

Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina

A Suggested Reading List

Emily Bingham, *Mordecai: An Early American Family* (Hill and Wang, 2003), engaging and popular multigenerational history of prominent early NC Jewish family.

Susan Cernyak-Spatz, *Protective Custody: Prisoner 34042*, Holocaust memoir by UNC-Charlotte professor who lectures for NC Holocaust Council.

Eli Evans, *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South* (UNC Press, 2005) growing up in Durham, profiles of NC Jews, most popular book every published on Jewish southerners.

_____. *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Recollections of a Jewish Southerner* (University Press of Mississippi, 1993), miscellaneous essays, including some NC subjects.

_____. *Judah Benjamin: Jewish Confederate* (UNC Press is reissuing), nothing on NC, although Benjamin was raised in Fayetteville.

Desider Furst and Lilian Furst, *Home Is Somewhere Else: Autobiography in Two Voices* (State University of New York Press, 1994) memoir by Holocaust émigré who became distinguished UNC-Chapel Hill professor.

L. Leon, *Diary of a Tar Heel Confederate Soldier*, originally published in Charlotte by a Jewish veteran in 1913, the text is available online on Documenting American South or in a modern reprint.

Leonard Rogoff, *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina*, UNC Press.

_____. *Homelands: Southern Jewish Identity in Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina* (University of Alabama Press, 2001)

_____. *A History of Temple Emanu-El, Weldon, North Carolina: An Extended Family* (JHFNC)

Louis Rubin, *My Father's People: A Family of Southern Jews* (LSU Press, 2002), about Charleston and Richmond, but has taught at UNC since 1966.

Jan Schochet and Sharon Fahrer, *The Family Store: A History of Jewish Businesses in Downtown Asheville, 1880-1990* (History@Hand, 2006), spiral bound but nicely illustrated and formatted, may be out of print.

_____. *The Man Who Lived on Main Street: Stories By and About Sol Schulman* (History@Hand, 2005), a folkloric collection of stories about a prominent Sylva merchant from customers and employees upon the closing of his store after more than a half century.

Maurice Weinstein, editor, *Zebulon B. Vance and "The Scattered Nation,"* (Wildacres Press, 1995) reprint of Governor Vance's celebrated philo-Semitic speech.

Judith Goldman, *The Slow Way Back* (Harper's, 2000), a Jewish novel set in Charlotte, the author's hometown.

Amanda Davis, *Wonder When You'll Miss Me* (Harper, 2004), *Circling the Drain* (Harper, 2000), Davis was a very talented young writer who was killed in a plane crash in 2003 while on book tour. Raised in Durham, she was working on a southern Jewish gothic novel about a peddler when she died. None of her writing, as far as I know, deals with Jewish subjects.

David Schulman, *The Past Is Never Dead* (Blair, 2004), murder mystery by native NC Jewish writer features Asheville detective Gritz Goldberg.

Laurence Naumoff, *Night of Weeping Women* (Random House, 1990), *Rootie Kazootie* [FSG, 1990] and *Silk Home, N. C.* [novels] and non-fiction *A Southern Tragedy and Crimson and Yellow*. UNC-Chapel Hill instructor, native of Charlotte, prolific author of southern fiction, but not Jewish subjects.

Richard Chess, *Tekiah, Third Temple, Chairs in the Desert* (Tampa, 2000), Asheville poet, head of UNC-A Jewish studies, writes on Jewish themes, including being a Jew in the South.

Maureen Sherbondy, *After the Fairy Tale* (2007) and *The Slow Vanishing* (2009), Raleigh poet's subjects include being a transplanted Jew in North Carolina

Alan Shapiro, *Covenant Tantalus in Love*, [poetry], *The Last Happy Occasion*, distinguished poet and essayist at UNC-Chapel Hill, much of his writing has Jewish content and idioms but not a NC focus.

Harry Golden, *Only in America, For 2 Cents Plain* were best sellers, likely out of print; *Our Southern Landsmen*, also likely out of print, had profiles of southern Jews, including NCinian; publisher of the *Carolina Israelite* newspaper, Golden was a national celebrity, especially during civil-rights era, but his fame has faded.

Larry Rudner, *The Magic We Do Here* and *Memory's Tailor* late NC State professor who wrote on Russian-Jewish themes, all set in Eastern Europe.