

# DISCOVERY

The Magazine of the College of Charleston Friends of the Library

*Spring/Summer 2023*



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## Spring & Summer 2023

*Discovery* is published by the  
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Victoria "Tori" Hyder '22  
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# Dear Friends,

With the flowers of Rivers Green in full bloom, I am pleased to share with you the spring issue of *Discovery*. From digital history projects and faculty scholarship to the work of student employees and grant initiatives, *Discovery* spotlights the latest from our beloved College Libraries.

Several milestones marked this semester. The Avery Research Center's receipt of a \$2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation—one of the largest in the College's history—begins a new chapter in its storied legacy. With the support of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, we've launched the Lowcountry Oral History Initiative, a platform for collecting and sharing these impactful primary sources. And during your next visit to Addlestone Library, you'll notice the first floor's newest addition: two soundproof podcast and video studios.

It was a true pleasure seeing many of you at this year's Winthrop Roundtable featuring Ambassador Barbara Barrett. The Friends' signature annual gala, the Roundtable honors our most generous donors with an evening of cocktails, music, dinner and a keynote address. All donors at the \$500 level or above to the College Libraries are invited to join us at the Roundtable.

Libraries are more than mere repositories of books; they are dynamic community spaces where patrons come together to learn and collaborate. Your support of the Friends allows us to provide innovative resources and facilities, ensuring the College Libraries remain the intellectual hub of our campus. On behalf of our faculty and staff, please accept my sincere gratitude for your generosity.

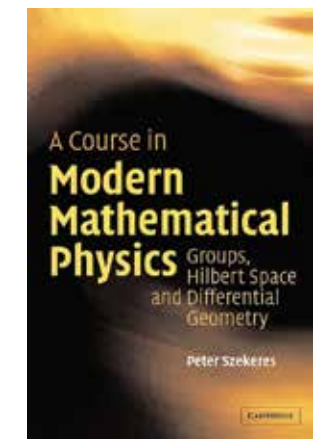
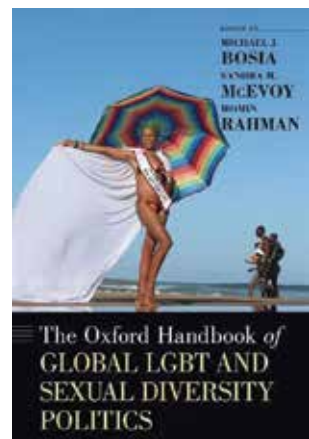
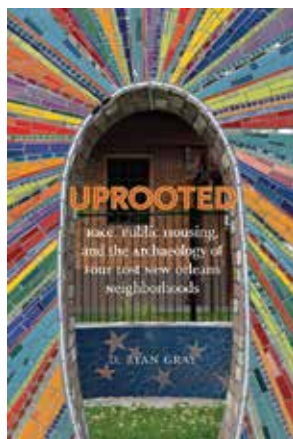
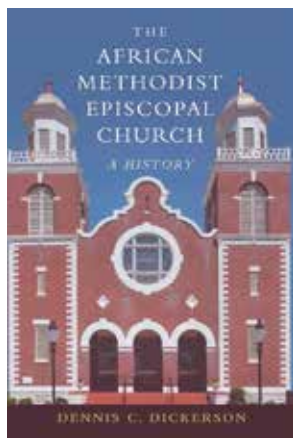
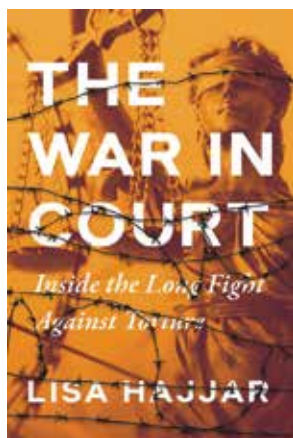
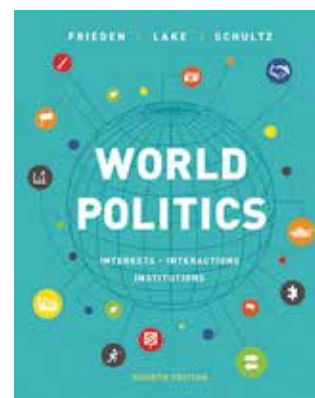
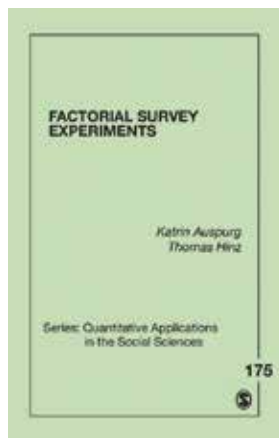
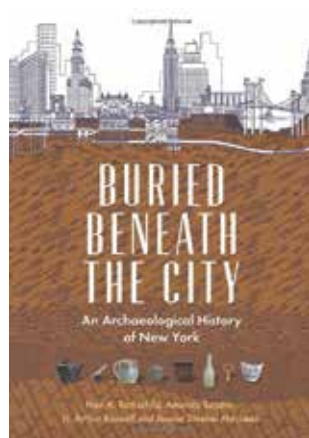
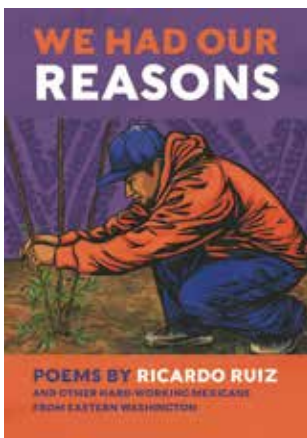
Wishing everyone a healthy and happy spring,

John W. White '99, Ph.D.  
Dean of Libraries

## Join the Friends

At once a keeper of history and advocate of new technology, the College Libraries are the region's premier research institution. Your support of the Friends of the Library impacts every student and faculty member, providing access to resources and services across campus and our community.

Renew your Friends membership, secure your VIP tickets to next year's Winthrop Roundtable and learn more about the Libraries' multi-disciplinary initiatives—including the SC LGBTQ Archives, the Avery Research Center's Director's Excellence Fund and the Jewish Heritage Collection—at [give.cofc.edu/library](http://give.cofc.edu/library).



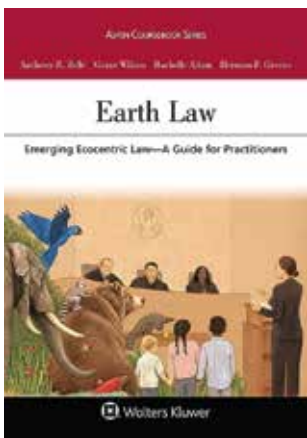
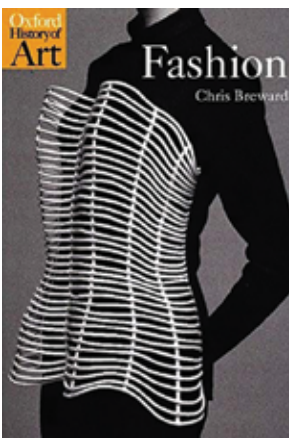
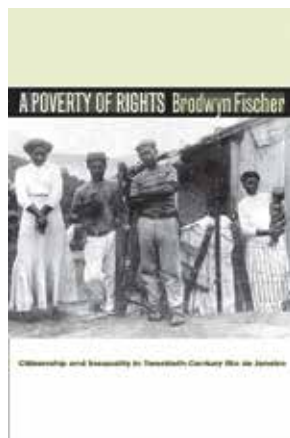
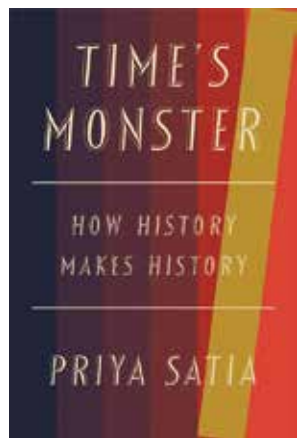
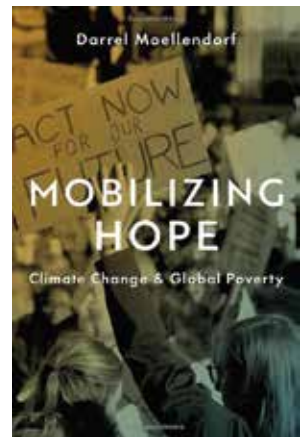
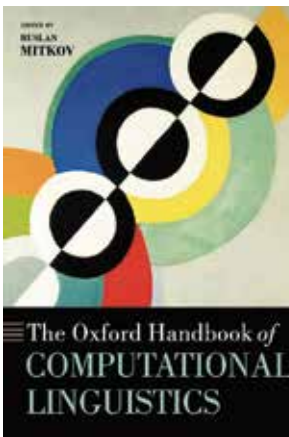
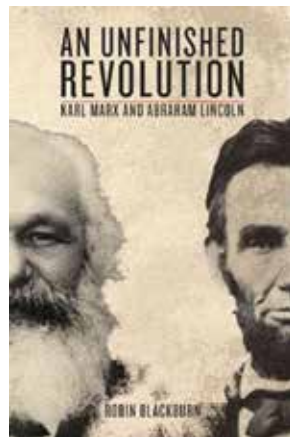
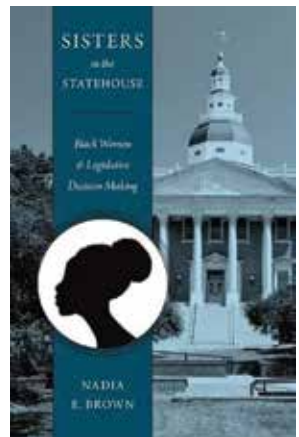
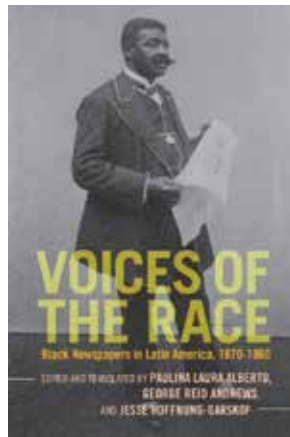
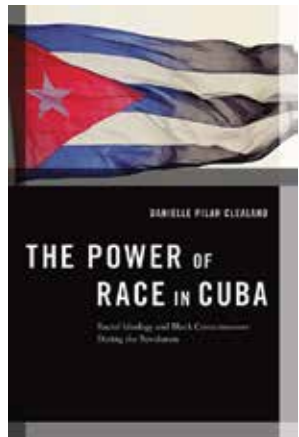
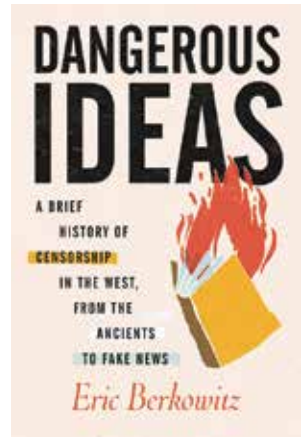
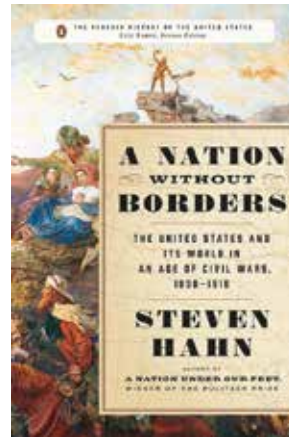
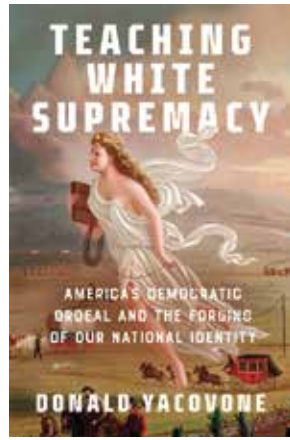
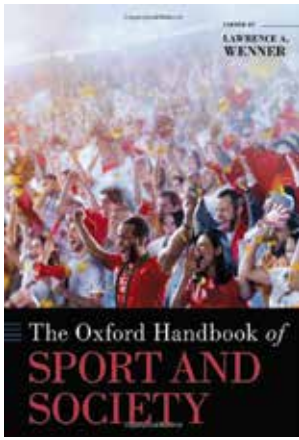
# Welcoming New Faculty

The College Libraries' faculty and staff are committed to expanding the resources available to our community and ensuring our collections reflect all those we serve.

Thanks to the generosity of Librarian Emerita Katina Strauch and former Friends of the Library Board member James Breedon, a \$4,000 fund is reserved exclusively for new faculty to select books and DVDs.

We want new professors to feel right at home in the Libraries. With the New Faculty Fund, we invite professors within their first three years of service at the College to identify new titles to be added to our permanent circulating collection.

Highlighted here is a sample of new books accessioned recently, demonstrating the breadth and depth of scholarship and curiosity our new faculty bring to campus.





*Leah Worthington, Kayla Kipps and Allison Kaiser Jones celebrate their latest publications with President Hsu on Rivers Green.*

## Scholars Rising

This past semester, our librarians joined faculty from across campus on Rivers Green to celebrate their recent publications with President Hsu and the College's Board of Trustees.

Congratulations to our very own Leah Worthington, Kayla Kipps and Allison Kaiser Jones.

Worthington, digital projects librarian, edited *Challenging History: Race, Equity, and the Practice of Public History*, published by University of South Carolina Press as part of the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World (CLAW) series.

Kipps, collection development librarian, and Kaiser Jones, electronic resources and serials librarian, authored *Collection Management in the Cloud: A Guide for Using Cloud Computing Technologies in Libraries*, published by Rowman & Littlefield.

# Learning the Language of the Library

BY CARSON SLAWTER '24



*MBA graduate student Madelyn Bissell served as a marketing and communications assistant at Addlestone Library.*

**A**ddlestone Library is a favorite location for studying and learning, with private rooms for students to prepare for their exams, tutoring services and access to hundreds of thousands of volumes for research. Another valuable resource Addlestone provides is the opportunity for student employment.

Madelyn Bissell, a graduate student, worked as a marketing and communications assistant at Addlestone from August to December 2022, an experience she described as very “eye-opening.” Working primarily under librarian Amanda Kraft, Bissell managed Addlestone’s social media and assisted with digital marketing.

“Madelyn focused on undergraduate student engagement, which is key to my role of teaching library information literacy,” says Kraft. “She provided unique perspectives on how students consume information and offered innovative ways to communicate with them.”

Bissell appreciated Kraft’s guidance and encouragement while at Addlestone.

“The library gave me a strong foundation, which will help me achieve my career goal of working in brand management for women-owned small businesses,” says the MBA student with a focus on marketing. “I recommend graduate and undergraduate students join Addlestone’s work-study program. Getting involved in any way gives students many opportunities to gain experience and to grow in their areas of interest.”

Bissell found her time in Addlestone beneficial not only for her career, but also enjoyable thanks to the faculty and staff she worked with. One of the most rewarding parts of her job was creating content based on feedback she received from the Library Student Ambassadors, the student advisory board that helps shape student library experiences.

“Library Student Ambassadors would share where students were struggling in

the library, and I would create informative materials to address those challenges,” explains Bissell. “Some examples of what I have worked on include information on hours and location, printing and Wi-Fi, and how to reserve study spaces.”

“I think the most challenging part of this job was wrapping my head around all the new terminology; it’s almost like learning a new language,” she adds. “This is something that you have to be aware of when you are working in a position similar to mine, where you have to take extra care to avoid misleading paraphrases and anything that could lead our students in the wrong direction.”

Bissell has found her work in Addlestone to be a huge leap forward for her time at CofC. She would love it if more students chased the same opportunity.



# From Stacks to Success

BY KATHERINE JORDAN '23



## Along the way, she has made valuable connections with faculty and staff at Addlestone and has been supported beyond her student employment.

The College of Charleston's Addlestone Library offers many services to students, including study spaces, tutors at the Center for Student Learning and the archives in Special Collections. It also provides students with valuable experience through part-time employment. You may not see them all, but more than 20 student workers assist in library operations each semester. Student employees work anywhere from 5 to 15 hours a week with schedules organized around their classes and come from a variety of majors.

Consider Victoria "Tori" Hyder, an urban studies major with a concentration in sustainable urbanism. Hyder began working as a Federal Work Study student her freshman year with a stint on Addlestone's circulation team.

"It was my first job ever," says Hyder. "Being in circulation involves shelving books, checking materials in and out, and providing general IT support. It was a great experience because the job was both public-facing and behind-the-scenes. Learning how to navigate the stacks, search engine and databases played an integral role in my work at Addlestone. Becoming more capable with the resources available in Addlestone also supported my artistic interests."

Hyder moved to the College Libraries' administration office in 2020. Working with the director of administration and office manager, she gained experience in different areas, broadening her skillset.

"For the admin office, my first task involved making posters in Canva for Cougar Countdown," explains Hyder. "Now I am proficient at it and, with the other skills I learned in the library, I have a dynamic resume."

It's not just the work experience that has been valuable to Hyder. Along the way, she has made valuable connections with faculty and staff at Addlestone and has been supported beyond her student employment.

"Vincent Fraley and Darcie Goodwin came to the premiere of my short at the student-led film festival, and it meant the world to me to feel that support as I put my work out there."

She witnessed firsthand the value of networking with Addlestone's faculty and staff as she began her job search.

"The people I worked with were great resources for help, references and career guidance," says Hyder. "Talk to the people you work with because they're willing to help and share their knowledge and experience."

Her advice for others considering student employment at the College Libraries: "Be open to learning new things and take the opportunity to branch out. Working at Addlestone is a job for gaining experience and trying new things. Talking to adults as students transition into an adult space helps start that shift into the workforce with a variety of skills."

Since graduating in December 2022, Hyder accepted a position at the Coastal Community Foundation as executive assistant for grantmaking and community outreach. She is using the experience she gained during her student employment at Addlestone to make a positive difference at the foundation. Based on the impact Hyder made at Addlestone, she is sure to find success.

"The faculty and staff at the library want students to succeed," adds Hyder. "I felt very privileged to know and learn from them. Leaving a workplace where I felt supported and loved by my colleagues has set the standard I will expect and strive for wherever I work in the future."

Though she is now an alum, Hyder won't be far from Addlestone—this spring, she was elected to the Friends of the Library Board.

*Urban Studies major Victoria "Tori" Hyder '22 spent four years as a Federal Work Study student employee at Addlestone Library.*



# A New Chapter

BY VINCENT FRALEY

The College of Charleston men's basketball team isn't the only group on campus making history this year.

The Mellon Foundation awarded the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture a \$2 million grant to support the collection and preservation of the South Carolina Lowcountry's social and cultural history.

"This grant is a true difference maker for the College's Avery Research Center and our entire campus," says Andrew T. Hsu, president of the College of Charleston. "The Mellon Foundation has an incredibly strong legacy of helping to build just communities, with their significant investments to enhance a dialogue of ideas and bolster imaginations. I am excited to see how this grant will accelerate and expand the important work of the Avery Research Center's staff as well as its immediate impact on our greater community in Charleston."

The funding, says Tamara T. Butler, executive director of the Avery Research

Center, will allow the Avery Research Center to explore and share new and rich cultural histories.

"This grant emphasizes our commitment to preserving and promoting the Avery Research Center's histories. We are overjoyed about the opportunity to tell stories about our 160-year-old evolution," says Butler. "I am grateful for this team of phenomenal scholars. This grant is only possible because of dynamic faculty, supportive leadership and committed staff."

Funding will enable the Avery Research Center to broaden the reach of their archival collections through training/professional development and community outreach.

Outcomes of the four-year project will include, but are not limited to:

- Processing, describing and digitizing of selected historic manuscript and audiovisual collections from the Avery Research Center for public use

- Increased community engagement in the Avery Research Center's archives and programming

- Creating accessible and creative interpretations of the Avery Research Center's histories at the intersections of art, public history and archives/museum studies

"Receiving this grant is significant as it denotes that the Mellon Foundation sees the value in preserving and promoting the histories of African American education in the Lowcountry," says Aaisha Haykal, Avery Research Center's manager of archival services. "Providing access to currently unprocessed collections will help scholars, artists and educators explore the histories of spaces and places Black communities have used for a liberatory education. This grant will provide training opportunities for new professionals to gain experience in the cultural heritage profession."

"I am enthusiastic about increasing our staff and the caliber of our work at the

*Opposite: The Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture team: [back row] Aaisha Haykal, Savannah Frierson and Georgette Mayo [front row] Erica Veal, Daron Lee Calhoun II, Courtney Hicks and Dr. Tamara Butler.*

“Providing access to currently unprocessed collections will help scholars, artists and educators explore the histories of spaces and places Black communities have used for a liberatory education.”



*The Avery Research Center at 125 Bull Street in downtown Charleston.*

Avery Research Center,” adds Erica Veal, Avery Research Center’s research archivist and interpretation coordinator. “The Mellon Foundation grant will allow us to hire several full-time archivists, a public historian/curator, an education coordinator and multiple artists. With the Mellon Foundation’s support, we will not only process a backlog of collections to make them accessible to researchers, but also create innovative educational tools centered on the newly available collections, publish new editions of

the South Carolina Black History Bugle, curate exhibitions and offer new community programming.”

And elevating and expanding this history will have far reaching impacts well past the Avery Research Center’s grounds.

“The Avery Research Center is an integral institution for the College and for Charleston, with the impact of their faculty and staff’s work extending far beyond the historic building at 125 Bull Street,” says Suzanne Austin, executive

vice president and provost of the College of Charleston. “We are grateful for the Mellon Foundation’s generous support and to have them as partners as the Avery Research Center continues to enhance our community of learners and the public.”

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**To follow the project and learn more about the Avery Research Center’s collections and programming, visit [avery.cofc.edu](http://avery.cofc.edu)**

# Living Chronicles

BY VINCENT FRALEY

*The College Libraries are pleased to announce receipt of a \$150,000 grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation's Broadening Narratives initiative in support of the new Lowcountry Oral History Initiative.*



BROADENING NARRATIVES

2022 GRANT  
RECIPIENT

To deepen understanding of the Lowcountry’s rich history and culture, the Lowcountry Oral History Initiative gathers and makes available recorded memories from the region’s residents. By capturing these stories, LOHI seeks to collectively illustrate communities of color, LGBTQ perspectives, working-class narratives, small community experiences as well as other underrepresented groups and viewpoints.

LOHI is organized around three main objectives:

- Program staff and their associates conduct interviews to promote the study of the region. The resulting recordings and transcriptions are then made available to the public online through a central, freely-accessible platform.
- Through regular course offerings and independent research projects, LOHI provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to experience the challenges and rewards of conducting and preserving oral history interviews.
- In the interest of promoting best practices in oral history research, LOHI offers training through community workshops and consultations.

LOHI is unique by serving as both a platform for sharing oral histories online through the Lowcountry Digital Library, as well as empowering CofC students, faculty and community members with the tools and expertise to conduct interviews themselves. In this way, LOHI encourages participants to take

ownership of their histories—to tell their stories in their own words.

“There are many groups who have always been at the backbone of our histories, struggles and triumphs—labor organizations, Native American tribes, faith communities and more—whose stories have previously been overlooked or told by people outside the communities, often incompletely or inaccurately,” says Ellen Placey Wadey, program director at GDDF. “Through the Oral History Initiative, the Lowcountry Digital Library has created a platform to not only document these narratives but to have them told by the communities from which they come. We all want to hear our voices telling our own experiences and histories.”

Another prominent component of LOHI will include “oral history backpacks”—kits available for check-out from Addlestone Library that include all the necessary technology for LOHI participants to record interviews in the field.

“Technology can be daunting for many,” says Placey Wadey. “By assembling these oral history backpacks that can be checked out for projects, the technology barrier—and all the associated elements of recording oral histories—becomes accessible, practical and user-friendly. And the community choosing to conduct an oral history project will have agency to tell their own stories in their own way.”

The College Libraries were early believers in the power of oral histories. Since its founding in 1995, the Libraries’ Jewish Heritage Collection has recorded 600 oral histories documenting Southern Jewish American experiences across South Carolina. The Libraries’ SC LGBTQ Oral Histories, Archives and Outreach

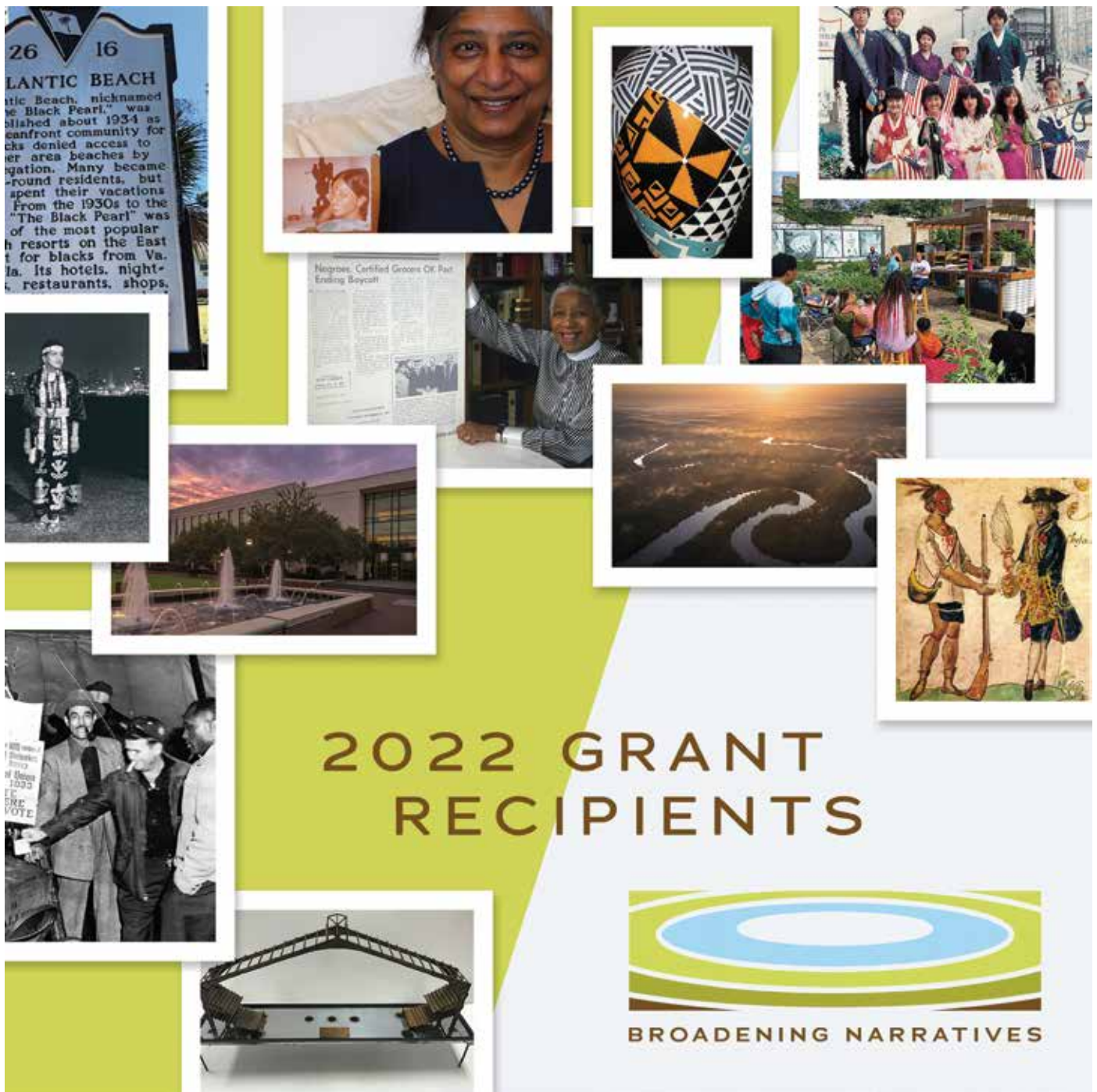
project, launched in 2017, and the Avery Research Center’s *Documenting the Arc* program, launched in 2020, continue this tradition of outreach to underrepresented Lowcountry communities. Both received generous support from GDDF.

“The College Libraries could not ask for a more committed partner than the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation,” says John White ‘99, dean of libraries. “Their dedication to enriching the tapestry of Lowcountry history is long-standing and, with their support of LOHI, unwavering as we work together bringing to public attention to these pivotal stories that are often overlooked or nearly forgotten. The preservation of the region’s history and culture, especially that of under-represented communities, owes much to the generosity of the Donnelley team and their belief in the power and importance of these materials and stories.”

“The Lowcountry Oral History Initiative and the oral history backpacks will open up so many opportunities to hear these important voices, and to listen and learn from communities previously overlooked or excluded,” adds Placey Wadey. “We will all be the richer for it.”

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**The Lowcountry Digital Library’s oral histories and transcripts are freely accessible to all.**  
**Explore the collections at [lcdl.library.cofc.edu](http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu)**



# 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS



“The Lowcountry Oral History Initiative and the oral history backpacks will open up so many opportunities to hear these important voices ... We will all be the richer for it.”



# Pod Save Addlestone

BY VINCENT FRALEY





This spring, Addlestone Library welcomed its latest addition: a pair of podcast and video studios.

The soundproof pods—reservable by all students, faculty and staff—are fully equipped with studio microphones, headphones and a RØDECaster Pro control panel as well as a Marantz Turret video streaming system. Their ease of use empowers the campus community with the tools to record their own podcasts and oral history interviews. The pods join the Scholars Studio, a suite of spaces, equipment, resources and services for media creation housed on Addlestone’s first floor.

“We are pleased to introduce the podcast studios to students as they complete this semester’s assignments and to faculty as they plan assignments for the next academic year,” says Christa Poparad, associate dean for access, instruction and assessment.

Acquired as part of the 21st Century Library initiative, the pods serve also as an integral element of the Libraries’ Lowcountry Oral History Initiative, a new platform for gathering and sharing recorded memories from the region’s residents.

“Audio and video production are essential skills today and, in an academic library, they play a critical role in creating and disseminating knowledge,” says John W. White ’99, dean of libraries. “This content is not only a means of communication, but also a powerful tool for teaching and learning. By providing access to the latest production facilities and resources, our patrons can express themselves creatively and share their ideas, perspectives and experiences with a wider audience.”

In gratitude to The Wood Foundation for their longstanding support and generosity, the College Libraries are proud to have a pod named in honor of Peggy L. Wood.

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**Both studios are reservable by the Friends of the Library. View tutorials, reserve your spot and more at [library.cofc.edu](http://library.cofc.edu)**

*Student Employment & Community Service Specialist Laura Cergol '17 and Research and Instruction Librarian Elena Rodriguez '09 led a demo of the new studios this spring.*





# Roundtable Rewind

The Friends of the Library's signature gala, the Winthrop Roundtable, returned in style on March 13 at the Francis Marion Hotel. Ambassador Barbara M. Barrett delivered the evening's keynote address, *The Next Frontier: Duty, Exploration and Discovery in 21st Century America*, to 150+ assembled guests.

Barrett, the 25th Secretary of the Air Force and Space Force, previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Finland, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and Vice Chair of the Civil Aeronautics Board. She is a Regent of the Smithsonian and Vice Chair of the California Institute of Technology, which operates NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Barrett taught leadership as a Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School and served as interim president of Thunderbird School of Global Management. She is also an instrument-rated pilot, qualified for space flight to the International Space Station.

The signature annual gala of the Friends of the Library, the Winthrop Roundtable honors the Libraries' most generous donors. Begun nearly three decades ago as a small gathering of John and Libby Winthrop's friends, the Roundtable continues its legacy of connecting the Friends of the Library to luminaries near and far.

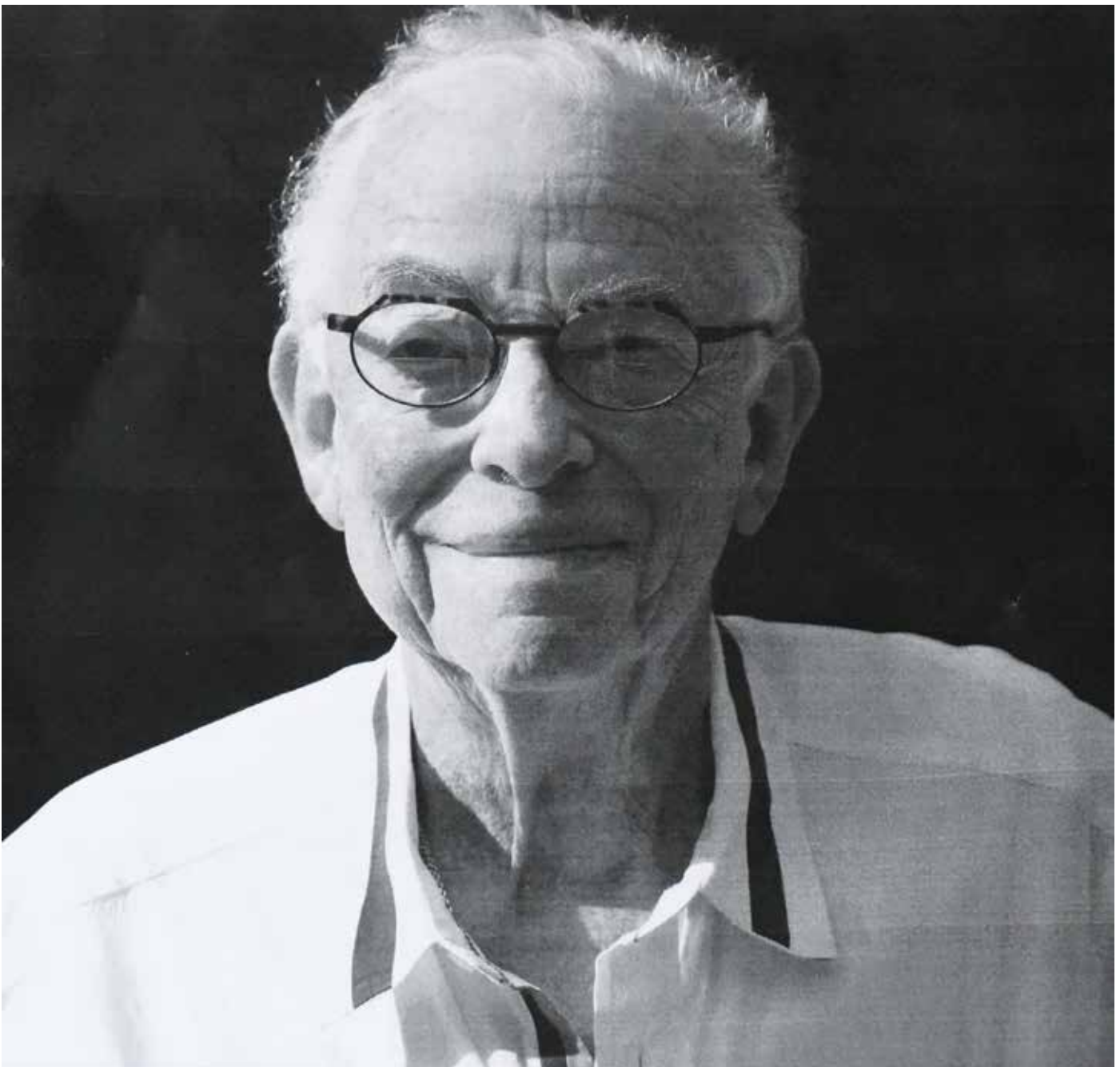
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**To make a tax-deductible gift and secure your spot at next year's Winthrop Roundtable, contact Brian Sisco, senior development officer, at [siscobr@cofc.edu](mailto:siscobr@cofc.edu) or 843.509.8318.**



# The Friends Remember: Albert “Foster” Thalheimer

BY VINCENT FRALEY



In September 2017, a newly hired College staffer presented to the Friends of the Library Board.

As the meeting adjourned, one Board member made a beeline for the new hire. Trim with round glasses and bright flames embroidered on his baseball cap, the gentleman introduced himself, shook hands and said—apropos of nothing—that Charleston was a great place to live and work.

A small gesture, to be sure. For that new employee, it was nonetheless never forgotten.

That gentleman with the fiery hat, the one who went out of his way to make a ‘new kid’ feel at home? That was Albert ‘Foster’ Thalheimer.

In September 2022, the no longer new employee remembered that immediate friendliness five years prior. It was an overcast Friday morning in downtown Charleston with folks gathered for a funeral service at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim.

The rabbi led those assembled in prayer before welcoming to the pulpit the departed’s brother. From his anecdotes

spanning their time as children to the marathon phone calls in later life, a portrait emerged of a man of erudition, panache and kindness.

A successful stockbroker and world traveler who gallivanted across several continents. An arts patron with tastes refined through a lifetime of gallery visits and concerts. A volunteer as giving with his time as his money. And fundamentally, a person completely devoid of pretense who could—and did—make friends with everyone.

At the ceremony marking life’s end, one can scarcely hope for more than to be remembered for good cheer, intelligence and compassion, and to have assembled family and friends recall countless memories of each. To those in the pews who knew the departed as a husband, brother, uncle or friend, this is the man they had known.

That gentleman with the rare blend of success and humility, the one who had the confidence to be always himself? That was Foster Thalheimer.

*Opposite: Albert “Foster” Thalheimer, a beloved Friends of the Library Board member and mentor to the College’s MBA students.*

“Foster would invite students to our home to make them feel more comfortable. He got as much out of it, if not more, than the students.”



In a nondescript building along one of Charleston's avenues is an artist's studio. The sun filters through west-facing windows, landing on the working canvas mounted flat against the opposite wall. Dozens of finished but unframed paintings rest on the ground depicting slices of life in Charleston and around the world, rendered in bold strokes of indigo, tangerine and stygian. Classical music slips faintly from a small speaker.

The artist, lithe like a ballerina and smartly dressed, welcomes into the studio two CofC staffers. Betty Thalheimer, Foster's wife, obliges an interview.

"When I was growing up, I decided that I never wanted to be bored, or be boring," Betty says, her accent a hybrid of Savannah, where she grew up, and New York, where she lived for several decades. "Having met Foster, I wasn't bored one second."

They met through a mutual friend when Betty was studying at a Manhattan art school. For four years the relationship was platonic. "We'd go to a late movie or a concert in Harlem, he was so interesting, and we always had a good time."

Betty filled in the biographical details.

Born in Rhode Island as the oldest of five siblings, Foster grew up in West Virginia and graduated from UNC Chapel Hill. He moved to New York and began as a salesman for a clothing manufacturer, worked as a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch and founded his own brokerage. Betty exhibited her work in galleries across the city.

The couple selected Charleston as their retirement destination, knowing just two souls in the Holy City: Foster's college friend, Marlene Addlestone, and their realtor.

Many rightly view retirement as an opportunity to slow down, to enjoy the fruits of one's labor. Foster was not among the many. He volunteered for the board of Operation Sight, a non-profit providing eye medication and surgery for those in need. He also struck up a relationship with the College's School of Business, offering to mentor MBA candidates.

"Foster was a talker," Betty says. "Instead of meeting them somewhere, Foster would invite students to our home to make them feel more comfortable. He got as much out of it, if not more, than the students."

Marlene Addlestone—the benefactor of the library bearing the names of her and her late husband, Nathan—introduced Foster to the Friends of the Library. She must have noticed a coincidence of interest. "Foster was a voracious reader," Betty says. "Wherever we've lived, it's always been books, books, books."

For seven years, Foster sat on the Friends of the Library Board, enlivening events with his humor and enlightening proceedings with his leadership. "He loved the Friends and the College Libraries," Betty adds. It seems that love was infectious—her connection to the Libraries isn't only through her husband.

That painting, "Thoughts in Orange," hanging in pride of place outside the dean's office? That's Betty Thalheimer's.

"He wore baseball caps nonstop, and these crazy shirts and jackets he bought all over the world," Betty says with a smile. "He was that way ever since we met."

Perhaps that is what everyone first noticed about Foster—his eclectic dress, informed only by his own sartorial whimsy. But it is certainly not what they will remember most.

"The first time I met Foster, I didn't know what to think. He talked so fast that it was all a blur," says John White, dean of the College Libraries. "He liked to solve problems because he genuinely wanted to help, and he refused to believe that there was such a thing as an unsolvable problem. His curiosity about the world is what I admired the most."

"He was extraordinarily bright and kind," Betty says. "I learned from him every day."

That gentleman who was able to hold the love of a beautiful artist through 57 years of marriage and who spent retirement giving of himself? That was Foster Thalheimer. He will be deeply missed.

*Opposite: Artist Betty Thalheimer inside her downtown Charleston studio. She met Foster while studying in New York.*



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# THE REAL RAINBOW ROW

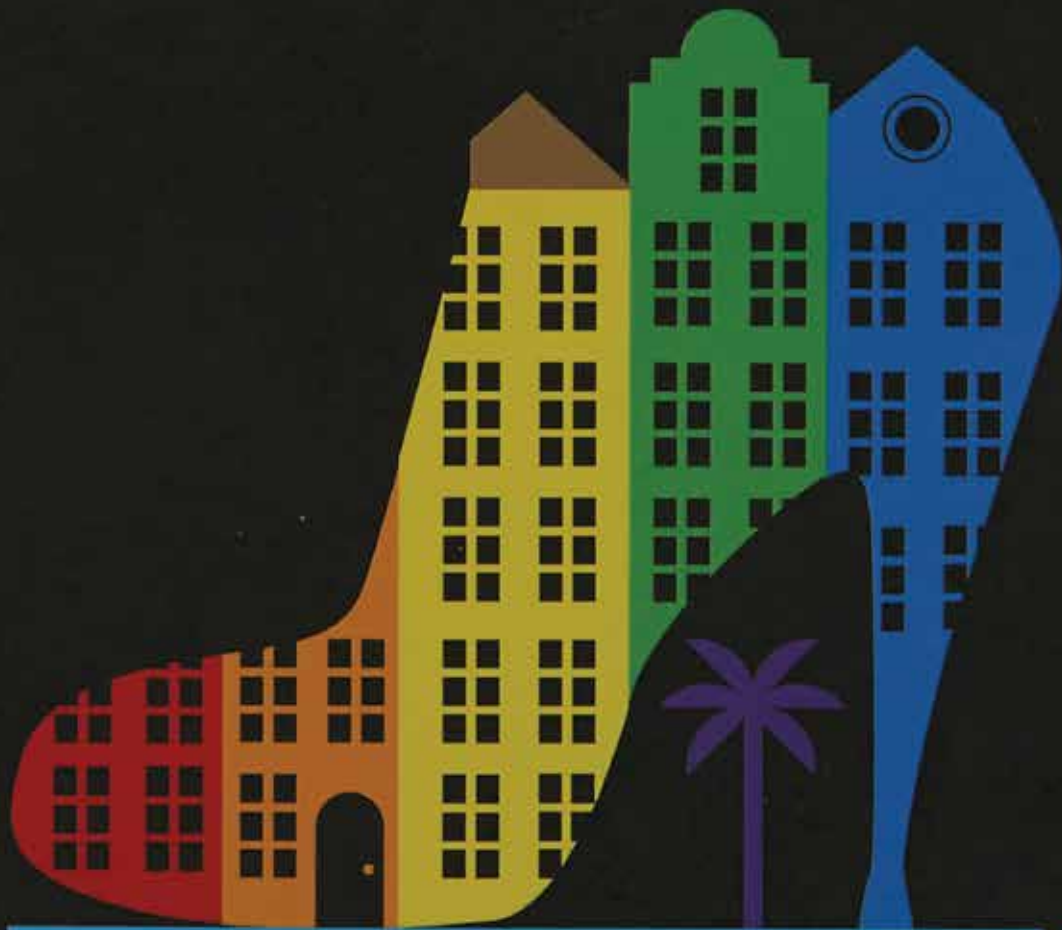
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EXPLORATIONS IN CHARLESTON'S LGBTQ HISTORY

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HARLAN GREENE

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# The Real Rainbow Row

BY VINCENT FRALEY

Since 2010, the Lowcountry’s annual Pride Parade—with its thousands of volunteers, participants and supporters—has put the local LGBTQ community in the spotlight. With dynamic chants, colorful floats and people cheering on the sidelines, the community becomes visible, showing off its vitality, connectivity and diversity.

But when the rally ends and the rainbow flags are furled, what then?

As Addlestone Library’s Harlan Greene argues in his new book, *The Real Rainbow Row*, for too long Charleston’s LGBTQ community has been rendered invisible and denied not just its past and a respected place in history, but also in the visible fabric of the city.

For a place trading so heavily on its past, how has such an integral chapter of this 300-plus-year saga been censored, hidden and overlooked?

“There are definite holes in history,” says Greene. “Look around Charleston and you’ll see plaques and monuments to all aspects of the city’s history, but you won’t see much relating to the LGBTQ community’s presence here over the centuries.”

Greene’s latest book seeks to fill in gaps in the story of “America’s Most Historic City.”

Published by Evening Post Books, *The Real Rainbow Row: Explorations in*

*Charleston’s LGBTQ History* is a narrative history of the community, the first of its kind in the region, spanning the pre-colonial period to present day.

Long before Europeans arrived, “Indigenous peoples, some of whom might be called LGBTQ today, lived in the area as respected members of their communities,” Greene writes. The paradox is “that one of the last groups to finally get its own history is one of the only few to be native, present before... what became the ‘official’ story.”

Greene’s chronology traces three centuries of regional history, from the first settlers, Revolutionary War and other soldiers to the artists of the Charleston Renaissance, the HIV/AIDS crisis and the stories of those who led the fight for respect and civil rights locally.

The discovery that most shocked the author? An 1899 male bordello counting Blacks and whites as patrons. “It was astonishing not just for the taboo of sexuality, but the taboo of crossing racial lines,” Greene says. “Oscar Wilde visiting the city was one thing but realizing that there were gay citizens living in town shocked those who did not want to believe such things.”

“Yet compared to the rest of the state,” Greene adds, “this city has been more tolerant, if not understanding.” The author points to a historical parallel: Charlestonians flouted the state’s liquor

For a place trading so heavily on its past, how has such an integral chapter of this 300-plus-year saga been censored, hidden and overlooked?

## It's only the first book on the topic and, Greene hopes, many more articles, theses, narratives and exhibits will follow.

laws for years. “The city liked to believe that all LGBTQ people were from elsewhere, ‘outside agitators’ upsetting the status quo.”

This “tolerance” was qualified. Greene’s book includes heart rendering excerpts from the diary of a 1930s College of Charleston student. The young man, in agony over his sexual orientation, recounts warnings to present in a more masculine way. And that is to say nothing of the chilling 1958 “Candlestick Murder” when a gay man was killed—the courtroom cheered when the perpetrator was set free.

Even today, for all the city’s progress and broadening acceptance, a residual reticence lingers. “We remain pretty

much Victorian and we’re in the South,” Greene says. “Many people still feel uncomfortable coming out for fear of becoming a victim of discrimination or violence.”

Greene began formal research for *The Real Rainbow Row* in 2017 and continued during his sabbatical from Addlestone Library’s Special Collections, but the subject had long interested him.

“Before I consciously thought of writing a book, I had in many ways been researching it for decades,” Greene says. “I found an index card noting a Charleston writer who had identified what he called a ‘queer bar.’ I had written that card in the 1970s.”

Greene’s research was stymied and frustrated by the long practice of stigmatizing LGBTQ individuals. Those traditional archival materials that document people’s lives—diaries, letters and other personal papers—were often destroyed by families or were even turned down by repositories.

“There were no other local books that I could read or reference,” he says. “Frustratingly, anything dealing with non-elite White men, anything dealing with sexual impropriety, which LGBTQ culture was considered” seemed all but lost to history or cloaked in double entendre and misdirection.

“You have to intuit and read between the lines” Greene explains, while remaining judicious in drawing conclusions from sources often oblique or contradictory. He did his best, he says, to include information on women and African Americans.

“It was a student requesting LGBTQ materials for a research project that began our outreach documentation project,” he stresses. Now, with *The Real Rainbow Row*, students, historians and scholars have a jumping-off point. It’s only the first book on the topic and, Greene hopes, many more articles, theses, narratives and exhibits will follow.

Greene’s purpose in writing the book extends beyond the library and the classroom.



*Author and Addlestone Library scholar-in-residence, Harlan Greene.*



*The city's annual Pride parade bodes well for the present and future of Charleston's LGBTQ communities. Greene's book uncovers forgotten stories of their past.*

"It's about belonging and who is excluded. Charleston history over time has been treated like an exclusive club with membership restrictions. At first, only white men's stories were told." He mentions the city's sclerotic embrace of the history of African Americans, women, Jews and other minorities.

"LGBTQ people have always been in Charleston. They are no more and no less important than any other group, and they should be welcomed in the city's story," Greene says.

The book is a complement to other College Libraries initiatives helmed by Greene, including the SC LGBTQ Oral Histories, Archives and Outreach project. Initially funded with a grant by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, it now is seeking support from donors and individuals who want

to see the project grow. More than 75 oral histories have been recorded, and dozens of collections of organizations and individuals dating back to the 1850s now call Special Collections home. With guidance from Greene and Special Collections staff, scholars, professors and CofC students are using these new materials as part of their coursework.

The book's title—*The Real Rainbow Row*—comes from a self-guided digital walking tour Greene designed in 2014, which features many sites on the CofC campus.

The clamor for more diverse representation in the city's history has spilled from the classroom into the streets. Explore Charleston, formerly the Convention and Visitors Bureau, will soon unveil an extended LGBTQ history tour featuring materials and interpretive text drawn from Greene's research.

"Tourists have been clear that they want to hear more complete stories. And it's exciting to see a library project not just having social impact on people's lives, but even an impact on the local economy. The more we can support this project," Greene enthuses, "the more we can reveal our past, the more we can impact our present and change the future. This is what we do. This is part of our mission. We are an academic library. We must reflect the entire life of the Lowcountry."

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**To learn more about *The Real Rainbow Row* and the SC LGBTQ Oral Histories, Archives and Outreach project, visit [speccoll.cofc.edu](http://speccoll.cofc.edu)**



COME HEAR SOME  
STORIES FROM A  
DIFFERENT KIND  
OF GHETTO.

October 23, 2003 Presented by The Minnesota Justice Foundation

# The Advocate's Archive

BY CATHERINE STIERS '17

Harriet McBryde Johnson went by many labels. Activist. Author. Attorney. All these identities were informed by her experience as a person living with a degenerative neuromuscular disease.

Born in Laurinburg, North Carolina, Johnson earned a bachelor's degree from Charleston Southern University, a master's degree in public administration from the College of Charleston and a

law degree from the University of South Carolina. Following graduation, she went into private practice and soon moved back to Charleston to work as a lawyer with a focus on Social Security disability appeals.

Johnson served the City of Charleston's Democratic Party for eleven years and was eventually appointed as chair. She ran for County Council in 1994 and

## “The presence or absence of a disability doesn’t predict quality of life.”

was a member of the board of directors of Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities. Johnson also served on the steering committee of the National Lawyers Guild.

In 2001, Johnson encountered philosopher Peter Singer on the College of Charleston’s campus at a public lecture called “Rethinking Life and Death.” Singer argued for the legalization of infanticide for disabled newborns. Johnson, born disabled, countered that “the presence or absence of a disability doesn’t predict quality of life.” Johnson and Singer engaged in a formal debate on the subject at Princeton University in 2002, after which Johnson wrote a *New York Times* article titled “Unspeakable Conversations,” in which she detailed the leadup and aftermath of the debate and her struggle to define Singer’s character after interacting with him on a personal level. “Unspeakable Conversations” brought issues of ethics and accessibility into the public spotlight.

Johnson was also known for her annual downtown Charleston demonstrations against the Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon, which she criticized for treating disabled children as objects of pity. She published two books, a memoir titled *Too Late to Die Young: Nearly True Tales from a Life*, and a young adult novel, *Accidents of Nature*.

To Johnson, it isn’t the disability that holds someone back, but being forced to live in an inaccessible society. While today’s world is more sensitive than ever to needs of accessibility, the Harriet McBryde Johnson papers illustrate the slow push toward progress powered by Johnson and other disability rights advocates, which remains a work in progress.

Highlights from the collection include legal documents regarding implementation of the ADA, letters to the ACLU, letters on Johnson’s work to make the Gaillard more accessible, signs from her annual Jerry Lewis MDA

telethon protest and letters regarding the accessibility challenges she faced in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Following her death in 2008, Johnson’s family donated her personal papers to the College Libraries’ Special Collections, where they remain available for research.

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**The Harriet McBryde Johnson papers—along with materials documenting 300+ years of Lowcountry history and culture—are available for research in Addlestone Library’s Special Collections. Learn more at [speccoll.cofc.edu](http://speccoll.cofc.edu)**

*Donated by her family, McBryde Johnson’s papers are now housed in Special Collections and available to researchers.*



# Bringing Fractured Histories Together

BY DARCIE GOODWIN

Thanks to librarians like Leah Worthington, associate director of the College's Lowcountry Digital Library, archival materials from different repositories can come together online.

Through a collaboration between Lowcountry Digital Library, Charleston Library Society and the City of Charleston, the disparate components of ten "City of Charleston, SC, Report of the City Planning and Zoning Commission, Zone Maps" from 1931 have reunited for the first time in decades.

The City of Charleston had the ten 35' x 5' city planning maps from the 1931 studies, but the accompanying reports had disappeared from the city's records. The maps' color-coded legends provide information on height restrictions, dwelling density, the existing height of buildings, the existing use of property and the racial breakdown of the city, but without the report, they lacked context. As it turned out, the Charleston Library Society's collection included the 1931 "Charleston City Records Collection"—i.e., the reports—but not the corresponding maps. The Lowcountry Digital Library had the technology to bring the two collections together, giving

access to the complete documents to the general public once again.

Together, the maps and the report present a more nuanced picture of how the City of Charleston came to draft its 1931 zoning ordinance, a landmark piece of legislation historically noted for being the first zoning ordinance in the country to protect a historical district through local legislation. The report and maps paved the way for the creation the City's Board of Architectural Review and put a halt to the demolition of many properties in the newly defined historic district. They also reveal how the city leaned on race-based policies during that time, even though racially based zoning measures had been ruled unconstitutional in 1917.

Lindsey Weinstein, a historic preservation and community planning and studio art double major, interned with the City of Charleston Records Management Division at the time of the project. She worked with Meg Moughan, City of Charleston records manager, to learn the ins and outs of the city's records management facility and with Worthington to digitize the maps and assign metadata to the maps and other city collections.

Digitizing the maps was no small feat. "Given the size of the maps even using our largest scanner required six scans of each map, so we picked up a few Photoshop skills along the way to make them look seamless," explains Worthington.

"I have never enjoyed a job more in my life, so much so that when I speak about my future career, I hope to bring along all of the skills I learned at this job," says Weinstein. "Each project has allowed me to learn more about a unique array of historical documents and how to preserve them. I truly enjoyed putting in the work to make these documents more accessible, and I hope I inspire more students to find joy in research as I have. As our realities are moving into a faster-paced technological world, it is integral to always take time to analyze and understand the past—you never know what you will find."

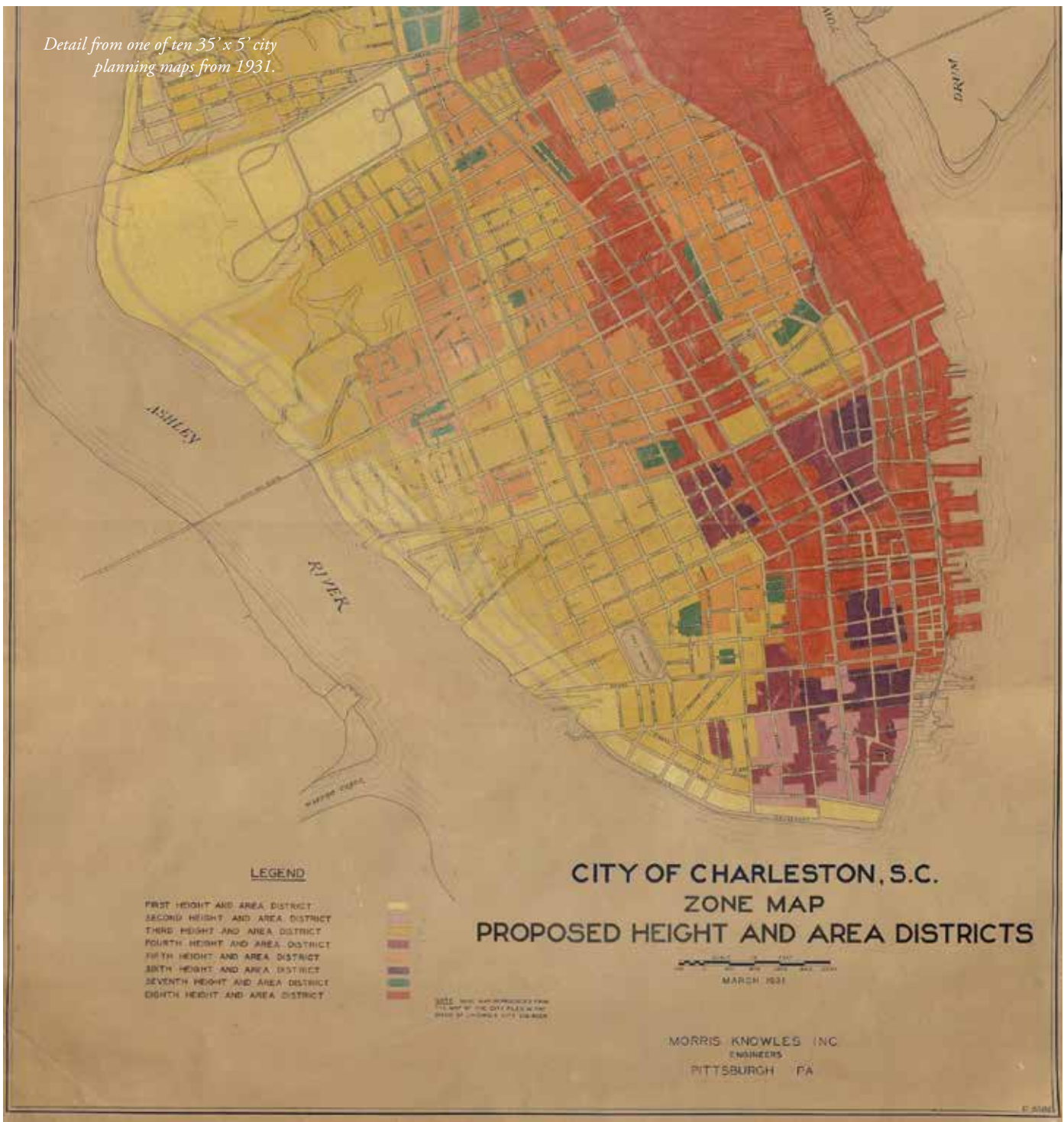
"Having the zoning maps and records online allows people to see the historical context," adds Worthington. "It also helps us understand what sort of conscious decisions we can make today to amend past indiscretions."

This project would not have been possible without collaboration.



*Lindsey Weinstein '22 and Danielle Cox '17, '22.*

Detail from one of ten 35' x 5' city planning maps from 1931.

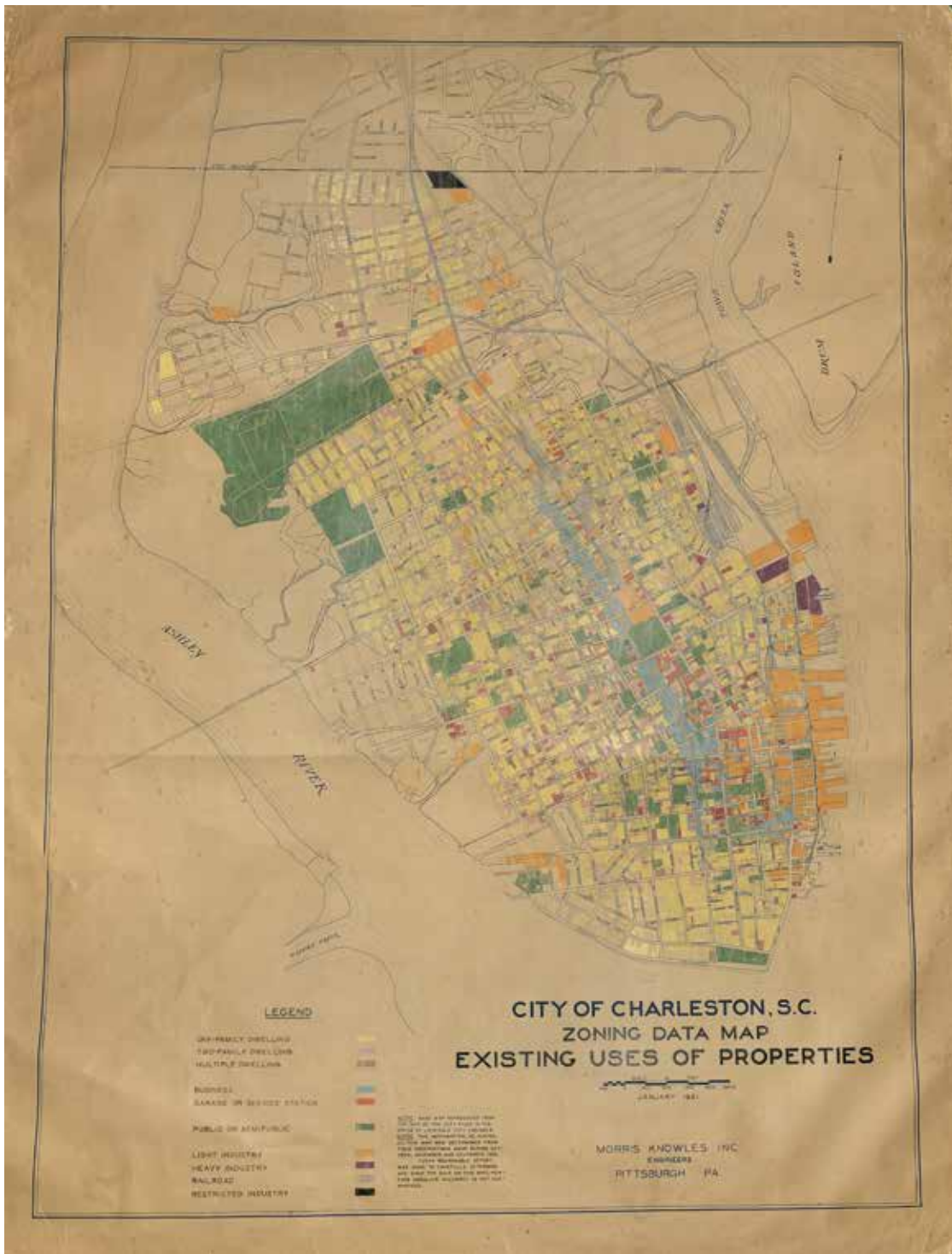


“My classes in the public history concentration really stressed the collaborative nature of working in this industry,” says Danielle Cox ’17, ’22, who obtained her undergraduate and graduate degrees in history, and currently serves as

the Charleston Library Society’s digital collections coordinator. “Not only is the Library Society collaborating with the city and the Lowcountry Digital Library, but internally this has been a big team effort.”

Laura Mina, head librarian at CLS, concurs. “This collaboration between our three organizations has allowed us to make an incomplete document whole and wholly accessible, beyond any of our individual organizations. Our working





together has allowed us to reintroduce this historic document into the stream of resources that help us to more deeply understand the history of our city.”

100,000-plus items documenting the history of Charleston and the region are freely available via the Lowcountry Digital Library. Visit [lcdl.library.cofc.edu](http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu)



# Finding Judaism in the Holy City

BY VINCENT FRALEY

*Finding Judaism in the Holy City*, the latest exhibit from the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative, is now available.

This exhibit captures the history of Judaism from early America through the First World War, a particularly vibrant and tumultuous era of Charleston's past.

In addition to sharing Charleston's Jewish history with the College of Charleston community and broader public, the exhibit features newly digitized materials from the College Libraries' Jewish Heritage Collection—nearly 6,000 new items available through the Lowcountry Digital Library.

Funding for *Finding Judaism in the Holy City* and the newly digitized material was generously provided by the Council on Library and Information Resources.

Authored by Shari Rabin, the exhibit was made possible through the work of the



Portrait of Taube S. Raisin ca. 1916.  
From the College's Rabbi Jacob S. Raisin Papers.

Opposite: "Charleston stands out because of how integrated history is into the community, and this makes projects about local history especially important."  
— Graduate assistant Paige Little.



*Jewish immigrants on board ship ca. 1900. From the College's William A. Rosenthal Judaica Collection.*

College Libraries' faculty and graduate assistants from the history M.A. program.

"The image research process for this exhibit was different from any projects I have previously worked on," says graduate assistant Brenna Reilley. "The unique thing about this exhibit was the ability to use local materials that have recently been digitized, like the Rabbi Jacob

Raisin Papers, KKBE meeting minutes and the Jewish Heritage Collection."

"Nearly every day I walked past the Coming Street Cemetery unsure of what really hid behind the walls," says Reilley. "It wasn't until I was deeply involved in the image research and exhibit layout that I realized many of the people mentioned in the exhibit have their final resting spot in the Coming Street Cemetery. Current

KKBE members were gracious enough to lead us through the cemetery to gain more insight into the congregation's history. This was a chance to bring to life materials and people I only saw through my computer screen."

"I didn't know much about image research before working on the *Finding Judaism in the Holy City* exhibit," says Reilley's fellow graduate assistant, Paige Little. "I knew that images could catch readers' eyes and corroborate the text, but this process showed me how images can tell their own stories too."

"Charleston stands out because of how integrated history is into the community, and this makes projects about local history especially important," recalls Little. "I was reminded of this when we had the opportunity to visit the Coming Street Cemetery and speak with KKBE members about their ancestors and gravesite preservation efforts. After weeks of researching important figures and events from Charleston's Jewish community, it was an especially rewarding experience to speak to people personally connected to things that I had only read about and recognize how important sharing these stories is in the eyes of community members."

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**Explore *Finding Judaism in the Holy City* and more than two dozen free exhibits via the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative at [ldhi.library.cofc.edu](http://ldhi.library.cofc.edu)**



*"Nearly every day I walked past the Coming Street Cemetery unsure of what really hid behind the walls." — Graduate assistant Brenna Reilley.*

# The Future of the Past

The study of Jewish life in all its facets is a work in progress. Nowhere is this truer than in America, and nowhere in America more than in the South. And it could easily be argued that nowhere in the South more than in South Carolina, where for more than three centuries the drama of Jewish destiny in the world has played out.

Help ensure our ability to document Southern Jewish life, provide access to archival collections, and engage an ever-wider audience by supporting *The Future of the Past*, a joint campaign of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina and the Jewish Heritage Collection. Together, both organizations have built an engine of research, preservation and public education unmatched in the region.

The campaign is designed to grow and protect these two institutions, remembering past lives and providing resources for emerging scholarship for generations to come. Non-denominational at its core, *The Future of the Past* spotlights Jewish life in all its manifestations: cultural and religious, social and economic.

Your gift will have an immediate and lasting impact, providing a sustainable future for both organizations and their mission to guarantee these stories are safeguarded and shared, and provide a platform for folks to gather, discuss and remember.

The campaign's success will foster broader public access to the resources we create, collect and curate for generations to come.

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**For more information and to make a gift, please contact  
Brian Sisco, senior development officer, at [siscobr@cofc.edu](mailto:siscobr@cofc.edu) or 843.953.5530.**



*Louise Levi, Abbeville, SC ca. 1921. Courtesy of the College's Jewish Heritage Collection.*



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