AN EVENING WITH ETGAR KERET
Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 7:00PM
Simons Center for the Arts Recital Hall, 54 St. Philip Street

Join the Jewish Studies Program for an evening of laughter and conversation as internationally acclaimed author Etgar Keret reads from his newly-published selection of short stories and speaks with Jewish Studies Professor David Slucki.

Etgar Keret is hailed as the voice of young Israel. Known for his short stories, Keret fuses the banal with the surreal, and offers a window on a world that is both dark and comic. Keret’s books are bestsellers in Israel and have been published in over forty languages. His books include The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God, Missing Kissinger, The Nimrod Flipout, The Girl on the Fridge, and Suddenly a Knock on the Door, which became an instant #1 bestseller in Israel. Keret’s new book of stories Fly Already won the prestigious Sapir Prize, and is forthcoming in English in September 2019.

Keret’s work has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and the Paris Review, among many other publications. He is a regular contributor to This American Life. More than forty short movies have been based on his stories. As a filmmaker, Keret is the writer of several feature screenplays, including Skin Deep (1996), which won First Prize at several international film festivals and was awarded the Israeli Oscar. Jellyfish, his first movie as a director along with his wife Shira Geffen, won the coveted Camera d’Or prize for best first feature at the Cannes Film Festival 2007. Keret currently teaches at Ben Gurion University.

Co-sponsored by the Department of English and the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Center for Israel Studies
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
Robert Steinberg, Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

The mere thought of change strikes fear in the hearts of many. While similar in definition, “transition” seems less intimidating. However you wish to describe it, the College of Charleston as a whole, and the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program in particular, are in the midst of transition.

At its October 2019 meeting, I will have the honor of assuming the Chairmanship of the Jewish Studies Program Advisory Board. I have proudly served on the Advisory Board and its Executive committee as the Chair of the Governance committee. My daughter Sarah ’13 graduated from the College where she was an active participant in the Jewish Student Union/Hillel. Like my many able predecessors, I look forward to leading the Advisory Board in its support of the Jewish Studies Program in particular, and the College as a whole, through its engagement of the Jewish community. In turn, the Charleston community of all faiths and backgrounds can look forward to the continued high level of programming they have come to expect from Jewish Studies.

Of course, the Jewish Studies Program would not have existed without the vision, leadership and commitment of Dr. Marty Perlmutter. His 40 years of nurturing the Program, hiring and mentoring faculty, engaging with students and cajoling the Administration have made the program what it is today. We cannot thank him enough.

Standing on the incredible base that Marty has created, the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program is poised to go to the next level under the leadership of its next Director, Dr. Yaron Ayalon. Among Dr. Ayalon’s goals is to increase the Program’s national standing. Indeed, this is a Program that people should know about. Jewish Studies has a solid core of talented and dedicated faculty members and staff who work tirelessly to engage CofC students and the broader community. It has three distinctive Academic Centers, a focus on recruitment admissions, and a fantastic physical space. I have no doubt that under Yaron’s leadership, Jewish Studies will thrive.

Finally, last May, the College welcomed its 23rd president, Dr. Andrew Hsu. Dr. Hsu is a multifaceted academic and administrator with a reputation for forming community partnerships. While we will miss Provost Brian McGee, a good friend of the Program, our immediate past interim-Director, Dr. Tim Johnson remains our Program’s Dean. I have every reason to believe that Jewish Studies will maintain its strong relationship with the College’s administration.

Buckle up. It’s going to be a fun, educational and rewarding ride, and I hope that you will be part of it!

CHANUKAH IN THE SQUARE
Sunday, December 22, 2019, 4:00 – 6:00pm
Marion Square Park

Join Jewish Studies and members of the broader community for the fifteenth annual Chanukah in the Square extravaganza, sponsored by the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Foundation with supplemental support from the City of Charleston. Once again the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program will team up with Chabad of the Lowcountry, the City of Charleston’s Office of Cultural Affairs, and representation from every local Jewish organization in the Lowcountry.

Chanukah in the Square is the largest annual Jewish event in the state of South Carolina, and is a wonderful, family-friendly way to come together as a community, complete with plenty of child- and family-friendly activities, from face painting to Chanukah arts and crafts.

Our local Holocaust survivors will continue the tradition of lighting the menorah candles. Please plan on being there with your neighbors, friends, and family. Bring an appetite and your dancing shoes. We will supply the hot food, the live music, and the festive atmosphere! As in past years, there will be no shortage of potato latkes.

On the cover: Leah Bancheri, Lexi Gage, Pamela Partridge, Jenna Gore, Lindsay Dragunoff, and Max Rose at the Western Wall, December 2017.
SUNDAY MORNING LECTURES

Sunday morning lectures are a hallmark of the Jewish Studies Program. Brunches begin at 9AM and lectures at 10AM. All events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available for Sunday morning events (only) in the Wentworth Street Garage. Bring your parking ticket for validation. Childcare is available upon request. Please contact Mark Swick at swickmn@cofc.edu to ensure that we have adequate childcare staffing.

SING THIS AT MY FUNERAL

Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

In 1978, Jakub Slucki passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of seventy-seven. A Holocaust survivor whose first wife and two sons had been murdered at the Nazi death camp in Chelmno, Poland, Jakub had lived a turbulent life. Just over thirty-seven years later, his son Charles died of a heart attack. David Slucki’s Sing This at My Funeral: A Memoir of Fathers and Sons tells the story of his father and his grandfather, and the grave legacy that they each passed on to him. This is a story about the Holocaust and its aftermath, about absence and the scars that never heal, and about fathers and sons and what it means to raise young men. David will read excerpts from the book and discuss it with Simon Lewis, Professor of English at the College of Charleston.

David Slucki is an assistant professor in the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston. He is the author of Sing This at My Funeral: A Memoir of Fathers and Sons, and The International Jewish Labor Bund after 1945: Toward a Global History. He is co-editor of In the Shadows of Memory: The Holocaust and the Third Generation and the forthcoming Laughter After: Humor and the Holocaust.

WHO SHALL LIVE AND WHO SHALL DIE?:
THE HIGH HOLIDAYS AT AUSCHWITZ IN 1944

Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

During the high holidays in 1944, there was a selection of 2000 young boys. The boys were subjected to a height test and only 600 “passed”. The other 1400 were condemned by the Nazis to be gassed. This story became well known in Orthodox circles due to a rabbinical responsa by Rabbi Tzvi Hirsch Miesels in which a Jew asks permission to pay a ransom to a kapo guarding his son who is among those selected to be gassed. In this talk based on her current book project, Professor Helene Sinnreich will discuss this group of boys and the selection they endured.

Helene Sinnreich is a scholar of Jewish experience during the Holocaust and European Jewry. Dr. Sinnreich serves as the editor in chief of the Journal of Jewish Identities (Johns Hopkins University Press), and has served as a fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. in 2007 and at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in 2009. Dr. Sinnreich’s main research focus is on the experience of Jews in Nazi ghettos. She has a special focus on the Lodz and Krakow ghettos and recently published, A Story of Survival: The Lodz Ghetto Diary of Heinek Fogel (Yad Vashem Press, 2015). Dr. Sinnreich also examines hunger and Nazi food policy in ghettos. Her most well-known research is on sexual abuse of Jewish women during the Holocaust.

JEWS, THE LEFT, AND ANTISEMITISM:
A CASE OF BRITISH EXCEPTIONALISM?

Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

To what extent does the trajectory of relations between Jews and the Left in the world’s largest, contemporary, Jewish communities help us to understand current tensions between Jews in the UK and the British Labour Party, including allegations that the Labour Party is institutionally anti-Semitic?

Jack Jacobs is a professor of political science at John Jay College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is the author of On Socialists and “the Jewish Question” after Marx (1992), Bundist Counterculture in Interwar Poland (2009), and The Frankfurt School, Jewish Lives, and Antisemitism (2015), and is the editor of Jewish Politics in Eastern Europe: The Bund at 100 (2001) and of Jews and Leftist Politics, published by Cambridge University Press in 2017.

Professor Jacobs was a Fulbright Scholar at Tel Aviv University in 1996-1997, and at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute in 2009. He served as a Visiting Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan in 2016, and, in 2018, as both a Visiting Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Research Fellow of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, at the University of London. 

Sponsored by the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies
SUNDAY MORNING LECTURES

The Jewish Studies Program is proud to host a variety of community-focused events and lectures every semester delivered by academics, Jewish communal leaders, clergy, and others on topics of interest to the broader community. To that end, we are constantly in search of recommendations from friends and community members like you for folks who would be welcome additions to our programming roster.

If you’ve attended a lecture, or read about a Jewish topic of particular interest, we want to hear from you!

CAPABLE OF ARGUING:
SOUTHERN JEWISH WOMEN AND SUFFRAGE

Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

Southern Jewish women often played leading roles in local and state efforts to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, whose centennial we celebrate in 2020. They were both Southern Ladies and New Women, fitting in to their societies as they challenged the southern conservative consensus. Women’s vote impacted their lives not only in civil society but also in the synagogue.

Leonard Rogoff holds a doctorate from the University of North Carolina, where he directed the English Writing Laboratory. He was an associate professor at North Carolina Central University and taught a Southern Jewish History course at Duke. Former president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award, he has contributed to numerous journals and anthologies. He now serves as historian and president of the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina. He conceived and served as research historian of the multimedia project: Down Home Jewish Life in North Carolina. His books include Homelands: Southern Jewish Identity in Durham and Chapel Hill North Carolina and Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina. His latest book, Gertrude Weil: A Jewish Progressive in the New South, won the 2017 North Carolina Historical and Literary Association’s annual award for nonfiction.

“LIKE DEWDROPS IN THE WAVING GRASS”: DIAMONDS, JEWS, AND 19TH CENTURY TRANSATLANTIC TRADE

Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

After the discovery of diamond deposits in South Africa in 1869, the extraction, manufacturing, and consumption of diamonds intensified spectacularly. The combination of booming supplies, growing demand, and technological innovations produced revolutionary changes in the diamond industry. Kimberley, London, Amsterdam, and New York became crucial nodes in the global network of extraction, distribution, and trade. Jews played a crucial role in every segment of the commodity chain, from the moment of extracting rough stones from South African soil to distribution across the Atlantic, manufacturing in factories, and retailing to metropolitan markets. They were not – as often described in histories of Jewish economic activity – intermediaries operating at the margins of innovation and commercial activity. Rather, they served as central agents of early globalization. Jews were pioneers involved in the global exchange of a luxury commodity, connecting African sites of supply, European manufacturing centers, and western consumers.

Saskia Coenen Snyder (Ph.D. University of Michigan, 2008) is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History and the Associate Director of the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. She is the author of Building a Public Judaism: Synagogues and Jewish Identity in Nineteenth-Century Europe, published by Harvard University Press in 2013. Her second book, tentatively titled Diasporic Gems: Diamonds, Jews, and Nineteenth-Century Global Commerce examines the role of European, South African, and American Jews in the 19th c. diamond trade. She has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including an NEH summer grant, the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award, and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Research Fellowship. Prof. Coenen Snyder teaches modern Jewish history and Western Civ. courses at the USC, as well as a specialized senior seminars on the Holocaust and the History of Anne Frank. She is a recipient of the Michael Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award.
MONDAY MINI SEMINARS

The Jewish Studies Program is many things to many different people: an academic program, a community outreach organization, a Hillel focusing on Jewish student life and, ideally, all three at the same time. Learning, though, is at the core of what the Program does, just as education is central to Jewish identity. Beginning in 2018, Jewish Studies re-introduced mini-seminars – essentially condensed courses offered by our faculty members and others. As with all Jewish Studies programming, mini-seminars are free and open to the public. Enrollees are expected to secure the required reading, complete all assignments, and to attend all of the class sessions, thereby creating a genuine learning community. Contact Mark Swick for details at swickmn@cofc.edu or 843.953.4930.

This Fall, Jewish Studies is proud to offer two mini-seminars: a weekly immersive ulpan class led by Professor Noa Weinberg which introduces students to Hebrew, both as a spoken language and as a written one; and a two-session “highlights” of Professor David Slucki’s incredibly popular Jewish Comedy course. Please join us for a semester of learning!

READING HEBREW (Beginners and Intermediate) and HEBREW ULPAN (Immersive)
4:00 – 5:15pm and 5:30 – 6:45pm
Rooms 319 and 210, Jewish Studies Center
Mondays, August 26 – December 2, no class on 9/30/19
INSTRUCTORS: SHULA HOLTZ AND PROFESSOR NOA WEINBERG

Community Hebrew instruction has been a signature offering of the Jewish Studies Program for the community at-large. Reading Hebrew is an informal, weekly course teaching students how to read Hebrew, with Beginners level offered in the Fall, and Advanced offered in the Spring semester. Hebrew Ulpan is modeled on our traditional classroom instruction, and aims at the same result: to teach students how to speak and read Hebrew.

The Ulpan expects students of all ages to be serious about the enterprise - to do the assigned work on a regular basis, and to come to class each Monday prepared to participate. Community members who are unsure about which course to enroll in should contact Mark Swick at swickmn@cofc.edu. All courses are offered based on interest and are subject to change.

JEWS & COMEDY
Mondays, at 7:00PM, Arnold Hall

Are Jews funny? What makes a joke Jewish? Who can make Jewish jokes? Jews have been at the forefront of comedy in the United States. This two-part mini-series will look at the relationship between Jews and comedy in the twentieth century in the US and abroad, considering larger issues around how humor and jokes work, the centrality of comedy in modern Jewish culture, and how Jewish comedians have shaped modern American culture. We will consider how comedy is used as a weapon, as a defense mechanism, and what it tells us about the world around us.

October 28 - Origins and Evolutions
November 4 - Humor after the Holocaust

David Slucki is an assistant professor in the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston. He is the author of Sing This at My Funeral: A Memoir of Fathers and Sons, and The International Jewish Labor Bund after 1945: Toward a Global History. He is co-editor of In the Shadows of Memory: The Holocaust and the Third Generation and the forthcoming Laughter After: Humor and the Holocaust.
THREE RABBI PANEL: A CONVERSATION AMONG COLLEAGUES

Coming of Age in Judaism

Wednesday, November 20 2019 at 7:30pm
Stern Ballroom, 4th Floor, corner of Glebe and George Streets

The modern process by which Jewish teenagers become B’nai Mitzvah, coming of age and accepting the obligation of performing the Jewish mitzvot (commandments), has shifted dramatically since the tradition was first recorded in the fifth-century. A rabbinic text at that time instructs the father of a Jewish child to recite a blessing thanking God for freeing him from responsibility for the deeds of his child, who is now accountable for his own actions. In contrast, the focus of modern American B’nai Mitzvah is more often than not the celebration following the religious ceremony.

What does it mean to become a Jewish adult today, and what is the role of the synagogue in helping to shape emerging adults? Join with Jewish Studies and members of the community as Rabbis Stephanie Alexander (KKBE), Adam Rosenbaum (Emanu-El) and Moshe Davis (BSBI) sit together in conversation with Jewish Studies Associate Director Joshua Shanes to answer these questions and more.

The Three Rabbi Panel is supported by the Stanley and Charlot Karesh Family Fund, an endowment given by the Karesh family in the Spring of 2015 in support of Jewish Studies’ community outreach programming. We are incredibly grateful for their support, and for their broad vision of K’lal Yisrael.

WHAT IS LEFT OF THE ISRAELI LEFT?

Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7:30PM, Arnold Hall

Lecture preceded by a 7PM reception welcoming Dr. Ayalon to Charleston

What is left of the political left in Israel? “Not much,” one might say, given that the two main Zionist-left parties, Labor and Meretz, once holding nearly half the seats in Knesset, won less than 10% of them in March’s elections. The downfall of the Israeli left is undeniable. The reasons for it, however, are more complex than a simple “most Israelis are on the right” explanation. In this talk, Dr. Yaron Ayalon will explore the myriad factors that have led to the collapse of the political left in Israel, what this might mean for Israeli democracy, and possible ways for the Zionist left to reinvent itself and once again become relevant in Israeli political discourse.

Yaron Ayalon joined the College of Charleston in July 2019 as Associate Professor of Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies and the Director of the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program. You can read Dr. Ayalon’s Letter from the Director on page 2.

From second to left: Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, MK Stav Shafir (both formerly from Labor), and chairman of Meretz Party Nitzan Horowitz after announcing the foundation of the Democratic Union, a new left-wing party, on July 25, 2019.
The Center’s spring semester ended on a high note—a two-week institute titled “Privilege and Prejudice: Jewish History in the American South.” With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we brought 25 “summer scholars” to Charleston for a boot camp on southern Jewish history.

“Spectacularly successful!” one participant wrote when it ended. “I am still reeling (as I’m sure many of my co-participants are) in the aftermath of such an intense and rewarding experience. To the likely chagrin of many of my friends and family members, I can’t shut up about all I learned and how moving it was from start to finish.”

“Incredible,” exclaimed another. “Such a wonderfully curated experience with such a diverse and energized array of participants. It was something really special. I am already nostalgic for it.”

Using Addlestone Library room 360 as home base, we offered an intensive program of discovery led by top faculty in the field. Braving record high temperatures we moved our exploration outside, taking walking tours around the city and field trips to historic sites, including Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim and its Coming Street cemetery, the Old Slave Mart Museum, the Holocaust Memorial in Marion Square, and the new Reconstruction monument in Beaufort.

Summer scholars experienced a virtual tour of our newly launched online exhibit, Mapping Jewish Charleston, and had a sneak peek at The Shapell Roster, the first-ever comprehensive data archive documenting the Jewish soldiers who served in the American Civil War. To coincide with A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto, we helped design a range of public programs, including an organ and choral concert created by Indiana University professor Judah M. Cohen and a feature film series, “Southern Jewish Life on the Big Screen.”(For the full schedule, go to: jewishsouthsummer.cofc.edu/schedule.)

For me, our joyous grand finale—a southern Shabbat supper curated by Marcie Cohen Ferris and Hanna Raskin, coordinated by Jonathan Ray, and cooked by Kevin Mitchell and Trey Dutton—was bittersweet because the evening doubled as a send-off to my dear friend and colleague Shari Rabin, who has accepted a position at Oberlin College, in northeast Ohio. In her stead, I have stepped back up to the position of director of the Center, with CofC history professor Adam Domby as new associate director.

Looking forward: With fellow institute co-director Michael R. Cohen, chair of Jewish Studies at Tulane University, Shari and I will report on “Privilege and Prejudice” at the upcoming Southern Jewish Historical Society meeting in Charlottesville, October 25-27. I plan to be in Spartanburg November 9–10 for the fall JHSSC meeting. And on November 17, the Center will host North Carolina’s Leonard Rogoff for a Sunday brunch talk on southern women suffragists, anticipating the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote.
THE ZUCKER/GOLDBERG CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

David Slucki and Ted Rosengarten

Many students of history have pointed out recently that the Holocaust did not begin with Auschwitz, but culminated in it. Who in their wildest dreams could foresee that the Hitlerites would turn their lethal fantasies into reality? Yet the signs were there, and identifying the small steps that led to the annihilation of the Jews of Europe is what drives the mission of the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies. It is our aim to point out the signs that heralded the machinery of death in order to prevent its recurrence. The Holocaust was a catastrophe for Jews worldwide, but it was also a profound tragedy for humanity. We seek to investigate these broader implications.

The Zucker/Goldberg Center is one of the most robust of its kind in the southeast. We provide opportunities for students to study the Holocaust and other genocides from a range of perspectives. From our general history of the Holocaust course; to our more specialist courses that focus on Nazi medicine, Holocaust memory, and Holocaust literature; to our ever-popular study abroad trip to Europe, our offerings are comprehensive. We offer research grants for students to deepen their study of the Holocaust, we host leading scholars in the field, and our own teachers and researchers help to put the Center on the world stage.

With the marked rise of intolerance in the United States and elsewhere, in the form of racism, antisemitism, xenophobia, misogyny, ableism, homophobia, and transphobia, the study of the Holocaust, its causes and consequences, is more urgent than ever. Whether you are a student, community member, or alumnus of the College, we hope to see you involved in our activities.

Finally, a Mazel Tov is in order: Ted Rosengarten's pioneering book, *All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw*, was recently recognized by *The New York Times* as one of the top fifty memoirs of the past fifty years (coming in at 12th, right behind Philip Roth, and a couple of places ahead of Amos Oz). We wish Ted a hearty Mazel Tov!
Odd as it may sound, I’ve been feeling particularly inspired recently by the salon culture that swept Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. Open to the public and often taking place in the private homes of well-to-do women, salons provided a platform for social gatherings where folks engaged in the art of conversation in pursuit of new ideas and fellowship with friends and neighbors. By design, salons did not impose a particular political agenda or worldview, and they did not dictate the end of a conversation. Rather, they were made better due to a diversity of opinions.

In a time of increasing polarization within and far beyond the American Jewish community, now feels like an opportune time for a resurgence of salon culture. With your partnership and participation, the Jewish Studies Program is well-poised to provide a platform and venue for these conversations to take place. I’m not sure what these will look like – we need to figure that out together – but our regular offerings of Sunday morning lectures and Monday evening screenings, discussions, and mini-seminars are a good starting point. One real effort the Jewish Studies team will be making in the coming semesters is to shift our public programming from frontal lectures behind a podium, to living room-style conversations. We invite you to be part of these conversations by attending and participating, and by letting us know what topics would be of interest to you.

To be able to “think big” about what type of community organization we want to be is a luxury afforded to the Jewish Studies Program by so many of you - loyal friends and donors who have sustained Jewish Studies with your time, talent, and treasure for more than thirty years. You have supported our annual Friends of Jewish Life campaign, and generously funded capital projects and centers of academic excellence. You have included Jewish Studies in your wills and estates through the Life & Legacy Program or Cistern Society, and you have funded scholarships that make attendance at the College that much more attainable, especially for out-of-state students. Philanthropy both large and small has been the catalyst for our Program, and it is what will allow us to advance the Program further still in terms of national recognition and local impact on our students and community members alike.

Many, many thanks to those individuals listed below – and to the anonymous donors not listed – who through an endowment, planned gift, or by participating in the Life & Legacy Program will ensure that the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program remains vibrant long into the future. If you would like to learn more about making a planned gift or supporting the Program in any other way, it would be my pleasure to discuss giving options with you.

Truly, the best is yet to come for Jewish Studies, and we need your help to make it so. If you are interested in attending a program, have an idea for an event that we might offer, or to support our various initiatives in academic instruction, Jewish student life, or community outreach, I am only a phone call (843.953.4930) or e-mail (swickmn@cofc.edu) away. I look forward to seeing you soon in the Jewish Studies Salon.

Anonymous (9) *
Ami Abramson *
Marlene Addlestone *
Norman z"l & Gerry Sue Arnold +
David & Esther Beckman *
Jaclyn Berlinsky *
Donald & Barbara Bernstein *
Daniel & Ellie Billen z"l +
Gabriel & Elisa Bluestein *
Ben Chase *
Susan Chase *
Jeffrey Cohen *
Ellen Elmaleh *
Stanley Farbstein z"l +*
Dennis & Terry Fisher *
Janet & Harvey Friedman *
Charles z"l & Harriet Goldberg *
Samuel & Regina Greene z"l +*
Ellen Hoffman *
Marilyn Hoffman *
Eli & Ann-Therese Hyman *
Enid Idelsohn *
Stan & Pam Kaplan +
Stanley z"l Charlot Karesh +
Ava & Bruce Kleinman *
Michael S Kogan *
Edward & Amy Kronberg *
Milton & Freddie Kronberg z"l +
Rachel & Jim Landis *
Ted & Rose Levin *
Howard & Julie Levine +
Larry & Jan Lipov +*
Wendy Marcus *
Daniel Melrod +
David & Risa Milbauer *
Stuart & Marcia Miller *
Mike & Shirley Mills *
Anahita Modaresi & Daniel Perlmutter *
Carol & Allan z"l Myel *
Arnold Nemirov +
Alan & Neda Nussbaum *
Edwin Pearlstine *+
Susan Pearlstine *+

Marty & Jeri Perlmutter *
Gerald & Beth Polis +
Michael & Erica Rabhan *
Leo & Helen Reese z"l +
Arelene Rosenthal *
Herbert Rosner +
Mindelle Seltzer +
Sam & Gina Shapiro +
Harold “Buzzy” Sherman z"l *
Howard Sherman +
Ivan Sherman *
Sigmund Schildcrout +
Zipporah Solomons z"l +
Raymond & Florence Stern z"l +
Louis Tick *
Henry & Sylvia Yaschik z"l +
Mindelle & Loren Ziff *
Jerry z"l & Anita Zucker *

* Planned Gift
+ Endowment
NEWS NOTES

• The Jewish Community is invited to attend the annual **Sullivan’s Island Welcome Back Beach Day** with family, friends, and neighbors, **Sunday, September 1st** from 10AM-12PM on SI at Staion 28 1/2. A family-friendly event, the community beach day is an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones at the beginning of a school year.

• **Mazel Tov** to Dale Rosengarten, Shari Rabin, and the team behind the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture’s successful NEH seminar, “Privilege and Prejudice: Jewish History in the American South” which was held May 26th - June 7th in Charleston. 25 participants from a range of disciplines learned from foremost scholars who illuminated Southern Jewish history within the larger context of the American South. See Dale’s Center Update on p.8 for more information.

• **L’hitraot** (see you later) and **b’hatzlacha** (good luck!) to Jewish Studies Assistant Professor Shari Rabin who departed Charleston this summer for a position in Jewish Studies at Oberlin College in Ohio.

• **Mazel Tov** to Assistant Professor David Slucki, whose memoir *Sing This at My Funeral* was published in July by Wayne State Press. You can hear directly from Prof. Slucki when he delivers our first Sunday lecture of the semester on September 8th at 10AM. See p.4 for more information.

• Congratulations to Zucker/Goldberg Professor of Holocaust Studies Ted Rosengarten, whose 1974 memoir *All God’s Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw* is included in the New York Times’s list of The 50 Best Memoirs of the Past 50 Years.

• After a successful 25th Anniversary celebration and debut, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is touring its **Jewish Merchant Project Exhibit** this Fall and into the Spring. Interested in hosting the exhibit in your community? Let us know!

• Jewish Studies is seeking individuals interested in participating in a Yiddish Club. A biss’l Yiddish will be fun and interactive - and a nosh will always be served. Those interested should contact Community Liaison Mark Swick at **swickmn@cofc.edu**.

ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE FOR FALL 2019 CLASSES
(You no longer have to go to the Admissions Office.)

You must have permission from each instructor to audit or repeat a course. Find permission forms at registrar.cofc.edu/forms/index

Then bring your form or email to Enid Idelsohn at idelsohne@cofc.edu. Enid will have the instructor approve you and then send your form to the registrar to have them enter you as an auditing student. Once that is all done, you will need to go to the Treasurer’s Office to pay your fee. You will be able to attend the first day of classes!

Remaining dates to register online are August 17 - August 27, 2019

South Carolina residents who are over 60 years old are eligible to enroll in regular College of Charleston courses on a space-available basis for a fee of $50 per semester.
In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said: “Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” Yet how should writers, artists, and filmmakers fill the void left by the Holocaust? In our course, we will study survivor testimonies before turning to second and third generation fictional representations of the Holocaust. We will analyze key themes and ideas faced by writers and artists: Is it ethical for writers and artists to create literature and art from the ashes of Auschwitz? Through poems, short stories, novels, essays, comics, paintings, photographs, and films, we will explore the difficult issue of creating ethical representations of the Holocaust.
Founded in 1984, the Jewish Studies Program and our student group, JSU/Hillel have been active for a small fraction of the College of Charleston’s 250-year history. In that short time, however, Jewish Studies has impacted and been impacted by hundreds of dedicated and talented students, many of whom leave an indelible mark on the Program. This section celebrates our alumni accomplishments, and affords an opportunity to reflect on how far we’ve come.

Do you know an alumnus who should be featured here? Let us know at swickmn@cofc.edu.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: SIERRA DEBROW ‘17

Originally from Charleston, South Carolina, Sierra Debrow grew up calling the Holy City their hometown. They were an active member of Synagogue Emanu-El as well as Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim’s youth group. When applying for colleges, Sierra was drawn to the vibrant history of the College of Charleston, the dynamic Jewish student population, and the many opportunities that the College of Charleston provided for students to engage with the larger community through social justice initiatives and involvement in city-wide events. Sierra was also the recipient of the Samuel R. and Regina K. Shapiro Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship, awarded to students who plan to be involved with the Jewish Studies Program or the JSU/Hillel, helped Sierra discover their passion for helping Jewish spaces be more accessible for people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

After graduating from the College in 2017, Sierra became an Education Fellow for the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life. As a Fellow, Sierra served 13 synagogues throughout the Southern United States, writing and implementing religious school curriculum and innovative programming for students of all ages. “The College helped me develop a deeper understanding of American Judaism. My experiences as a member of the JSU/Hillel board pushed me to think on my feet and approach Jewish educational programming from a whole new perspective. Because of my time at the College of Charleston and because of the Jewish Studies Program, my time as an Education Fellow felt like a natural next step – one that I was both prepared for and excited to take.” In August of 2019, Sierra Debrow will pursue their Masters of Social Work at Washington University in Saint Louis.
I am thrilled to join the College of Charleston as the Director of the Jewish Student Union/Hillel! I come to the Program after several years at Capital Camps, a Jewish overnight camp in Waynesboro, PA, where I was responsible for recruitment and marketing. During my time with Capital Camps (based in Rockville, MD), I also served as a BBYO advisor and as a facilitator for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington’s JTeen Philanthropy program. I have earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Salisbury University. At both schools, I was an active Hillel participant and student leader. So it is only natural that I come to CofC with much excitement. I am honored to bring my skills and experiences from various Jewish communal organizations to strengthen Jewish student life at the College of Charleston, and to help students find their home away from home at Hillel, and the Jewish Studies Center.

As the Director of the Jewish Student Union/Hillel, I will work alongside Pamela as well as the JSU/Hillel student board members, a team of interns, and the Student Affairs Division at the College of Charleston. Our team will be responsible for all aspects related to the development and execution of Jewish student life initiatives and programs on campus.

As a newcomer to Charleston, I am eager to build connections on campus and in the broader community. I can't wait to meet you! Please feel free to visit my office on the second floor of the Jewish Studies Center, say hello, or email me at silverdj@cofc.edu to set up a coffee date!

JSU/Hillel students gather at a Wednesday night Meet-to-Eat (L), and volunteer at the Fisher House.

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JSU/HILLEL STUDENT LEADERS

Students are at the core of all that we do in the Jewish Studies Program and JSU/Hillel, both as attendees, and as leaders amongst their peers. Thank you to the many students who plan and execute our day-to-day initiatives.

JSU/Hillel Student Board
- President- Izzy Dubrow, Canton, GA
- Vice President- Maddie Grosoff, Atlanta, GA
- Director of Communications- Caroline Schneider, Alexandria, VA
- Jewish Education Chair- Emilie Crossan, Hampton, GA
- Tikkun Olam Chair- Kyra Swartz, Charlotte, NC
- Israel Chair- Jessie Berner, Fairfax, VA
- Networking and Outreach Chair- Lainey Komorofsky, San Antonio, TX
Shalom! My name is Izzy Dubrow and have been proud to serve as the President of the CofC JSU/Hillel since January 2019. I am a rising senior from outside of Philadelphia, double-majoring in Psychology and Business Administration. On campus I am involved with the Cougar Counseling Team, serve as the Treasurer of Psi Chi, and am an active member of Phi Eta Sigma and Omicron Delta Kappa. JSU/Hillel has helped me to develop and nurture friendships, and has created a “home away from home” for students across campus. My college experience would not have been the same were I not involved with such an incredible organization and group of people. I appreciate JSU/Hillel being more than just a section of a building that we utilize for events throughout the week; it is truly a welcoming space filled with students, staff, and faculty who provide a meaningful Jewish life for students across campus.

One of the biggest shifts in the past academic year has been the increase in drop-in and casual events interspersed among our more routine medium-and large-scale events. Our students are constantly on the move; busy with academics, extracurricular activities, jobs, internships, and more. Our board and interns have responded accordingly by crafting events and changing strategies to accommodate this trend, and give yet more students an opportunity to engage with Jewish life. Jessie Berner, Israel Chair, planned a “Hummus Taste Test” in Cougar Mall, and Lainey Komorofsky, Chair of Networking and Outreach, began a new favorite in the Student Lounge: "Schmooze with Jews", a morning bagel drop in between classes. Meanwhile, Birthright Intern, Hannah Miner, and Engagement Intern, Jordana Gruber, adjusted their tabling tactics by adding snacks, new Hillel “merchandise”, business cards, and more, to attract students to their initiatives. Programs and strategies such as these have improved event attendance, engaged students of all backgrounds, and physically brought JSU/Hillel to students.

In the Spring 2019 newsletter, I wrote about the amazing opportunity I have had this past academic year to work closely with the JSU/Hillel student board. This January we welcomed our new Hillel Student Board, with Izzy Dubrow and Maddie Grossoff serving as President and Vice President respectively. They settled beautifully into their new roles, and have spent the Spring semester working with members of the board to revitalize programming and bring new opportunities to students.

At The Citadel, we not only continued our joint CofC-Citadel dinners, but also had the opportunity to learn multiple times from Shai Bibas, the Charleston Jewish Federation’s former Israel Emissary, through a three-part series on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. At the conclusion of the series, the cadets expressed a greater understanding and appreciation for the complexities of the conflict, and also for the opinions of their peers. We wrapped up the year by bidding farewell to three incredible seniors, cadets Rowan Brooks, Josh Kreitzer, and Josh Ganezer. All three have been integral in helping shape this organization into what it has become, and really stepped up as mentors for underclassmen during their time at The Citadel. Going into the 2019-2020 school year, the cadets are looking to implement monthly volunteer opportunities, as well as continue to increase interactions with students involved in the JSU/Hillel. If you are interested in bringing a dinner to a Monday night meeting for Jewish cadets, please contact me at ppartrid@citadel.edu.

Shalom! My name is Izzy Dubrow and have been proud to serve as the President of the CoC JSU/Hillel since January 2019. I am a rising senior from outside of Philadelphia, double-majoring in Psychology and Business Administration. On campus I am involved with the Cougar Counseling Team, serve as the Treasurer of Psi Chi, and am an active member of Phi Eta Sigma and Omicron Delta Kappa. JSU/Hillel has helped me to develop and nurture friendships, and has created a “home away from home” for students across campus. My college experience would not have been the same were I not involved with such an incredible organization and group of people. I appreciate JSU/Hillel being more than just a section of a building that we utilize for events throughout the week; it is truly a welcoming space filled with students, staff, and faculty who provide a meaningful Jewish life for students across campus.

Our spring semester was full of student-planned events involving our core values: Connection, Inclusivity, Leadership, Tikvun Olam, and Israel. This past semester, to celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut, our Israel Chair planned IsraelFest, an outdoor festival celebrating Israel’s 71st birthday, which had well over 100 attendees. Earlier in the semester, our Tikvun Olam Chair oversaw our biannual visit to Carolina Youth Development Center, as well as introduced a new volunteer opportunity for students at Fisher House, which hosts and assists veterans and their families while they are being treated at Charleston’s Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. A group of students prepared and cooked dinner for families on a bi-weekly volunteer schedule. Meet-to-Eats, which engaged more than 450 individual students this past semester, as well as Shabbat dinners and services, have continuously helped students connect with their peers, and with their own Jewish identities, while also welcoming students who are new to campus, or new to the Jewish Studies Center. Happily, each board member has the help of committee members to help plan and execute their events, thereby further increasing student engagement.

I am grateful for my personal experiences and relationships within JSU/Hillel that have helped shape my college career, and look forward to ensuring that my peers have a similarly positive experience during their time at the College of Charleston.
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**ADVISORY BOARD**

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- **Hymie Bielsky** - Charleston
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The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program Newsletter is published twice a year, coinciding with the academic calendar at the College of Charleston. Written by Mark Swick, with contributions by others. Design and layout by Enid Idelsohn.