and inspired by the teaching of Rabbi Tarfon: "You are not required to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." Even as I resolve to visit more congregations this year than last and to extend the geographic area that I cover, I am acutely aware of my limitations. Hard as I've tried, I cannot seem to be in more than one place at a time. The great diversity and large territory of Southern Jewry defies efficient, centralized service. And so, I've enlisted help!

Beginning this fall the Institute will introduce "Rabbis on the Road," a program that has begun with Reform rabbis in the Southwest region (Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and a corner of Tennessee) and that we hope to extend soon to other Jewish denominations and regions. This first phase is a joint project with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)-Southwest Council and the Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis (SWARR), and is a revitalization of a program that URJ Southwest and SWARR have initiated in the past: rabbis from around the region will donate two or three days each year to visit a congregation without full-time rabbinic services. For the cost of transportation and a weekend's room and board, these rabbis will conduct Shabbat services, teach Torah, offer education programs for the whole family, and more, depending on the needs of the community and the resources of the rabbi.

Rabbis on the Road will increase by the dozens the number of rabbinic visits to small, isolated Jewish com-

munities, all the more so as we build additional partnerships. Not only will it benefit these congregations through greater rabbinic presence and opportunities for Jewish learning, but also the rabbis themselves and their home congregations will grow from these visits, a growth measured in shared stories, new relationships, and extended horizons. I am very excited to see where this project takes all of us.

The circumstances created in the Jewish South by shifting demographics and changing economic conditions are bigger than any one of us can handle alone. It takes Jewish professionals and lay people, small congregations and large, those who were born in the South and those who live here now, as well as those who care about Southern Jewry just because it is a precious part of Klal Yisrael, past and present. It takes all of us working together to ensure that those who might feel isolated or abandoned know that they are beloved by and important to the Jewish world.

Our tradition teaches us again and again the holiness, the holy necessity, of community. A teaching of Rabbi Pinchas: "When a man is singing and cannot lift his voice, and another comes and sings with him - another who can lift his voice - then the first will be able to lift his voice too. That is the secret of the bond between spirit and spirit." By reaching out to one another, by making connections despite the miles that lie between us, by sharing ideas and talents and energy, we all gain. Rabbis on the Road will provide leadership, instruction, and energy to small, isolated congregations. The congregations provide, for those of us fortunate enough to share a Shabbat with them, history, hospitality, and a tremendous amount of heart.

As Rabbi Tarfon said: "You are not required to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." Each of us does as much as we can. Together, we will make a difference. In my time remaining here, we will certainly not see the task completed. But in the years ahead as in the year past, I look forward to the sweet melodies we will create when we raise our voices together.

So much more can happen when we all work together. To let Rabbi Kassoff know of a particular need for rabbinic services or a future program idea, please contact her at the Institute:(601) 362-6357 or kassoff@msje.org.

Are you hungry...FOR A TASTE OF TORAH?

Thanks for a new perspective!

It brings peace and a sense of spirituality to my life.

"Hey, wait a minute! Is learning Torah supposed to be delightful?"

Thanks for the food for thought!

Would you or your congregation benefit from Rabbi Kassoff's weekly study of the Torah portion, delivered directly to your email box? Concise, learned, and readable, Taste of Torah is enjoyed by a growing number of readers each week who share it with friends, present it as a D'var Torah at lay-led services, reflect on it privately, and will soon be able to air their thoughts in an online moderated exchange. To receive Taste of Torah, contact Rabbi Kassoff directly at kassoff@msje.org. Taste of Torah is accessible through our website at <http://www.isjl.org/rabbi.html>.

Third Conference Reflects Education Program Success

"There were rave reviews. You offered insight to our volunteer teachers. I appreciate the support and encouragement and I'm grateful for the ongoing connection to the ISJL."



On June 27 - 29, the Institute of Southern Jewish Life held its third education conference. The education conference is now an annual event. Communities attended the summer conference and became part of the second round of our pilot program, with follow-up from the Education Fellows during the school year. With the official new conference name, *Tze V'Lamed*, ("Go and Teach"), an updated second draft of the ISJL pilot curriculum, and dynamic faculty, the conference proved to be an enriching experience for all.

The conference was held at Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi and featured exciting sessions on education, Jewish life, community and culture as well as time for socializing and fun. Faculty at the conference included David Loewy, from the Jewish children's magazine "Babaganewz"; Bill Rubin, Director of the Community Foundation for Jewish Education in Chicago; Rachel Komerofsky, Director of Outreach Education at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati; and other rabbis and educators from across the nation.

The ISJL is proud of the impact its education program has had in this region. Our first year set the stage for this long-term educational endeavor. In year two, the pilot is growing significantly: our first conference in August 2003 yielded ten pilot communities, which grew to sixteen after our second conference in January 2004. Currently, twenty communities have signed on to the program. With this rapid expansion—doubling the number of communities in a single year—the ISJL is seeking to hire a third Education Fellow.

The education program is clearly filling a need. The third education conference proved to be yet another step towards the goal of providing every Jewish child with a quality Jewish education.

ISJL Curriculum, Version 2.0

During the summer of 2004, the ISJL will launch an updated version of its pilot religious school curriculum. This new and improved curriculum features a separated kindergarten and 1st grade curriculum, an 8th grade curriculum, and individualized Hebrew programs for grades K-7. With the addition of these grades and the graduated Hebrew program, the ISJL now has a complete and comprehensive draft of the religious school curriculum.

In addition, the Education Fellows have been busy incorporating the feedback they received over the past year from teachers across the pilot region. They have revamped sections of the lesson plans for every grade. In our second

year, as we prepare for the third draft, we will continue to fine-tune the curriculum while focusing even more on evaluation and teacher feedback. We now have an evaluation mechanism in place. On our website www.isjl.org, teachers can access weekly evaluation sheets. We ask that in this second year, teachers make a concerted effort to fill out their lesson plan evaluation forms each week so we know what's working and what needs improving.

We want to ensure that our curriculum meets the specific needs of each community. Comments from the field are invaluable. Thank you for being partners in this educational endeavor!

Participants from 22 communities gathered for the annual Education Conference. Photo by Joe Finkelstein.



Choctaw Nation Chief Phillip Martin addresses the conference participants. Photo by Joe Finkelstein.



ISJL Education Consultant Rachel Komerofsky set the tone with her session on family programming. Photo by Joe Finkelstein.



Above: Education Fellows Amanda Abrams and Beth Kander introduce the ISJL curriculum. Photo by Joe Finkelstein.

Below: CFJE Director and conference faculty member Bill Rubin compares notes with Macy B. Hart. Photo by Joe Finkelstein.



Left: Rachel Komerofsky asked all of the rabbis at the conference to lead the Birkat Hamazon. Photo by Joe Finkelstein.



ISJL Historian Brings Southern Stories to Audiences Around the Country



In addition to collecting information about every Southern Jewish community that ever existed, the mission of the ISJL History Department is to bring the story of Southern Jews to a wider audience. Recently, History Department Director Dr. Stuart Rockoff has traveled far and wide sharing the history of the Southern Jewish Experience.

In May, Stuart was the scholar-in-residence for a Shabbat weekend at Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston, New Jersey. Friday night, he delivered a short address on the history of Jews in the South, the current challenges they face, and the work of the Institute to help them. Saturday morning, Stuart led two interactive education programs for the children in Beth Shalom's religious school. At a well-attended luncheon, Stuart delivered a longer talk entitled, "Southern Jews and the Crucible of Civil Rights." By all reports, the Jews of Livingston, New Jersey, were fascinated by the experience of Jews in the South.

A few days later, Stuart delivered an adult education lecture at Congregation B'nai Israel in Little Rock, Arkansas, on the role of Southern Jews in the Civil Rights Movement. He paid special attention to the important role Rabbi Ira Sanders of B'nai Israel played in working toward racial equality. He also discussed how local Jewish women were central to the effort to resist closing the public schools during the Little Rock school integration crisis of the late 1950s. The following week, Stuart traveled to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to address a meeting of the local temple sister-

hood about the story of Paula Ackerman, who served as the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Israel in Meridian in the early 1950s.

In June, Stuart made a presentation at the Biennial Scholar's Conference on American Jewish History, held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Stuart shared the dais with Kevin Proffitt, Senior Archivist for the American Jewish Archives, Gail Reimer, Director of the Jewish Women's Archive, Michael Feldberg, Executive Director of the American Jewish Historical Society, and Helena, Arkansas native David Solomon, the Chief Operating Officer of the AJHS. Together they discussed the challenges archives will face preserving a record of American Jewry in the 21st century. The ISJL was honored to be included among the leading Jewish archives in the country.

Closer to home, Stuart and other members of the Institute staff give many guided tours of the Utica museum. Over the past month, Stuart has led a church seniors group, forty 8th graders from a Jewish Day School in New York City, 100 high school freshmen from Murrah High School in Jackson, and two leading American Jewish historians through the museum. The ISJL History Department is committed to sharing the story of Southern Jews to Jews and Gentiles across the country. If your congregation or organization would be interested in sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Rockoff, please contact the Institute at (601) 362-6357.

Museum a Learning Experience for People of all Backgrounds

Mike Lamensdorf and his three children along with Sunday School teachers Mel Gallagher and Lauren Antler pose in front of the ark at the MSJE. Photo by Neola Young.



Religious School Visits MSJE:

The religious school from Greenville, Mississippi's Hebrew Union Congregation brought a group of children and adults to the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in Utica in May. Teacher Lauren Antler brought the kids to learn more about their heritage as Southern Jews. The ISJL education curriculum encourages religious schools to utilize the museum as a teaching tool for historical and

regional Judaism. Neola Young, the MSJE Registrar, used Institute educational programs to teach the history of Southern Jews and immigration to the kids. They went on a scavenger hunt looking for specific artifacts around the museum. Once they found them, they learned about the historical or religious significance of the item. The children also packed a "trunk" where they were asked to choose the five items they would take on a long trip that would take them far away from home. By visiting the museum and learning about this experience, the kids were able to better appreciate the struggles and success of the Southern Jews who came before them.

If you would like to bring your religious school to the museum for an educational trip, please contact the Institute at (601)-362-6357 or email us at nyoung@msje.org.

9th Graders Get a Slice of Judaism:

This past May, 100 ninth graders from Murrah High School of Jackson, MS, visited the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience. The students were traveling through different parts of Mississippi, learning about various historical sites. The students visited Natchez before traveling up Highway 61 to Utica. When they reached the museum, Rabbi Debra Kassoff, Dr. Stuart Rockoff, and Neola Young greeted the students. Rabbi Kassoff started the session by explaining the basics of Judaism to the students. As they were visiting on Friday afternoon, she explained many aspects special to the observance of Shabbat, aided by several pieces from the museum collection. Dr. Rockoff then proceeded to address the history of Southern Jews and the issues of immigration to the Deep South. Many of the students asked questions, fostering discussion about the points given by both lectures. This tour has become an annual program that aims to expose these students to the diversity of Mississippi history.

ISJL Welcomes New Crop of Interns

This summer, the ISJL is pleased to welcome five summer interns to its staff. The Institute received several impressive applications for its limited positions, and everyone is excited about the energy, experience, and talent that this summer's interns will bring.

l to r: Molly Samuel, Claire Long, Chandra Whalen. Photo by Neola Young.



Alana Sklover (left) and Rachel Fichtenbaum (far right) lead a museum visitor through the "Alsace to America" exhibit. Photo by Neola Young.



Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience:

Two interns will be working full-time at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience while living at the Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi. Rachel Fichtenbaum is a recent graduate of Swarthmore College, and a resident of Massachusetts, where she has gained extensive experience working at Orchard House and Old Manse, two historic house museums. Alana Sklover, from Washington, D.C., is a rising senior at Goucher College, where she is president of Hillel. She first visited the museum when she was on an alternative spring break trip, and quickly decided to spend her summer in Utica. Together, they will conduct museum tours, research new exhibits, help catalog and manage the museum's collection, and develop educational programs to engage youth at the Henry S. Jacobs Camp.

History Department

This year, the history internship program has expanded from one to three positions. Claire Long is a rising senior at the College of Wooster and a resident of Chicago. She plans to write her senior thesis on Holocaust museums and issues related to historical trauma and public memory. Chandra Whalen, from Holyoke, Massachusetts, is a recent graduate of Smith College, where she wrote her senior thesis on the mikvah ritual among Sephardic Jews in early America. Claire and Chandra will be making frequent visits to the State Archives to conduct research for numerous projects. Molly Samuel, an Atlanta resident and a recent graduate of Oberlin College, will be working in the oral history department helping to record the stories of Southern Jews and organizing and transcribing the 500 tapes already in the collection. The interns will assist the history department staff in documenting the rich legacy of Jewish life in the South.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *(continued from page 1)*

to provide a new surge of energy as the school year came to a close. During these visits, Amanda conducted teacher-training sessions, met with parents of religious school students, observed the classrooms, spoke at both congregations' Shabbat evening services, and more. These fellow visits provided another valuable piece of Jewish enrichment for the school's staff and students.

The ISJL, with the leadership of Macy B. Hart, has

The combined religious school in Huntsville held a Passover seder during Education Fellow Amanda Abrams' visit. Special holiday programs are a key part of the ISJL curriculum. Photo courtesy of Rabbi Jeffrey Ballon.



helped revitalize the notion that Jewish education is not only reserved for places that have kosher pickle barrels sitting on the street but also for those of us who know what a good hush puppy can do to satisfy an appetite.

Photographer Bill Aron signs a copy of his book Shalom Y'all after his ISJL sponsored lecture in Huntsville. Photo courtesy of Rabbi Jeffrey Ballon.



Treasures from the ISJL Oral History Collection: Melvin Lipnick

Melvin Lipnick was born on June 15, 1918, in Elgin, Illinois. When he was five, Melvin and his family moved to be near relatives in Inverness, Mississippi. Melvin graduated from Inverness High School in 1935 and then attended Draughon's Business College in Memphis. After school Melvin returned to Inverness to work in his family's store, J. Lipnick's. On December 7th, 1941, he was sitting in front of the drug store listening to the radio when they announced that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Melvin said immediately, "it won't be long and I'll be gone." In February 1942 he entered the army.

After basic training, he was shipped to Oahu, Hawaii, and was among the first replacements of the 24th Division after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In November 1943 Melvin sailed across the Atlantic and landed at Marseilles, France. In April 1945 his regiment was the first to arrive at Dachau, and Melvin was among the liberators of the camp. In 1945 Melvin's tour of duty ended in Vienna, and he returned home in December having reached the rank of T/Sgt. He was awarded a Bronze Star and an Oak-Leaf Cluster for meritorious achievement in battle.

In 1946 Melvin began dating Maurine Weinberg, a childhood friend. On April 20, 1947, they married in Hebrew Union Temple in Greenville. They moved to Indianola where Melvin joined the Weinberg family business, E. Weinberg's. Melvin and Maurine eventually took over ownership and management of the store, and when they retired in 1997 it was the oldest established retail business in Indianola.

In this interview, conducted by ISJL Oral Historian in February of 2004, Melvin gives an account of the final months of the war in Europe.

Melvin Lipnick with his wife Maureen. Melvin's is one of hundreds of interviews in the ISJL Oral History Collection. Photo by Alan H. Stein.



Liberating the camp:

ISJL:

Now let's talk a little about the liberation itself and your experiences which you've given interviews about, but for our records and being a southern Jewish person, and your feelings about seeing what happened, you know, to humanity at this point in time.

ML:

Well, we had no idea that something like that existed, the camp, you know the *concentration* camp.

ISJL:

There were no rumors or scuttlebutt about it?

ML:

No, but we went through this town, Dachau was not too far from Munich. We went and somebody told us about this place. Well, we went and when we got there, well some of the Guards were, well we had got in a little skirmish with some of the Guards and the inmates were all excited when they saw us.

Well, the fence around them, you know, was electrified. One thing I remember in particular was this fellow got too close to the fence and was electrocuted.

ISJL:

An army fellow?

ML:

An inmate. It was hard, just to think that the man was that close to being free and we lost him. Then after we got in, of course it was just horrible. Everything was just unbelievable.

ISJL:

Well, who did the reconnaissance? In other words, who would have gone in, found the conditions and then you would have all been called up to help?

ML:

Division Patrol, I think, first found the area. My outfit was the first to go in there, to the front gate. Another division came in from behind, the 45th Division, I believe it was. But my outfit was the one the Camp Commander surrendered to.

ML:

The night before we entered, a train, a freight train pulled in loaded with bodies.

ISJL:

So, even after you liberated the camp, the Germans were still sending freight trains?

ML:

No, that was right before. Sent the train in and those that were living, of course were just skin and bones, most of them. They threw quick lime on them to get rid of them. Well, the next day, they heard somebody, you know, in this coal car, they found this one man alive and pulled him out. As recently as in the last couple of years that man showed up at one of the reunions.

ML:

Every reunion we have somebody that was a survivor just happens to see the Rainbow sign up or something and comes by. Very emotional, because they thank everybody for liberating them and all this.

We had one thing in Memphis, they had a Jewish outfit out of service up there and I was invited to, for the Dachau, and another friend of mine who has since deceased, were there. We went on the stage and it was televised, a big, big deal. A survivor from Dachau came up and presented us with a plaque.

Later, Melvin was in Vienna when it was split four ways between the Americans, the Russians, the British, and the French.

Occupation of Vienna with Russians:

One day we were, there was an officer and a jeep-driver and I, went to see about using the building for an NCO Club [Non-Commissioned Officers] in our area. We had to go downtown, where we saw a Russian jeep that came along and hit a pedestrian. It just took off. Well, we proceeded to follow him. [laughter]

We got into the Russian zone, which we had no business in there, and one thing led to another and finally we went to their headquarters which was in a big barn-like building. We couldn't speak Russian, they couldn't speak English, and we got in this building and Russians wanted us to eat with them.

So, we said, "Well, we'll eat with them". So, we sat down at this table and they served everybody a shot of vodka and then, instead of plates you had big bowls with forks around it. Pass around and you know, you eat. We were toasting everybody. They were toasting us and we were calling them S.O.B.s and everything, you know, and ya-ya-ya. It's a good thing they couldn't speak English!

Lessons of war:

ISJL:

How did your service and experiences affect the rest of your life, if you can talk about that at all?

ML:

Well, it made you realize that there are people in this world that are inhuman. You can't imagine people doing things like that... This thing about, you know, "It can't happen" ... it CAN happen anywhere.

Melvin also discussed the problems that many Southern Jews face today:

The Southern Jewish Experience

ISJL:

Your daughters chose to stay here in the South, but the very next generation did leave the South, in keeping with the traditions it seems, though...

ML:

Right. That's what's going on. But we're fortunate enough that our two daughters married boys who lived just 10 or 20 miles away from us in Ruleville, Mississippi. Married cousins and still live here and we're so fortunate that our daughters are close to us. But their children are going to be away from them.

ISJL:

I see. You see this as a continuing condition in the South?

ML:

Yes. There are very few young people who choose to stay in the South because of the dwindling number of Jewish people and of the lack of opportunities for them. So it's very sad that the South is losing so many of our Jewish people.

ISJL:

What would be the greatest lesson that the grandchildren or any other younger generation could learn from your experiences here as merchants, as citizens in the South, including your struggles, too?

ML:

Our grandchildren really like the South. They like the small community that we live in. They have many friends here. If the business opportunities were a little bit better and if there were more Jewish people for them to be associated with, they'd gladly move back here because they are reared in southern traditions and that's what they like. But, unfortunately that's not the situation so they are living where there is more access to what they want in their lives.

Help Preserve Jewels of Mississippi Jewish History

For Jews settling in the South, cemeteries were usually the first Jewish institution they created. Securing a Jewish burial usually even took precedence over forming a congregation. In many places in Mississippi, the Jewish cemetery is all that remains of a once vibrant Jewish community. What will happen to the "orphan" Jewish cemeteries in places like Woodville, Summit, and Port Gibson, Mississippi? If no local Jews remain, who will ensure that the grass gets cut, that weeds and trees are removed, and the gravestones are preserved? The ISJL received the following letter of appeal from Karla Back, who was raised in Port Gibson and now lives in Little Rock, Arkansas:

"Nestled amid the kudzu-covered hills that line Highway 61 South, roughly halfway between Vicksburg and Natchez, lies the small town of Port Gibson. Port Gibson, Mississippi's third oldest town, boasts the state's oldest synagogue, Temple Gemiluth Chassed, built in 1892.

As the years passed, the congregation's numbers dwindled. Eventually, it was nearly impossible for Gemiluth Chassed to retain a rabbi. Instead, Karl Weil served as the lay reader for the congregation for forty years. A gifted writer and eloquent speaker, his high holiday sermons drew many of the town's Christians to worship with the few remaining Jewish families. When he died in 1991 at the age of 82, he was the last member of the congregation.

In addition to preparing the temple for High Holy Day services, the Weil family saw to the upkeep of the Port Gibson Jewish Cemetery. Since there was no congregational cemetery fund at the time, the Weil family paid for its maintenance, provided a lawn mower, and transported the caretaker to and from the cemetery.

When the temple was sold in 1986, the proceeds were used to buy a certificate of deposit, from which the interest would pay for upkeep of the cemetery.



The Port Gibson Jewish Cemetery is one of the last vestiges of a once thriving community.

Unfortunately, the lawn service fee has increased significantly coupled with the decline in interest rates. Thus, the earned income is no longer sufficient to cover the monthly maintenance expense.

This beautiful, little cemetery has been lovingly maintained for generations. Hopefully, it can continue to receive the care and attention that have long been provided in tribute to the memory of those buried there."

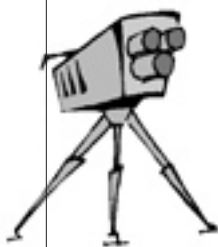
The ISJL is committed to ensuring that the precious legacy of such cemeteries is preserved throughout Mississippi and the rest of the South. The Institute has plans to create a super cemetery trust fund to pay for maintenance on these orphan cemeteries. Also, as small Jewish communities continue to decline, the ISJL cemetery trust fund would ensure that their cemeteries would be cared for in perpetuity. As the population of Southern Jews continues to move towards large metropolitan areas, we should not forget where we came from and honor the ideals of our ancestors. Since a Jewish cemetery was their first priority, we should try our best to preserve it. After all, who else is going to do it?

If you are interested in helping to create this cemetery trust fund, contact ISJL Historian Dr. Stuart Rockoff at (601) 362-6357 or rockoff@msje.org.

Delta Jewish Open - Save the Date!

The 17th annual 2004 Delta Jewish Open Golf Tournament will be held on November 6th and 7th in Greenville, Mississippi. This popular event reunites Jewish Deltans from around the region for a weekend of food, socializing, and golf. Saturday night, participants gather for a home-

cooked steak dinner, while Sunday morning's golf tournament begins with the traditional shofar blast. The event raises money for the Henry S. Jacobs Camp and the ISJL. For more information or to sign up, contact Earl Solomon Jr. at (662) 378-3434 or Alan Silverblatt at (662) 887-5878.



Need an anniversary or birthday gift for the family member who has everything? Why not give the gift that will last forever? The ISJL can help.

Preserve your Family's History



What better gift than to arrange for an *oral history* of your beloved family member(s). We can set up a video oral history interview and present your family with a VHS copy and a beautifully engraved bound transcript. You will be preserving the cherished stories of

your ancestors for your family and helping the Institute to continue to capture the history of our southern Jewish heritage before it is lost forever. For more information, contact us at 601-362-6357 or information@msje.org

Sababa!—The months of Av & Elul



Hey parents and teachers!
 School is out, and the ISJL is bringing you a fun summertime Jewish calendar to continue our learning year-round!
 Try a mitzvah activity, watch your favorite Jewish athlete compete in the Olympics, and celebrate the summer Jewish holidays with your family.
 Explanations for mitzvah activities can be found next to the calendars. Have fun!

July 15		20	21	22	23	24
1 Av	2		Help the environment by planting seeds!	4	5	Host or attend a Havdallah service
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
August 1		27	28	29	30	31
	It's Tu B'av, Jewish Valentine's Day. Tell someone you love them	Observe Tisha B'av by fasting or not bathing	10	11	Listen to Klezmer music today!	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
August 1		10	11	12	13	14
Watch Alyssa Beckerman, a Jewish Olympic gymnast	Birthday of Menachem Begin, former Israeli Prime Minister	Walk your pet or your neighbor's pet	24	25	Bake Challah for Shabbat	27
28	29	30				

3 Av: Planting seeds is a form of Tikkun Olam, Repairing the world.
7 Av: The mitzvah of observing Shabbat is called Shamor V'zachor Shabbat.
23 Av: Walking a pet is a form of Tza'ar Ba'alay, being kind to animals.

6 Elul: Bal Tashchit is the prohibition of destroying so pick up some trash!
12 Elul: The mitzvah of visiting the sick is called Bikkur Cholim.
Elul 29: Listening to the shofar is a mitzvah called Lishmoa Kol Shofar .

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Pick up trash around your neighborhood	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Visit someone who is sick	13		15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Buy apples and honey - Rosh Hashanah is in 3 days!	Do a mitzvah for your family	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

ISJL Annual Campaign Contributors

The ISJL Annual Campaign is in full swing. We are pleased to report that gifts to the campaign are at an all time high. In the pages of this newsletter you can see our success and feel the positive impact that we are having across the South. Your contribution will ensure that we can continue to move forward with these exciting programs. *Please take a moment today to make your gift to ISJL with the enclosed envelope.*

With great appreciation, the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life extends gracious thanks to all those who have made contributions between January 1, 2004 and May 31, 2004 to support the ISJL Annual Campaign.

\$10,000 - \$99,999

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Stein
Mrs. Julian Wiener

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Abrams
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Dowe
Mr. Peter L. Malkin

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mrs. Ian Brightman
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Davidson
M.N. Davidson Foundation
North Louisiana Jewish Federation
Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans
Mr. Michael Z. Kay
Dr. Richard Levine
Rabbi Seth Limmer
Dr. Alan, Jackie & Josh Luria
Mrs. Julie Grant Meyer
Dr. Jonathan Millman
Rabbi & Mrs. Neil Sandler
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Shapiro
Mr. & Mrs. William Sizeler
Kirschner Trusts
Rabbi & Mrs. Max Weiss

\$500 - \$999

Delta Jewish Open Golf Tournament
Tri-Cities Jewish Federated Charities
Mr. Homer Adler
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Allen
Mr. Ian Arnof
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Berman
Dr. & Mrs. Marc Bernstein
Dr. & Mrs. Leslie R. Burson
Meridian Jewish Welfare Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gibian
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Heaster
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Hess
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Klein
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kline, II
Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Lamensdorf
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Lassen
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lederman
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Lewis
Mr. Henry Paris
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis B. Pollak, Sr.
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Posner
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Raphael
Beth Israel Sisterhood, Jackson, MS
The Mike & Corky Hale Stoller Foundation
Ms. Mary Wiener & Mr. Sandy Cohen

\$100 - \$499

Temple Shaaray Tefila
Dr. & Mrs. Leo Abraham
Mr. David V. Abramson
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Abrams
Dr. & Mrs. Joel M. Adler
Mr. Richard M. Adler
Mr. Stephen B. Alderman
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Anderson
Doctors Bill & Isa Aron
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Axelrod
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Back
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Baer
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley F. Baker
Rabbi & Mrs. Jeffrey L. Ballon
Dr. & Mrs. William M. Bangel
Mr. & Mrs. James Banks
Dr. & Mrs. David Bauman
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Bauman, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Bearman, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Beeber
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Behrendt
Mrs. Joyce Cohen Benjamin
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Berenson
Dr. Joan Berger
Dr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Bergman
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Berkeley
Karen Kaplan & Marshall Berman
Mrs. Bernard Bindursky

Dr. Toni R. Dollinger & Rabbi Barry Block

Rabbi P. Irving & Pat Bloom
Mr. Stephen Bodzin
Mr. Ted Borodofsky, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Brandt
Ms. Anne Brener
Dr. & Mrs. Maury Bronstein
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur T. Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. Milton L. Brown
Mr. Richard Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Isidor Brucker
Ms. Janet Brueck
Mr. Mitchell Cantor
Dr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Capouya
Dr. & Mrs. Morris N. Capouya
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Carp
Dr. Bernard A. Cohen
Mr. Eliot Cohen
Mr. Barton P. & Dr. Mary D. Cohen
Mr. David R. Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Cohn
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey H. Cohn
Mr. Jefferson Cooper
Mr. Jack Cristil
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cusnier
Ms. Vera Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Diamond
Mrs. Harryette Anne Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Elson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Engel
Ms. Betty England
Mr. Mervyn Epsman
Mr. Arnold Feinstein
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Feller
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Felt
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fendler
Dr. & Mrs. William Ferris
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Fine
Mr. Arthur Finkelberg
Mrs. Ed Fisch
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Friedlander
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Friedler, Jr.
Mrs. Susan O. Friedman
Dr. & Mrs. David Frolich
Dr. & Mrs. Marshall Frumin
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Fry
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Gerache
Mrs. Ira Gershner
Mr. Mark L. Gilbertstadt
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Ginsberg
Ms. Carol Ginsburg
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Glaser
Ms. Louise Glickman
Mrs. Ervin Goldberg
Mrs. Melvin Goldberg
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Goldin
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Goldin
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Goldman
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Goldman
Mr. & Mrs. Scot Goldsholl
Mrs. Betty Allenberg Goldstein
Dr. and Mrs. Martin I. Goldstein
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Goldstein
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Good, III
Mrs. Louis Good, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Phil Gordon

Mrs. Harold Gotthelf
Mr. Fredric H. Gould
Mr. & Mrs. Jerrold Graber
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Greco
Mrs. Sylvia Ehrman Green
Rabbi & Mrs. Micah Greenstein
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert S. Greenwald, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Grishman
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Grodnick
Mrs. Faylese S. Gruber
Commissioner Dick Hall
Mrs. Van Hart
Mrs. Joseph Haspel, Jr.
Marla Harbor & Erik Hearon
Mr. Mark Heffer
Mrs. Albert Herzog
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Hesdorffer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Hesslein
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Hiller
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hirt
Mr. Michael Honan
Dr. & Mrs. Julius E. Isaacson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Jacobs
Trudy and Dr. Jerry Jacobson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jordan, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James Kahn
Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Kahn
Mrs. Mary Lou Neth Kahn
Mr. Abe Kaplan
Mr. & Mrs. Seth Kaplan
Mr. & Mrs. Milton N. Kassel
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Katz
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Katz
Mr. Keith Katz
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Keffer
Mrs. Dorothy Kelly
Mr. Ronald Kern
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Knobler
Mrs. Myron & Angela Koltuv
Mr. & Mrs. L. Kopald, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob H. Korngold
Mr. & Mrs. Haig Koshkarian
Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Krinitzky
Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Lahasky
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lahasky
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley J. Lappen
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Latter
Mrs. Sophie Laudenheimer
Mr. Sidney H. Lazard, Sr.
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Lazarus
Mr. and Mrs. Rene Lehmann
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Lehman
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Lenhoff
Mr. Albert Leveck
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Levin
Mrs. Barbara T. Levingston
Mrs. Emma L. Levy
Dr. & Mrs. Walter E. Levy, III
Mrs. Nathan Levy, Jr.
Ms. Jan Abby Liff
Mr. John Lippman
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Lipson
Dr. Martin S. Litwin
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald I. Loeb
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Loeb
Mr. & Mrs. William I. Loewenberg
Ms. Joan G. Looney

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Lurie
Mr. Lawrence M. Magdovitz
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Maibach
Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Marcus
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Marcus
Mr. & Mrs. Sander P. Margolis
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Marks, Jr.
Mrs. Fay Millstein May
Mr. & Mrs. J. William Mayer
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Mayersohn
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Metz
Ms. Margaret Meyer
Mr. Charles L. Meyer

Mr. Ted Rubenstein
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon M. Rubinet
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Rudner
Mr. & Mrs. Philip R. Russ
Mrs. Rita Sabel
Mr. & Mrs. Dan S. Schaff, Jr.
Eleanor Levingston Schockett
Mr. & Mrs. Mort Schrag
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schulman
Mr. Paul Schwab
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Selber
Mrs. Irving Selber
Mr. Robert A. Shapiro

The Directors of the M. B. & Edna Zale Foundation were very pleased to support the Rabbinic Services Project at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life. The Zale and Fields families began in Wichita Falls, Texas, a small North Texas town where M. B. and his brothers started their retail jewelry operation in 1924. While most of the second generation of the family spent their early years in Wichita Falls, today the second, third and fourth generations of the family live mostly in large metropolitan cities around the country. Nonetheless, they have an understanding of the difficulties of maintaining thriving Jewish life in smaller isolated communities. Our Board is excited and enthused to see the immediate and early successes of the Rabbinic Services Project - improving Jewish life throughout the South.

—Lenny Krasnow, Dallas, TX
President, M. B. & Edna Zale Foundation

Mrs. Richard Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Charlton Meyer, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Miller
Ms. Julia Miller
Mrs. Ann Hart Miller
Dr. & Mrs. Gary D. Monheit
Ms. Rose L. Morrison
Ms. Lynne G. Moses
Rabbis Steve and Susie Heneson
Moskowitz
Mr. Hermann Moyses, Jr.
Mr. H. Ben Nelken
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nemo
Mrs. Ruby Newman-Peck
Mrs. R. G. Nichols, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Norman, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Opatowsky
Judge & Mrs. J. David Orlansky
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Orlansky
Mrs. Nathan Ostrich
Mrs. Inez P. Pachter
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Paris
Mrs. Maurice Pearl
Mrs. Nancy Mendel Peck
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Pick
Mrs. Marc and Elaine Platt
Dr. & Mrs. Harlan Pollock
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Posner
Mr. & Mrs. Don Potts
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Preis
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Preis
Mrs. Morris J. Priebsch
Rabbi Bob Ratner
Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Rau
Rabbi & Mrs. Stanley T. Relkin
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Rimalover
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Robinson, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Rosen
Dr. Irvin Rosen
Mrs. S. A. Rosenbaum
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Rosenbush, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Rosenfeld
Dr. & Mrs. Melvin Rosenthal
Mrs. Joseph L. Rosenzweig
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Rosenzweig
Mrs. Milton Rubel

Mr. & Mrs. Armand Shapiro
Rabbi & Mrs. Robert Sharff
Mr. Arnold A. Sheetz
Rabbi & Mrs. Charles P. Sherman
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Shlenker, III
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Silberberg
Mr. & Mrs. Irving Silver
Mr. Robert Silverstein
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Simon
Judge & Mrs. John F. Simon
Mrs. Eric Simon
Mrs. Lillie P. Simon
Temple Israel Sisterhood
Hebrew Union Sisterhood
Dr. Eli Sorkow
Ms. Marie Charlotte Stark
Rabbi & Mrs. Jonathan Stein
Mrs. Berney B. Steiner
Ms. Micki Beth Stilller
Mrs. Earl S. Suffrin
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Thomas
Mrs. Sylvia Thompson
Dr. Sam A. Threefoot
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford Tillman
Mr. Sandy Villere
Mr. Michael Wahlder
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Wampold, Jr.
Mrs. Evelyn Wander
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Wasserman
Ms. Liselotte L. Weil
Mr. & Mrs. Felix Weil
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Weiner
Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Weintraub
Mr. Sam Weintraub
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Westall
Dr. & Mrs. John S. Wiener
Dr. & Mrs. Steven M. Wilson
Mrs. Karen Winnick
Judge Jerome M. Winsberg
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathon Wolfson
Ms. Martha Andes Ziskind
Dr. Jack Zoller

Our foundation is pleased to support the Institute of Southern Jewish Life because we share an identical mission: both of us are committed to using our resources wisely to help spread the joy of Jewish living, giving and learning. The ISJL is a wonderful regional complement to many other organizations we support, groups that seek to strengthen Jewish identity through day schools, camps, synagogues, youth groups and activities on college campuses throughout the United States, Israel and the former Soviet Union.”

—Lynn Schusterman, Tulsa, OK
President, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation

**The Institute is indebted to the following foundations and individuals
whose generous investment, past and present, have enabled us to move our vision forward with confidence:**

Balmoral Foundation
Samuel Bronfman Foundation
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Covenant Foundation
Nathan Cummings Foundation
Cindy G. Edelman Family Foundation
Goldring Family Foundation
Phil Hardin Foundation
Hart with Hart Foundation

Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.
Jewish Outreach Institute
Charles and Esther Kimerling
Foundation
Ted Levi
Mintz Family
Jean and Bill Mosow
Plough Foundation
Righteous Persons Foundation

AMSKier Agency Insurance
Steve H. and Alida Brill Scheuer
Foundation
Charles and Lynn Schusterman
Foundation
Shornick Family
Samuel and Helene Soref Foundation
Woldenberg Family Foundation
M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation

February–May 2004

Ruth & Laz Abraham
- Insa & Leo Abraham

Beatrice Adler
- Carolyn & Carl Hicks

Minnie & David Adler
- Joel M Adler

Clara & Harry Basan
- Toby & Tommy Thomas

Emily Ann Benjamin
- Susan & Macy B. Hart
- Nan & Don Goldwasser
- Dr. Toni Dollinger & Rabbi Barry
Block
- Betty Lee & Ben Lamensdorf

Harold Berg
- Daniela & Seth Kaplan

Eileen Berger
- Susan & Macy B. Hart

Fay & Joe Berman
- Sindy & Bob Berman

Leon Burson
- Susan & Leslie Burson

Lillian & Bernard Cohen
- Joyce C. Benjamin

Fay Cohn
- Pam & Lee Rubin

Bella & David Davidson
- Sophie Laudenheimer

Joseph Eldodt
- Joan Berger

Marian Fried
- Ann & Shaw Thompson
- Andra & Steven Thorpe
- Iris & David Thorpe
- Aline & Gene Anderson

Billy Friedman
- Pam & Lee Rubin

Edward Fisch
- Barbara Fisch

Sylvia Frumin
- Robin & Luis Dorfman

Libby Gansar
- Susan & Macy B. Hart

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert S. Greenwald
- Dr. & Mrs. Herbert S. Greenwald, Jr.

Justine Hart
- Bea Gotthelf

Ralph Hillman
- Susan & Macy B. Hart

Bess & George Hurtig
- Arlene Rubel

Florence Adler Jacob
- J. Edward Wise

Sam L. Kleisdorf
- Minette & Charles Cooper

Henri Levi Leighton
- Susan & Macy B. Hart

Noah Liff
- Jan Liff

Dan Lincove
- Miriam & Steven Latter

Judge Walter Marcus, Jr.
- Marilyn & Sidney Lassen

Jo Ann Hess Morrison
- Susan & Macy B. Hart

Sylvia Moskowitz
- Rachel & Edward Cusnier

Kate Ordinsky
- Dr. & Mrs. Eli Sorkow

Celeste Orkin
- Don Mitchell
- Sandra & Henry Fischer
- Alan J. Orkin
- Mary & Howard Hurtig

Jack K. Rinalover
- Betty H. Rimalover

Freida Rittman
- Susan & Macy B. Hart

Irving S. Sainker
- Eidele Sainker

Minette S. Scharff
- Minette & Charles Cooper

Addie & Sol Schwab
- Paul Schwab

Jane Seessel
- Judy & Buck Boshwit

Elma G. Sherer
- Lynn & Alan Beer
- Roberta & Eric Glasofer
- Judy & Steve Bleyer
- Nancy & Kenneth Davis
- Susan & Macy B. Hart
- Barbara & Robert Lunsck
- Joanne Sundheim
- Diane & James Rosenthal
- Janet Sclaroff
- Stephen Schachman
- Reva & Ellis Hart
- Betty Lee & Ben Lamensdorf
- Mayda & Alan Clarke

Rhea & Stanley Shindell
- Sindy & Bob Berman

Josef Sternberg
- Insa & Leo Abraham

Lea & Erich Sternberg
- Insa & Leo Abraham

MEMORIALS

HONORARIUMS

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Barton
- Sherry & Charles Snyder

Ethan Bearman
- Joy & Leo Bearman

Rachel, Anna, & Leah Bearman
- Joy & Leo Bearman

Leah Blach
- Amy & Richard Greenberg

Isadore Cantor
- Mitchell Cantor

Minette Cooper
- Neil, Babette, Erik, Betsy & Jeff
Cooper

Minette & Charles Cooper
- Sue Anne & William Bangel

Isaac Dorsey
- Joy & Leo Bearman

Alan Franco
- Joan & Gerald Berenson

Margot Garon's birthday
- Kathy & David Bauman

Carol Ginsburg
- Barbara Joseph

Jerome Goldberg's recovery
- Reva & Ellis Hart

Morton Gorden's recovery
- Reva & Ellis Hart

Sandy Gottesman
- Susan & Gordon Rubinet

Kimberly Harberg's birthday
- Betty & Mac Lyons

Macy B. Hart
- Julie & Marshall Oreck
- Flo Selber
- Charlett & Marshall Furmin
- Carol & Robert Nemo
- Francia Burroughs

Burt Jaeger's recovery
- Reva & Ellis Hart

Benjamin Kaplan
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kaplan

Rabbi Debbie Kassoff
- Alice & Sander Margolis

Carolyn & Ralph Katz
- Keith Katz

Mary Sue & Maurie Kern
- Ronald Kern

Aaron Kibaryk
- Glenn Patron

Dena Levin's birth
- Sondra Panico & Stuart Levin

Melvin Lipnick
- Reva & Ellis Hart

Dr. George Matz's recovery
- Judy & Buck Boshwit

Mark Matz's recovery
- Judy & Buck Boshwit

Judi Mink's birthday
- Anita & Stephen Adelson
- Beverly & Richard Milbauer
- Carol & Fred Hollander
- Susan & Todd Schwartz
- Judy & Stephen Bleyer
- Barbara & Sidney Geller
- Roberta & Eric Glasofer
- Josey & John Rosenthal
- Susan & Macy B. Hart
- Diane & James Rosenthal
- Janet Sclaroff
- Jeanette Schwartz
- Mayda & Alan Clarke

Bill Mosow's birthday
- Lou & Herb Ginsberg
- Flo Selber
- Susan & Macy B. Hart
- Shirley & J. David Orlansky
- Reva & Ellis Hart

Shirley & David Orlansky's anniversary
- Susan & Macy B. Hart

Phrose Raphael's recovery
- Reva & Ellis Hart

Zoey Ruth Rockoff's birth
- Bill Rubin
- Jeri & Marc Shapiro

Honey & Rudi Scheidt
- Judy & Buck Boshwit

Debbie Kimerling Schneider
- Janet & Dan Maslia

Doris Schneider's recovery and new home
- Reva & Ellis Hart

Lou Shornick's birthday
- Sandra & Henry Fischer

Benjamin Samuel Siegal's birth
- Lou & Herb Ginsberg

Leland Speed
- Fredric H. Gould

Jason Tanenbaum's graduation
- Bettie & Charles Kahn

Jerry Tanenbaum
- Brunette & Martin Simmons

Jill Tanenbaum's graduation
- Bettie & Charles Kahn

Pat Tanenbaum
- Rabbi & Mrs. Charles Sherman

Jay Wiener's birthday
- Judy & Bud Robinson

Kathryn Wiener's birthday
- Carol L. Hart
- Barbara & Matt Meis

Florence Wile's birthday
- Kathryn Wiener

Sandra Wurzburg
- Judy & Buck Boshwit

Through its grants, the Soref Foundation strives to assist worthy organizations to expand, improve and enhance services to their constituents. The growth and achievements of the ISJL over the past four years have demonstrated that our confidence in it has not been misplaced.
— Steve Breslauer, Houston, TX
Associate Trustee, Soref Foundation

The Peddler's Cart

The Ultimate Southern Jewish Shopping Experience



Circa Summer 2004

Shalom Y'all (Hebrew) Campfire Mug

Last chance to order at old price!!

Heavyweight, 15 oz. White ceramic mug, dishwasher and microwave safe.

Price: \$6.00 (Price after September 1, 2004: \$8.00)



I am a Southern Jewish Experience T-shirt

New Color: Heather Gray, 100% cotton. Adult sizes: M, L, XL, XXL

Front design: "Have You Had A Southern Jewish Experience Lately?"

Back design: "I Am A Southern Jewish Experience" \$16



Shalom Y'all Apron

Polyester / Cotton, one size with adjustable straps and generous pockets.

Black. Price: \$20.00



Shalom Y'all: Images of Jewish Life in the American South

This book tells the unique story of the Southern Jewish Experience through three distinct voices: Bill Aron's evocative photographs, a narrative woven into descriptive captions, and personal stories, memories and anecdotes told by Southern Jews. The book covers all aspects of Southern Jewish life from chopped liver to bagels and grits, from synagogue to civil war cemeteries, from towns named for their Jewish forbearers to the vibrant communities which exist today. A fitting gift for anyone who has southern Jewish roots. Photos by Bill Aron. Hardcover Price: \$25.00



See our updated Peddler's Cart on the web, www.msje.org Secured site ordering now available!!!!

To order, please complete the form below and fax or mail it to us at:
MSJE Shop, P. O. Box 16528, Jackson, MS 39236 • Fax 601-366-6293

CIRCA Shop

NAME _____
BILLING ADDRESS _____

SHIP TO: (if different from address at left)

NAME _____
SHIPPING ADDRESS _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

We accept MasterCard and Visa or you may enclose a check payable to MSJE Shop.

Check enclosed MC/VISA# _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

Item	Quantity	\$ Each	\$ Total
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Shipping and Handling:		Subtotal	_____
Total of Order	Shipping & Handling	Less 10% discount for ISJL/MSJE member	- _____
less than \$9.99	\$ 5.00	Shipping and Handling	+ _____
\$10 - \$49.99	\$ 7.00		
\$50 - \$99.99	\$ 9.00	TOTAL	_____
over \$100	\$11.00		

We will ship your merchandise within 2 weeks from receipt of order or we will contact you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAJM

Council of American Jewish Museums

CALIFORNIA

Skirball Museum, Los Angeles
310-440-4500 • www.skirball.com
Ongoing – Permanent Exhibit
“Visions & Values: Jewish Life from Antiquity to America”
April 30 – July 18, 2004
“Jewish Life in Ancient Egypt: A Family Archive from the Nile Valley”
April 21 – August 15
“Traveling the Holy Land through the Stereoscope”
September 14 – May 29, 2005
“Einstein”

Judah L. Magnes Museum, Berkeley
510-549-6950 • www.magnes.org
October – August 15, 2004
“Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum”
May 24 – September 19
“A Voice Silenced”
July 26 – January 16, 2005
“Case Study: Alfred Henry Jacobs: Architect of Recreational and Civic Activities”
August 30 – May 8, 2005
“Collections: Sephardic Exile”
October 18 – January 30, 2005
“Art: Surviving Supermaton: Lazar Khidekd”
October 4 – February 13, 2005
“Revisions: Ann Chamberlain”

The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco
415-591-8800 • www.thebcm.org
March 7 – June 27, 2004
“100 Artists See God”
October 6, 2004 – February 27, 2005
“The Jewish Journey: Frederic Brenner’s Photographic Odyssey”
April 17 – July, 2005
“Spice Box: An Invitational”

COLORADO

Mizel Center of Arts & Culture, Denver
303-399-2660 • www.jccdenver.org
Singer Gallery
April 15 – June 4, 2004
“Women Exploring Symbolism through Culture”

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington Lillian and Albert Small Jewish Museum, Washington
202-789-0900
October 17, 2004 – April, 2005 at the City Museum
“Jews in Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community”

FLORIDA

Jewish Museum of Florida: Home of MOSAIC, Miami Beach
305-672-5044
www.jewishmuseum.com
Permanent Exhibit
“MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida”
Ongoing
“From Persia to Miami: A Journey for Survival”
through July 25, 2004
“The Mikvah Project & History of the Mikvah in Florida”
April 20 – January 30, 2005
“Jews of Broward County”
February 15 – May 15, 2005
“Shalom Y’all: Images of Jewish Life in the South”
The Museum is accepting photos until October, 2004, from all Jews who now live in Florida who came from the South, (Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida) of their hometowns, with an anecdote about what it was like to live there as a Jew. Please label with names, dates, locations and occasions of the photo and your name, address and phone, along with the “story”. Photos will become part of the permanent collection.

GEORGIA

William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Atlanta
678-222-3700 • www.thebreman.org
through September 10, 2004
“The Jewish Journey: Frederic Brenner’s Photographic Odyssey”
opening October 24
“Zap! Pow! Bam! The Superhero: The Golden Age of Comic Books 1938 - 1950”

ILLINOIS

Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago
312-322-1747 • www.spertus.edu
through August 1, 2004
“Tradition and Transformation: Treasures from Spertus Museum”
February 29 – August 1
“Engaging with the Present: The Contribution of the American Jewish Artists Club to Modern Art in Chicago”
January 19 – August 1
“Made in Chicago: The L. M. Stein Farlag, 1926-1949”

MARYLAND

Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore
410-732-6400 • www.jhsm.org
March 2004 – February 2005
“Lives Lost, Lives Found: Baltimore’s German Jewish Refugees, 1933 - 1945”
“Weaving Women’s Words: Baltimore Stories”

MISSISSIPPI

Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, Utica
601-362-6357 • www.msje.org
Through 2004
“Alsace to America: Discovering a Southern Jewish Heritage”

Hebrew Union Congregation, Greenville

662-332-4153
Permanent Exhibit
“A Century of History”

Temple B’nai Israel, Natchez
601-445-5407
Permanent Exhibit
“Of Passover and Pilgrimage: The Natchez Jewish Experience”

NEW YORK

The Jewish Museum, New York City
212-423-3200
www.thejewishmuseum.org
Permanent Exhibition
“Culture and Continuity: The Jewish Journey”
March 26 – July 25, 2004
“My America: Art From The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900-1955”
September 9 – January 9, 2005
“Bauhaus Master/Terezin Teacher: The Art of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis”

Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York City
646-437-4202 • www.mjhnyc.org
Through December 31, 2004
“Ours to Fight For – American Jews in the Second World War”
June 7 – September 13
“Shalom Y’all”

NORTH CAROLINA

Rosenzweig Museum & Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina, Durham
919-932-1844 • www.jhnc.org
April 25 – June 10
“Second Annual North Carolina Jewish Art Juried Exhibit and Sale”

OREGON

Oregon Jewish Museum, Portland
503-226-3600 • www.ojm.org
January 11 – March 24, 2004
“To Tell the Story-Our Community Celebrates Passover”
May 2 – August 29
“Life and Light: Congregation Beth Israel and the Founding of a Community”

PENNSYLVANIA

National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia
215-923-3811 • www.nmajh.org
March 14 – September 6, 2004
“Theatrical Realism: The Art of Inez Storer”

SOUTH CAROLINA

Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston
843-722-2706 • www.gibbes.com
through August 15, 2004
“Places & Spaces: Landscape and Genre Scenes of the South”
May 18 – August 8
“Myths and Metaphors: The Art of Leo Twiggs”
May 28 – August 29
“Rhythms of Life: The Art of Jonathan Green”

GOLDRING/WOLDENBERG
INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN
JEWISH LIFE

UPCOMING EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, Utica
601-362-6357 • www.msje.org
Through 2004
“Alsace to America: Discovering a Southern Jewish Heritage”

Temple B’nai Israel, Natchez
601-445-5407
Permanent Exhibit
“Of Passover and Pilgrimage: The Natchez Jewish Experience”

JEWISH CINEMA SOUTH

This “Network of Jewish Film Festivals” will be held in Jackson, MS on October 16th through 19th, followed with Mobile, AL November 7th through 9th and Montgomery, AL November 13th through 16th. See you at the movies!



GOLDRING
WOLDENBERG
INSTITUTE OF
SOUTHERN
JEWISH LIFE
Incorporates the
MUSEUM OF THE
SOUTHERN JEWISH
EXPERIENCE

Institute Web Site www.msje.org

Visit us "on-line" to learn more about our programs and upcoming projects. For a great selection of gift ideas – from books to t-shirts, including several Shalom Y'all items – don't miss our web site shop. We ship anywhere.

Board of Directors

Chairman
Jay Tanenbaum
Atlanta, GA

Vice Chairmen
Alan Franco
New Orleans, LA
Howard Hurtig
Philadelphia, PA
Rayman L. Solomon
Merion, PA
Mary Ann Sternberg
Baton Rouge, LA

Treasurer
Fredric King
Monroe, LA

Secretary
Debbie Kimerling/
Schneider
Atlanta, GA

President
Macy B. Hart
Jackson, MS

—
Imogene Berman
Dallas, TX
Suzy Boshwit
New York, NY

Alida Brill
New York, NY
Minette Cooper
Norfolk, VA
Elaine & Emanuel Crystal
Jackson, MS
Michael Davidson
Metairie, LA
Eli Evans
New York, NY
Rebekah B. Farber
Encino, CA
J. M. Fried, Jr.
New Orleans, LA

Betty & Ben Lamensdorf
Cary, MS
Ted Levi
Vicksburg, MS
Julius L. Levy, Jr.
New Orleans, LA
Judi Sherer Mink
Cherry Hill, NJ
Jean & Saul Mintz
Monroe, LA
Ann Rosenzweig
Dallas, TX
Joan Sadoff
Huntingdon Valley, PA

Joseph Stein, Jr.
New York, NY
Kathryn Wiener*
Jackson, MS

Ex-officio:
Jay Lehmann
Natchez, MS
*emeritus

CIRCA is a publication of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, is produced by the Institute staff, and is designed by Marie Owen. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the Institute. You are invited to submit articles, calendar events, and material related to the Southern Jewish Experience. Send items to: Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, P.O. Box 16528, Jackson, MS 39236-6528 • (601) 362-6357 • Fax (601) 366-6293 • information@msje.org

cir•ca (sur'kə) prep. [L.] about: used before an approximate date, figure, etc. [circa 1650]
