

George A. Smathers Libraries Present an Exhibition of Jacksonville's Jewish Heritage

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - The George A. Smathers Libraries are pleased to announce that *Jewish Jacksonville* will be on view April 23 through June 15, 2012 in the Smathers Library Gallery, 2nd Floor.

Prior to the 1930s, the Jewish community of Jacksonville represented Florida's largest and most significant Jewish population. Yet, in spite of its former preeminence, the story of this community is still little known, and the rich history of Jewish Jacksonville is just beginning to unfold. Featuring late 19th century - end of the 20th century materials from the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica and the George A. Smathers Libraries Special Collections, the exhibition shares a slice of Jacksonville's Jewish heritage.

Elements of Jewish family, communal and institutional life, as well as some of the ways in which Jewish people have impacted the development and structure of Jacksonville itself are highlighted through unique manuscripts from the recently donated Safer family archives, a special Torah scroll from the former Beth Shalom synagogue, and previously unseen and un-cataloged Temple bulletins, yearbooks and newsletters held only in the Price Library.

Jewish Jacksonville is curated by Rebecca Jefferson, Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica.

Exhibition available online at <http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/jewishjacksonville>

Programs

Opening reception:

Wednesday April 25 5:00-7:00pm
Smathers Library 1A

Special Guest Marcia Jo Zerivitz will speak on "Jewish Jacksonville within 250 Years of Florida Jewish History." Zerivitz is the Founding Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Florida and has been a leader in the organized Florida Jewish community for 50 years. She initiated the legislation for both a Florida Jewish History Month in 2003 (each January) and a Jewish American Heritage Month in 2006 (each May) to increase awareness of the contributions by Jews to the state and nation.

Curator Guided Tour:

Sunday May 20, 2012 4:00-5:00pm
Smathers Library Gallery, 2nd Floor

Join Rebecca Jefferson, Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, for an afternoon discussion about selected items presented in *Jewish Jacksonville*.