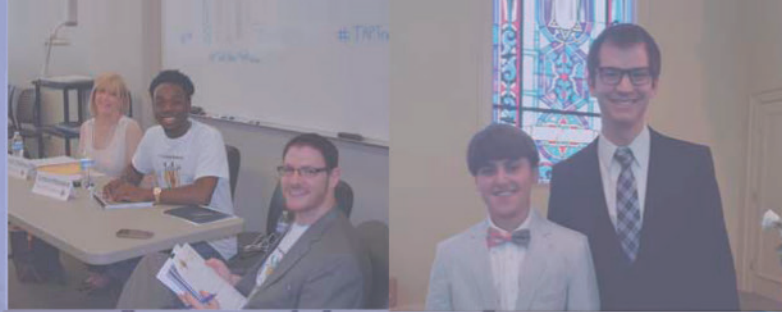


Fall 2015

CIRCA

Newsletter of the Goldring/ Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life



Inside the ISJL



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IN THIS ISSUE OF CIRCA...



Judaism is often called a religion of questions, and in honor of that tradition, for our final CIRCA of 2015 we decided to ask all sorts of questions... and share a variety of answers since, of course, there is usually more than one right answer to a question!



We asked each department to answer the question “What’s New?,” and you’ll see those exciting answers... but between each and every update, we also posed some fun questions—about everything from road trip advice to what “Southern and Jewish” really means—and you’ll find answers to those questions from our friends, board members, and staff members throughout this issue.

What keeps you interested in the ISJL?

What programs do you hope to see in your community?

When are you going to come down and visit the South?

How can you help make sure the ISJL keeps meeting the needs of all the communities we serve?

There are always more questions, and we can’t wait to hear your answers and share our own in our continuing conversations.

Wishing all of y’all a very happy Chanukah and a wonderful 2016!

The Board & Staff of the ISJL





ISJL President
Macy B. Hart

As founder and President of the ISJL, I proudly answer questions about this organization every day. Some questions have changed over the years, while others remain consistent:

What kind of impact can this organization really have?

I like to use visual aids to answer questions like this one. Just take a look at our footprint map on page 19 to see how much of an impact the ISJL has on our region!

Will the ISJL ever “go national”?

The short answer to this question is “no,” but the more accurate answer is “sort of.” We started the ISJL in the South because this is the territory we know. But as we’ve said for years, the issues we address are not uniquely Southern in nature. There are under-served and disconnected Jewish communities all over. So while our office will remain regional we hope that the ISJL model will go national...which leads to the next question.

How can other regions benefit from the ISJL model?

The Midwest, Northwest—across the country, there are communities of all sizes, with varying resources, who could benefit from a regional organization modeled after the ISJL. After all, we don’t just serve small communities. We bring together small, isolated communities and larger, more resourced ones, which is beneficial for all. We’ve been doing this work for years, so others need not reinvent the wheel! We’re eager to be consulting partners to leaders and funders in other regions who want to get their own organization started. Holistically addressing the needs

of Jewish communities across denominational lines, putting itinerant staff on the road—our approach is practical but does require visionary funders, community leaders, and dynamic staff.

What are the stumbling blocks for the ISJL, and models like it?

We’re often asked about sustainability, which can be a stumbling block for any non-profit. We must actively fund-raise every year in order to keep our programs going. The Education Department is the perfect example: Our board and staff are so dedicated to delivering our itinerant education program that we raised hundreds of thousands of dollars independently to launch the department, and commit to ongoing fundraising, because that’s what it takes. It takes vision, and it takes dollars. A lack of vision can be the barrier to the dollars. Looking at what the ISJL has done over the past 15 years should be helpful in getting potential supporters to see what’s possible!

So, why take this approach? Why does this model matter?

We’re changing the paradigm of the Jewish future, bringing communities together and ensuring that no matter where a Jewish person lives they have access to Jewish resources. We want our Jewish children engaged early on, so when they leave small towns and come to big cities they’re already planning to seek out and become active participants in the Jewish community there. Our model matters because it’s inclusive,

innovative, and, yes- replicable. It’s made a difference to Jewish life in the South for 15 years, and it can make a difference in other regions, too.

My hope is that in seeing again how much good the ISJL is doing, that there will be another question on your mind:

How can I help?

There are so many ways to help ensure that the ISJL’s work continues here, and also that this model can be considered in other areas. Legacy gifts and endowments for specific departments at the ISJL will not only support that department, but also allow us to focus fundraising efforts on other departments as well. Families, family foundations, philanthropic individuals and institutions – together, we all make it possible. The grassroots gifts that form our core support are as indispensable now as ever.

Thank you for your support. Keep asking questions, and let’s keep talking.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Macy B. Hart'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large 'M' and 'H'.



ISJL Board Chair
Rachel Reagler
Schulman

The theme of this issue of CIRCA is “Questions & Answers.” Since I live in Highland Park, Illinois—a suburb of Chicago—I’m often asked: “Why do you chair the board of a Southern-Jewish organization?”

The answer is that I am a proud Southern Jew, and my Southern Jewish experience has made me who I am today. But what does that really mean - my “Southern Jewish experience”?

This year I spent Rosh Hashanah with my family at my wonderful “second congregation,” Congregation House of Israel (CHI) in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I did not grow up in Hot Springs, but in the even smaller community of Wynne, Arkansas. My parents and brother’s family moved to Hot Springs nine years ago. Still, I feel at home with this warm and welcoming group of people. Though I’ve lived in Highland Park for twenty-five years and belong to a congregation I love, Congregation Hakafa, there’s something special and uniquely Southern about celebrating Rosh Hashanah in Hot Springs.

CHI feels like home—and all the ISJL connections don’t hurt! ISJL COO Michele Schipper’s daughter, Alana, recently moved to Little Rock, and spent the holiday with us. (If you aren’t able to have your own children with you at the holidays, the next best thing is to have nieces, nephews and good friends’ kids with you.) Rabbi Richard S. Chapin led a lovely service. CHI does not have a cantor but we have a wonderful relationship with our former ISJL Education Fellow, Lex Rofes, now a rabbinical student. He returned to lead high holiday music.

During announcements at the end of services, the Sisterhood president always announces the Sisterhood “Woman of the Year” award. This year, as Sisterhood President Sue Koppel began making her presentation, it became clear to my family and me that she was describing my mother, Joanne Reagler. Unfortunately, my mother left during the service to tend to a family matter; upon realizing she was not there, the Congregation decided to keep the award a secret and re-do the presentation the next day so Mom could have her day in Temple!

Isn’t that special! Isn’t that Southern!

After services, we lingered in the building. Everyone brought home-baked desserts, fresh fruit and goodies for a delicious oneg. After another lovely service on Rosh Hashanah day, we met at Kay and Stuart Fleischner’s home on Lake Hamilton for tashlich. In the 80 degree weather, swimming and paddle-boarding preceded the crumb-tossing. Rabbi Chapin and Lex led a musical service and we symbolically threw our sins away, seeking forgiveness for misdeeds. It was the perfect ending to my holiday in Hot Springs.

My Southern Jewish experience is a mixture of religion, family, friends, tradition, and location. My experiences are evolving and ever-changing – growing up in Wynne, Arkansas; taking my daughter to the University of Alabama this August for her freshman year of college; celebrating Rosh Hashanah in Hot Springs. It is my past, my present and my future. It is who I am today and who I want to be.

So, why am I so involved with the ISJL versus some other Jewish organization? Simple: I care about the future of Judaism in the South. I care about supporting religious schools operating in towns like Hot Springs, Arkansas, and New Orleans, Louisiana; providing rabbinic services in places like Natchez, Mississippi, and Auburn, Alabama; sending authors and artists to towns like Tallahassee, Florida; developing community engagement programs in places like Humble, Texas; and preserving Southern Jewish history, its stories and artifacts, across a thirteen-state region. We can all support this work—from CHI to CHI-cago!

What’s your inspiration to support the ISJL? I hope this CIRCA will provide many answers to that question. Thank you for keeping this work alive, and I hope you will consider the ISJL as you make your year-end contributions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel R. Schulman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

If you had to describe the ISJL in one sentence... what would you say?

“The ISJL tells the stories of Southern Jewish communities and the people who build them, in an effort to preserve and grow Southern Jewish life.”

– Amanda Rainey (Columbia, MO)

“ISJL provides the structure necessary to keep Judaism operational.” – Gail Goldberg, ISJL Board Member (Greenwood, MS)

“Enhancing, expanding, and preserving Jewish presence in the South.” – Joe Herzog, ISJL Board Member (Washington, DC)

“The ISJL is an organization dedicated to keeping Southern Jewish Communities and experiences alive and well.”

– Dave Miller, ISJL Director of Community Engagement

“The ISJL is a non-profit organization which provides the full range of Jewish life including Rabbinic, Education, Social Action, Programming, History and Museum education experiences across the 13 state southern region.”

– Ann Zivitz Kientz, ISJL Director of Programming

“The ISJL takes a holistic view of Jewish life and provides experiences and opportunities to those in our southern region.” – Michele Schipper, ISJL Chief Operating Officer

“Visit the website! Just kidding! The ISJL is a regional organization that partners with communities throughout the South to strengthen and celebrate all aspects of Jewish life, and positively impact a diverse array of people and places.” – Beth Kander-Dauphin, ISJL Development and Communications Coordinator

“We’re a dedicated group of folks who LOVE traveling all over the South to help Jewish communities throughout the region thrive--regardless of size or denomination.”

– Rabbi Matt Dreffin, ISJL Associate Director of Education

“We are a nonprofit organization that works with communities from some of the largest to the very smallest providing any support that these communities need in order to thrive.”

ALACHUA HASKINS
ISJL PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR
AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE





Students participate in mediator training to prepare for the 2015-2016 school year.

What's new in the Community Engagement Department?

What's new in this department? A whole lot! 2015 has been a big year for the Community Engagement Department. We announced in our mailing sent your way over the summer that founding Community Engagement Director Malkie Schwartz was leaving to pursue her legal career, after a tremendous six years with the ISJL. We also welcomed Dave Miller, a former public school vice principal, as our new Director of Community Engagement.

Since joining the team this June, Dave hit the ground running! He's been connecting with community engagement partners, learning the organizational ropes, and working diligently to ensure that our existing community engagement programming is sustained and enhanced.

One of the other biggest 'new' news items in the Community Engagement Department is that this year our T.A.P. program is continuing to grow! Eighty students signed up for our kickoff mediator training this fall for the 2015-2016 school year. Students heard from experienced T.A.P. mediators, met their peers from other schools, and were inspired by the words of Judge Carlton Reeves. Also, an entirely new school, North Panola High School in Sardis, MS, has been added to our roster of partner schools!

Another exciting department development is the growing work of our synagogue partnerships. This year, we proudly welcome Congregation Beth Torah of Richardson, Texas, as our newest community engagement synagogue partner.

To ask 'what's new' in the Community Engagement Department and get answers anytime, email Dave at dmiller@isjl.org.



How did you first hear about the ISJL?

"I first heard about it by listening to rabbis from the ISJL who would come to Beth Shalom and help with holidays."
– Isaac Weiss (Auburn, AL)

"I first heard about the ISJL from my classmate (and former Education Fellow) Andrew Terkel when we were both in rabbinical school." – Rabbi Jeremy Simons, ISJL Director of Rabbinic Services

"I first heard about the ISJL from my parents. When my mom was in college she decided she wanted to become a rabbi and thought the best place to get started would be at a Jewish camp. So she sent out applications to a variety of Jewish camps and Macy hired her to work at Jacobs. While in rabbinical school, she met my father who followed her to Jacobs after they got married. They stayed in touch with Macy and were excited about the work he was doing with the ISJL. During my junior year of college, they mentioned the fellowship to me, and the rest is history."
– Shira Moskowitz, ISJL Education Fellow

"Sophomore year of college, my mom made me promise that I would stay in the United States for a summer internship that year, since she wanted me close to home. Like a good daughter, I found a loophole: I'd stay in the country, but not in the city. When I Googled "Jewish south summer internship," the ISJL was one of the top hits. That summer I interned in the ISJL's history department and then came back two years later as an Education Fellow."
– Abby Klionsky, ISJL Education Fellow



Bethany Berger on spring break with American University Hillel.

"When I was a senior in college at American University, my Hillel ran an alternative spring break trip to the Mississippi Delta. The trip was planned with the help of the ISJL and we got to visit the office that week."
– Bethany Berger, ISJL Education Fellow

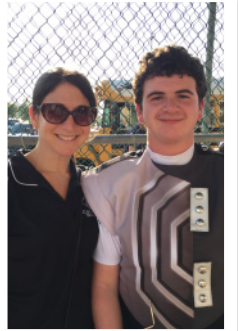
"Having grown up in Jackson, MS and having spent many summers working with Macy Hart, I kept up with the ISJL, a bit. But until I stopped by the ISJL office in 2007, spent some time with Macy and the staff, I had no idea how incredible the vision for this organization was. I was thrilled to join the team later that year!"
– Michele Schipper, ISJL Chief Operating Officer



Rachel Stern at her thirteenth ISJL Education Conference.

"Macy B. Hart showed up in my office and held me hostage until I heard all about the ISJL and promised to teach at the first education conference!"

RACHEL STERN
ISJL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



When you're not at the ISJL you're most likely...

"When I'm not in the office, I can be found at the gym—running or spinning. I also enjoy reading and watching TV; my current show is *Parenthood*."

– *Shira Moskowitz, ISJL Education Fellow*

"I'm most likely watching reality TV on the treadmill at the gym." – *Leah Apothaker, ISJL Education Fellow*

"Writing, most of the time. But sometimes I might be in rehearsal for a play. Or heading downtown to meet my husband to see a play. Or working on a script while waiting for my husband to get home from his rehearsal for a play. It's a very theater-nerd thing we've got going here."

– *Beth Kander-Dauphin, ISJL Development and Communications Coordinator*

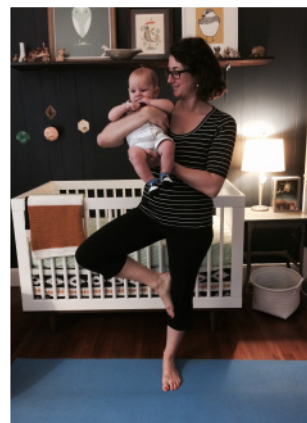
"Spending time with family and friends and running." – *Rachel Stern, ISJL Director of Education*

"Being out on my farm!" – *Joe Herzog, ISJL Board Member*

"Finding an excuse to see our grandchildren!" – *Lynda Yule, ISJL Administrative Assistant*

"On precious days off, I'm likely catching up on grocery shopping, since most of the time I'm taking the day off after having been on a weekend visit and have nothing at home. But when it's a real day off, I'm probably exploring new places in Mississippi, from the hill country, to the Delta, to the military park at Vicksburg." – *Abby Klionsky, ISJL Education Fellow*

"Coaching junior league soccer!" – *Arielle Nissenblatt, ISJL Education Fellow*



"Spending time at home or around town with new Baby Eli! Together we like to dance around and sing lots of songs, go on walks, invite friends over for visits, practice yoga, and binge watch a lot of television shows on Netflix."

– *Rachel Myers, ISJL Museum and Special Projects Coordinator*

"Making a plane connection at ATL..."

– *Rabbi Jeremy Simons, ISJL Director of Rabbinic Services*

"At my local synagogue, Beth Israel Congregation where I'm a board member, enjoying time with my family or reading a good book." – *Michele Schipper, ISJL Chief Operating Officer*

"Houston or New Orleans!"

– *Shirley Eriksen, ISJL Administrative Assistant*

What does a Southern Jewish Experience mean to you?

“It means learning about the Jewish impact on hundreds of small towns over decades, attending intimate services at Temples that have been around for over a century, and listening to how congregations are working extremely hard to keep the Jewish community strong and vibrant.”

– *Dave Miller, ISJL Director of Community Engagement*

“The unique pride of being both Jewish and Southern is an awesome combination that enriches my life everyday. It's a source of both responsibility and privilege - maintaining Jewish community, providing vision in interfaith events, and making this world a better place. I love being a 'Delta' Jew’

– *Gail Goldberg, ISJL Board Member (Greenwood, MS)*

“A Southern Jewish Experience is something uniquely southern that ties all Jews in the region together.”

– *Alachua Haskins, ISJL Programming Coordinator and Development Associate*

“‘Southern Jewish Experience’ makes me think about people (like me 9 years ago) who have never been to the south, and don't think that there are Jews there taking a trip to Mississippi. You will meet people who have deep connections to Judaism and Jewish values, strong ties to their community and culture, are the funniest ever and eat the best food (that may or may not be full of delicious pork products). That experience can be totally life changing.”

– *Amanda Rainey (Columbia, MO)*



Ed Kossman, congregational leader of Adath Israel in Cleveland, Mississippi.

“You mean Southern-and-Jewish is not oxymoronic? [Grin] The SJE defines those of us from the South unlike any other region, perhaps because we look at our Jewish identity differently. We have to work harder for that identity and I believe that makes us appreciate it uniquely.”

**JOE HERZOG
ISJL BOARD MEMBER
WASHINGTON, DC**



From Left: Macy B. Hart, Adam Wassell, Beth Kander-Dauphin and Joe Herzog.

What's new in the Museum Department?

What's new when it comes to the ISJL's preservation initiatives? Right now, we're preparing to roll out not one but THREE new Traveling Trunk Jewish Immigrant Experience programs!

Alabama, Louisiana and Kentucky will each be getting a Traveling Trunk, joining the award-winning Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia Traveling Trunks. These Traveling Trunks offer hands-on educational opportunity containing artifacts, photographs, maps and three lesson plans to teach students of all backgrounds about nineteenth century European immigration to the American South, and how these Jewish immigrants made an impact on their communities.

Exploring Southern Jewish heritage leads students to an important understanding and appreciation for our region's culture and diversity—seen through the lens of American Jewish history, but offering a wide perspective on the history of this entire country. Yes, we're excited to be expanding our state-specific Traveling Trunks – thanks for asking!

With the help of local congregations and community partners, we are also busy preparing for Southern Jewish Heritage Tours this spring. We are excited that Hillel students from American University and University of Maryland are returning to spend a week in Mississippi, and we're looking forward to welcoming groups who will be traveling from Texas, Massachusetts, and Kansas traveling South for the first time!



Save the Date: Natchez Homecoming November 4th-6th, 2016

In partnership with the Southern Jewish Historical Society and Temple B'nai Israel, the ISJL is planning a terrific weekend of programming featuring the legacy of the Natchez Jewish community in honor of the Natchez Tricentennial Celebration.

Contact Rachel Myers for more information on how to be a part of this historic event at rmyers@isjl.org.





What's Your Best Road Trip Advice?

When we asked y'all to share your best road trip advice—we were overwhelmed by the response! Our itinerant Rabbis and Fellows aren't the only ones who know a thing or two about how to traverse these Southern roads (or fly through the sky) with style...

"GPS provides a postage stamp view of your trip. You need to have the big picture."
– Ed Nagler (Panama City, FL)

"Pack light. If you can't carry your luggage and carry-on up two flights of stairs, pack lighter."
– Sivana Sadye Ascencio (Edinburg, TX)

"Pack a box of Mike & Ike. (Actually, 'a box' should be 'many many boxes.')" – Lex Rofes (Philadelphia, PA)

"Serendipity!" – Josef Nix (Canton, MS)

"Take a plane." – Ana Howard (McKinney, TX)

"Buc-ee's!!!!!"
–Michelle Blumenthal (Houston, TX)
–Missy Goldstein (Jerusalem, Israel)

"Expect delays and impossible-to-predict challenges; keep an extra pack of almonds and an empty water bottle on hand." – Joe Herzog (Washington, DC)

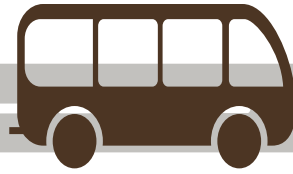
"Plan where you'll stop before you leave so you can see cool things along the route!" – Leah Apothaker (ISJL)

"Make sure the voice on your GPS speaks in a language you understand."
– David M. Zemel (Tulsa, OK)



"Buy a gallon of water. As the other Fellows have learned, I am constantly thirsty... In order to avoid arriving at any of our visits fatigued from dehydration, I purchased a gallon jug of water that I could use to refill my water bottle. Unfortunately, this does not solve the bathroom break issue..."
– Shira Moskowitz (ISJL)

"Have a different snack for each hour of the trip. Helps give you something to look forward to on a long drive when you know you've got a new sweet or salty taste coming up!" – Rachel Myers (ISJL)



"Hotels along the way have the best safe bathroom stops. Bring your own pillow." – **Corinna Dranow (Bentonville, AR)**

"If you suck on M&Ms one a time, they last roughly a mile each!" – **Jessi Malkin (Hampton, VA)**

"Download a bunch of podcasts or books on tape. Listening to a story makes the time fly by!" – **Bethany Berger (ISJL)**

"Just make sure you are traveling to do work you love and you'll be able to handle any travel situation that comes your way." – **Rachel Stern (San Antonio, TX)**

"Make sure you drink enough water so you won't be dehydrated and don't go too fast that you will miss the trip." – **Isaac Weiss (Auburn, AL)**

"Make sure the front and rear license plates match on your rental car before you drive off the lot." – **Rabbi Jeremy Simons (ISJL)**

"Make sure you have a really strong snack game and an effective cooling system so your food does not melt." – **Ali Duhan (ISJL)**

"Make sure you have enough gas to make it across the Causeway into New Orleans. Ari Glogower and I had not filled up the tank when we left Jackson after another staff member had used the vehicle. We had a few "panicky" moments until we were able to make it to a gas station!" – **Michele Schipper (ISJL)**

"When going on a road trip with someone else, know that it's okay for there to be silence. Even with close friends, it's hard to have flowing conversation for so many consecutive hours. If silence makes you nervous, try bringing a prepared list of open-ended questions along that all road trippers can take turn answering." – **Amanda Rainey, (Columbia, MO)**

"Hire a driver." – **Ron Aaron (San Antonio, TX)**



If you could work in any other ISJL department, what would it be?

"The History Department is the only other department I could work in! When I interned with the department in 2012 I loved the research the position entailed, and that's what brought me back."

– Abby Klionsky, *ISJL Education Fellow*

"I would work in the community engagement department because teaching people how to do service in a meaningful way is incredibly important. It's amazing the long term positive impact that the department is having on the Jackson community and other partner communities in the south."

– Bethany Berger, *ISJL Education Fellow*

"Education – connecting with communities, continual learning...!" – Shirley Eriksen, *ISJL Administrative Assistant*

"I would work with the development team!"

– Rachel Stern, *ISJL Director of Education*

"This one's easy...the Education Department! In fact, prior to July, I did work in the Education Department as an Education Fellow, and I still get excited when I hear about the great work they are doing and the exciting programs they are developing." – Alachua Haskins, *ISJL Programming Coordinator and Development Associate*

"I would want to work in the Programming Department. The cultural programs we bring to congregations are such a unique way to help build community and create ties with other local organizations. The work they do is fun and exciting and I bet it is pretty cool to meet so many of the leading talents in the Jewish world." – Shira Moskowitz, *ISJL Education Fellow*

"I would work in the Education Department. I worked as a teacher for many years before rabbinical school and love being in the front of a classroom."

– Rabbi Jeremy Simons, *ISJL Director of Rabbinic Services*

"Museum – the Traveling Trunk seems like a lot of fun!"

– Ali Duhan, *ISJL Education Fellow*

"I always enjoy collaborating with the Community Engagement department, especially when working on a program with a group that has limited experience with Jewish culture. I'd like to work in that department to expand the outcomes service can achieve when people of diverse communities collaborate on a project together and engage in cultural exchange."

– Rachel Myers, *ISJL Museum and Special Projects Coordinator*

"If I could work in another department it would be the Rabbinic Department. I love teaching Judaism and facilitating Jewish experiences for and with adults and children. I enjoy and am good at providing lay leadership for Shabbat & holiday worship as well as adult education and holiday programs. It would be a good fit!"

ANN ZIVITZ KEINTZ
ISJL DIRECTOR OF
PROGRAMMING



Ann Zivitz Keintz on the bimah at Temple Sinai in New Orleans, LA.



Left: Education Fellows Leah Apothaker and Bethany Berger with students at Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, MS.
Right: Staff and Community Partners at the ISJL Education Conference.

What's new in the Education Department?

What's new in this department? After finishing up summer visits, Fellows went immediately into full-on fall visit mode. Every community in our 2015-2016 school year partnership has already had a lot of contact with their Fellows and great engagement with the curriculum.

Speaking of the curriculum! That living, breathing document is always being updated, altered and strengthened. This year, edits to the 4th and 5th grade components are underway, with additional supplements being explored by the intrepid education team.

In another exciting new update, this year the ISJL Education Fellows are working on special "lifelong learning" projects. For this endeavor, each Fellow chose any topic they wanted and are developing a program centered on this topic. These experiential learning modules will cover topics from meditative nature walks to mental health awareness, and are aimed at learners of all ages. When completed, all of these programs will be available on our online program bank, which is accessible and always available to all of our education partner congregations.

Also, in November, Rabbi Matt Dreffin is representing the ISJL Education Department's dynamic regional approach as a presenter at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's convention in Chicago. Spreading the idea of collaborative, trans-denominational Jewish learning is something this team is always excited to share.

For more information about the ISJL Education Department, email Rachel Stern (rstern@isjl.org) or Rabbi Matt Dreffin (mdreffin@isjl.org).



What's new in the Programming Department?

What's new in this department? The biggest news is that after five awesome years as our Director of Programming, Ann Zivitz Kientz is handing the reigns over to Alachua Haskins. Alachua, a 2013-2015 Education Fellow, is excited to step into her new role as Director of Programming/Development Associate for the ISJL. Through the end of 2015, Ann and Alachua are working together to ensure a smooth transition.

And don't worry – as Director of Education at Temple Sinai in New Orleans, which is one of our Education Department partner congregations, Ann will still be connected to the ISJL! (Plus, of course, she's a huge fan of all of the performers on our artist roster, so will undoubtedly hit up their events when they're near her neck of the woods.)

With no loss of momentum, there's a tremendously packed calendar of ISJL cultural programs visiting southern communities in the final months of 2015.



Upcoming Programs

10/3/2015

Blues musician Saul Kaye in Fairfax, VA

10/14-15/2015

Scholar Joel Hoffman in Tallahassee, FL

10/24 and 12/7/2015

Comedian Dave Goldstein in Houston, TX, and Tallahassee, FL

10/31/2015

Comedian Benji Lovitt in Fayetteville, NC

12/6/2015

Spoken Word Artist Andrew Lustig in Lynchburg, VA

12/9/2015

Musician Joe Buchanan in San Antonio, TX

12/9/2015

Author Mary Glickman in Tallahassee, FL

12/13/2015

Musician Batsheva in Tallahassee, FL

12/6-7, 13/2015

Musician Billy Jonas in Little Rock, AR, Shreveport, LA, and Tulsa, OK

AND in January 2016, our newest presenter, Rabbi Richard Address, starts traveling for the ISJL!

Where can you learn more about Rabbi Address and all of our other amazing partner performers? Why, on our website, of course!

Go to www.isjl.org and look under the Programming tab.

What's Your All-Time Favorite ISJL Memory or #MyISJL Moment?

"In 2003 when we secured our first Rabbi, Debra (Kassoff) & our first two Education Fellows, Beth and Amanda, and Macy saw his dream starting to materialize!" – *Lynda Yule, ISJL Administrative Assistant*

"I work at Mizzou Hillel currently, and last month I went to Hillel Institute, a yearly conference that I attend with my new interns. We went through engagement training with Texas A&M and the first day one of their interns talked about growing up in a congregation that used ISJL curriculum in our session and we got to talk about how great it is. The second day we met A&M Hillel's two new staff members, Lena Lieb, ISJL Fellow '08-'10 and Danielle Freedman who was one of three students in the confirmation class in Auburn when I was a Fellow!"
–*Amanda Rainey (Columbia, MO)*

"I was up for an education award and had the chance to hear from my co-workers, the communities we serve and from our board what my work has meant to them."
– *Rachel Stern, ISJL Director of Education*

"Last summer we spent a lot of time and effort putting together programming for Freedom Summer 50th. On the first morning, when they were calling out all the names of the Civil Rights veterans who came for the celebration and we realized that the majority of those who had returned for the event were Jewish, I knew that we were doing important work to honor their legacy. I learned so much from them that weekend, but hearing from the veterans later in the weekend about how much they appreciated our work was one of my favorite ISJL moments."

RACHEL MYERS
ISJL MUSEUM AND SPECIAL PROJECTS
COORDINATOR



"My favorite #MyISJL moment happened at this year's Education Conference. On the final morning we led experiential prayer services. Bethany and I led a service we had written called the Minion Minyan based on the *Despicable Me* movie. We even dressed up as minions, in overalls and bright yellow shirts."
– *Shira Moskowitz, ISJL Education Fellow*

"My favorite #MyISJL moment was when the newly printed 7th grade curriculum arrived in the office. It was amazing to see the end result of months of hard work."
– *Amy Goldberg (Baltimore, MD)*

"The most exciting time for me was in 2003, when we stopped saying 'we are going to' and started instead saying 'we are...' when we talked about our vision!"
– *Nonnie Campbell, ISJL Administrator*

"A few years ago, the history department staff told me that my mother had recorded an oral history, which was included in the ISJL's collection. I was able to listen to the tape and hear my mother's voice again (she had passed away a number of years ago). It was a very special moment." –*Michele Schipper, ISJL Chief Operating Officer*



Rabbi Jeremy Simons in Vicksburg, MS; Rabbi Matt Dreffin in Auburn, AL, and Allison Poirier in Longview, TX for the High Holidays.

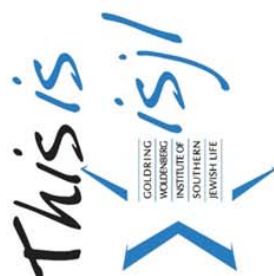
What's new in the Rabbinic Department?

What's new in this department? Fall is always a season that keeps rabbis on their toes. This year, Rabbi Jeremy Simons, ISJL Director of Rabbinic Services, officiated high holiday services in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Rabbi Matt Dreffin, our Associate Director of Education, was on the bima for the high holidays in Auburn, Alabama.

But that's not all!

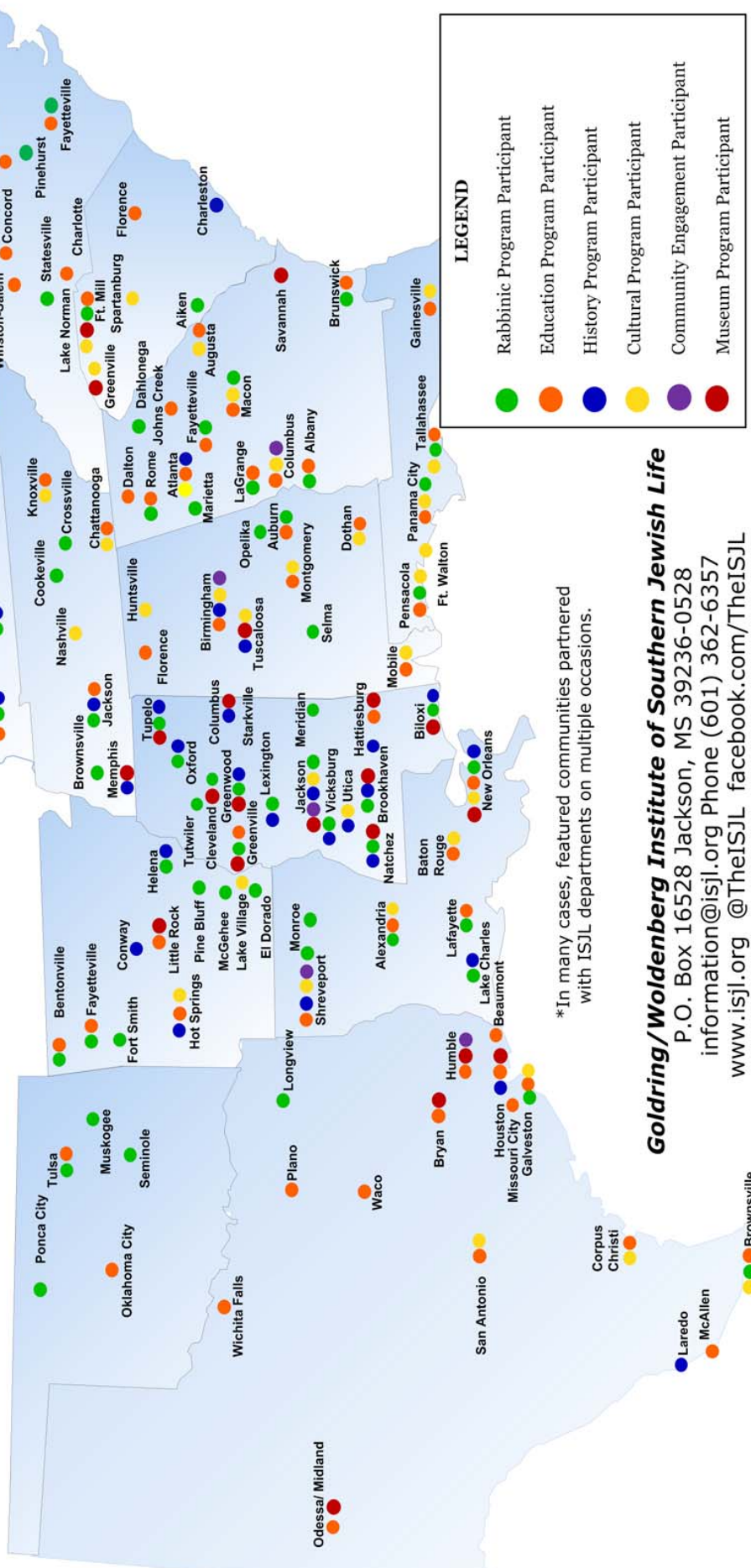
Two of our former ISJL Education Fellows, both of whom are now rabbinical students, were invited to lead high holiday services at our partner congregations. Lex Rofes served as cantorial soloist in Hot Springs, AR, and Allison Poirier led worship in Longview, TX. The meaningful connections our staff forms with the communities we serve is inspiring and keeps us motivated to do what we do, each and every day.

As Chanukah approaches, the ISJL Rabbinic Department is prepared to field the annual press inquiries associated with the holiday season—and, of course, to show up at a few latke-filled parties!



COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING IN RABBINIC, EDUCATION, CULTURAL, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MUSEUM AND HISTORY PROGRAMS

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*In many cases, featured communities partnered with ISJL departments on multiple occasions.

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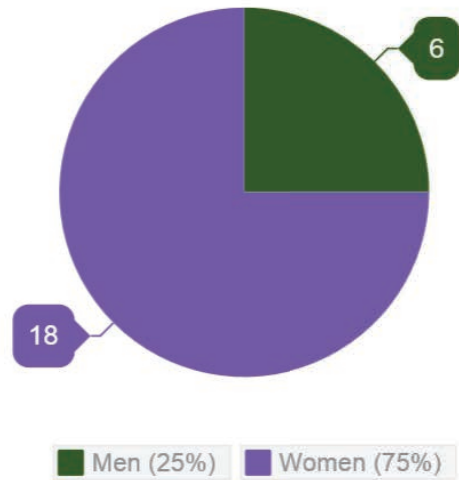
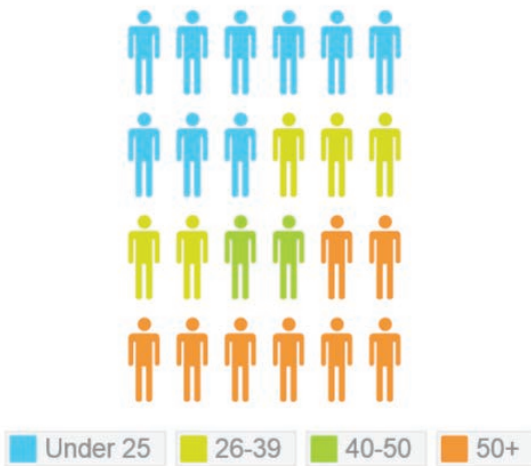
Updated August 12, 2015

The ISJL

Fast facts about our stellar staff in 2015-2016

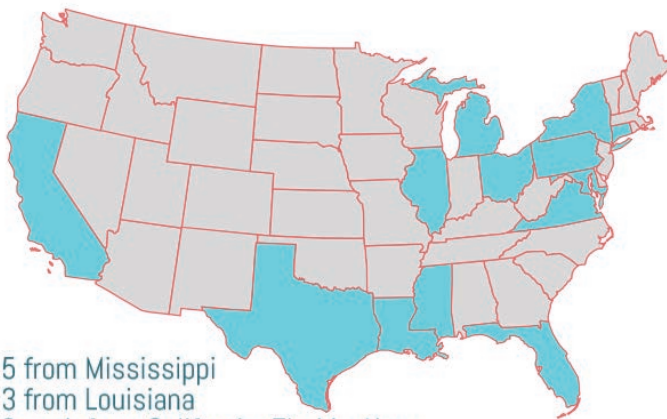


How old is our staff?

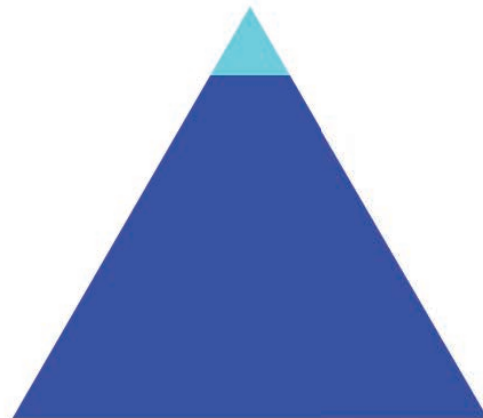


All strong leaders...

Where did they grow up?



5 from Mississippi
3 from Louisiana
2 each from California, Florida, New York, and Ohio
1 representative each hailing from the states of Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia!



Jackson Home Office (83%) Remote Offices (17%)

Where are they based?

Why Give to the ISJL?



Because you believe no matter where they live, every Jewish person matters.

Because you believe making the world a better place, for everyone, is something we are all obligated to do.

Because you believe in preserving Jewish history while building the Jewish future, every day.

There are so many answers to the question "Why give to the ISJL?" Whatever your reason for giving might be, we hope you will remember the ISJL in your year-end giving.

After all, your contribution to the ISJL enables excellent Jewish education, puts rabbis on the road, brings programs to communities of all sizes, and supports the preservation and celebration of fascinating Southern Jewish stories.

An envelope is included in this issue of CIRCA for convenient giving- or give online anytime at www.isjl.org/donate

Thank you!



Thank You to Our Supporters!

In these CIRCA pages, you can see the impact our education, history, museum, cultural, community engagement and rabbinic programs have on thousands of people just like you. With deep appreciation, the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life extends thanks to everyone who made a contribution or pledge from January 1st- September 30th, 2015 to enable our important work.

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Lehmann

Arlene & Jim Berg's anniversary
Ronnie Pesserilo

Janet Brueck and Jerome Lang
Ann Rubin

June & Seymour Cohn
Reva & Ellis Hart

Cantor Joel Coleman
Temple Shalom-Lafayette, LA
Temple B'nai Israel-Galveston, TX

*Megan Cubell becoming a Bat
Mitzvah*
Darren Cubell

*Rabbi Harry & Jeanne Danziger's
anniversary*
Susan & Macy B. Hart
Reva & Ellis Hart
Barbara & Jeffrey Levingston

Jeanne Danziger's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Alan W. Dreeben
Brian Feld
Alan & Laura Ehrenberg-Chesler

*Rabbi Matt Dreffin-Associate
Director of Education*
T. Suzanne Robinson
Congregation B'nai Israel-
Fayetteville, GA
Anshe Chesed Congregation-
Vicksburg, MS
Gordon Sacks
Congregation Shalom b'Harim-
Gainesville, GA
Rodeph Sholom Congregation-
Rome, GA
Congregation Beth Shalom-
Auburn, AL
Marty Buchman

Lila Claire Dubin's birth
Celia & Charles Dubin

Bill Emmich's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Shirley Eriksen
Temple Emanu-El-Longview, TX

Pepe Finn
Mary Ann 'Skipper' & Ezra Singer

Myra & Bert Fischel's anniversary
Minette & Charles Cooper

Butch Frumin
Charlett & Marshall Frumin

Charlett Frumin
Janet & Mickey Frost

Charlett & Marshall Frumin
Mark Gottesman

Leah Gersh's birthday
Children & Grandchildren

Lou Ginsberg's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Annie B. Goldberg
Ilsa M. Goldberg

Gail M. Goldberg
Elliot Eisenberg
Ilse M. Goldberg

Gail & Mike Goldberg's sweet 5776
Marilyn White

Pierce Goldberg's birth
Rachel Schulman

Rachel H. Goldberg
Ilse M. Goldberg

Bill Goldring
Ann & Jay Davis

*Rabbi & Mrs. Bret Goldstein's
anniversary*
Phyllis F. Insler

Missy Goldstein-Education Fellow
T. Suzanne Robinson

*Sylvia & Carl Goodman's
anniversary*
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Morton Gorden
Robert Benham

Bea Gotthelf's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart
Dianne O. Footlick

Ed Grauman
Laurie & Maury Harris
Ann & Harvey Tettlebaum

Roz Greenstein's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Kelly Haber's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Dr. Lawrence Haber's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Roz Haffner's birthday
Arati Moses

Ellis Hart's birthday
Nonnie & Butch Wright
Betsy & Joey Samuels
Amy & Arty Finkelberg
Lou Ginsberg

Gail & Julian Hart's new Grandchild
Rabbi Amy R. Perlin

Macy B. Hart
Marilyn & Lance Valt
Bar-Yadin Family Foundation
Jean B. Gershner
Cyrille S. Kane
Henry Paris
Rabbi Denise L. Eger

Reva Hart's birthday
Cheryl & Van Hart
Lou Ginsberg

Reva & Ellis Hart's anniversary
Susan & Bill Martin
Julian Hart

Susan Hart's birthday
Susan & Bill Martin

Susan & Macy B. Hart
Dr. Richard Levine

Van Hart, Jr's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Joe Herzog
Alice M. Gordon

Ellen Z. Hirsch
Ilsa M. Goldberg

*Indiana University Jewish Studies ISIL
Employees*
Carolyn Lipson-Walker & George
Walker

Mike Karchman's birthday
Evelyn & Dan Leightman

Betty Sue Kline
Lillian Opatowsky

Phyllis & Maury Kohn
Leah K. Gersh

Lindsay & Ben Kubaryk's marriage
Rachel & John Kubaryk

David Kweller's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Ben Lamensdorf
Martha, Tully, Parker & Linda Hall

Ethel Levine
Harry Gertz

Dr. Richard Levine's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Perry Lewis
Brenda & Alan Lewis

Bill Martin's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Adam Mayer's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer
Julie Grant Meyer

Dave Miller
United Way of the Capital Area
-Jackson, MS

Martha Miller
Elliott Roberts & Josie Friedman

Rachel Jarman Myers
Miriam & John Engel

Amy Dover Neistein's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Steve Orlansky's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Elaine Radetsky's birthday
Janet Brueck

Jenny & Gary Rich's anniversary
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Sarah Beth Rose & Zachary Schwartz' engagement
Rabbi Stanley & Ivy Relkin

Jay Silberberg's birthday
Del & Harold Silberberg

Carolyn & Scott Silver's anniversary
Cheryl & Van Hart

Rabbi Jeremy Simons
Temple B'nai Israel-Tupelo, MS
Sylvia & Howard Lenhoff
Ahavath Rayim Congregation-
Greenwood, MS
Temple Sinai-Lake Charles, LA
Temple Shalom-Lafayette, LA
Temple Emanu-El-Longview, TX
Congregation B'nai Israel-
Fayetteville, GA
George Copen
Congregation B'nai Israel-Tupelo,
MS
Congregation Beth Shalom-
Auburn, AL
Temple B'nai Israel-Panama City,
FL
Upper Cumberland Jewish
Community-Fairfield Glade, TN
Temple Solel-Fort Mill, SC
Congregation B'nai Israel-Natchez,
MS
Congregation Ner Tamid-Marietta,
GA
Aliyah & Paul Markowitz
Temple Shalom of NWA-
Fayetteville, AR
The Emmich Family
Congregation B'nai Israel-Natchez,
MS
Temple Shalom-Lafayette, LA
Congregation Shomrei Torah-
Tallahassee, FL
Am Shalom-Bowling Green, KY
Congregation B'nai Israel-Monroe,
LA
Temple Emanu-El-Longview, TX
St. James Episcopal Church-
Jackson, MS
Mountain Synagogue-Franklin, NC
Karen & Leo Katz
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Strasser
Beth Shalom-Auburn, AL

Michele Schipper's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Dr. Barry Schneider's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

Dr. Norman Schneider's birthday
Michael Schneider

Rachel Schulman
Carol & David Schulman

Julian Slater's birth
Susan & Paul Hart Miller

Dr. Rick Snyder's birthday
Susan & Macy B. Hart

David Solomon
Doug Friedlander

Hannah Solomon & Rick Slater wedding
Dorothy W. Umfress

Joseph Stein, Jr.
The Adler Foundation

Rachel Stern-ISJL Education Director
Temple Beth Shalom-Austin, TX
Amy & Daniel Weingart
Dana & Bruce Hendin
Amy K. Wulfe
Braverman Family
Temple Beth-El-San Antonio, TX

Jerry Tanenbaum's retirement as Chair of the Yad B'Yad Task Force
Rachel Schulman

Jerry Tanenbaum's WUJ honor & birthday
Reva & Ellis Hart

Kathryn Wiener
Linda S. & Edward S. Kaplan

Frances & Donald Zadeck
Maureen & Seth Berney

Barbara Zitron
Harriett & Donald Schaffer



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