FROM THE DIRECTOR
Martin Perlmutter, Director, Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program

This update will have three different dimensions, each of which is worthy of an entire letter by itself.

First, in anticipation of a transition in leadership, Jewish Studies continues to make many structural changes. The fundamental idea is to offload many of the functions of Jewish Studies, functions that I have been involved with in various ways over the years. That offloading’s purpose is two-fold: (1) making the director’s position attractive to a successor, and (2) institutionalizing many of these new functions that Jewish Studies has adopted and increasing the College’s capacity for accomplishing them.

These structural changes have made a huge and altogether positive difference to the day-to-day operations of Jewish Studies. Jewish Studies is in a different place than just a few years ago. Mark Swick oversees community outreach, the annual campaign, and the Advisory Board; Becca Diamond directs the Jewish Student Union/Hillel; Jessica Lilly coordinates the operations and outreach dimension of Jewish student life; Helen Slucki works with the Admissions Office to attract Jewish students to the College; Marsha Alterman is in charge of the Jewish cadets at the Citadel; Dee Dee Arthur is the chef and coordinates the JSU/Hillel food activities; John King oversees the endowment and major gift activities for Jewish Studies; and Enid Idelsohn remains the Program’s irreplaceable administrative backbone. I still have a job description, though it is far more “executive” than I ever imagined it would be. I make less coffee now and do far less shopping, but I have found new joy in working with capable and energetic people who make sure that it all happens.

The Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation has been key to creating many of these new positions. They have funded many of them, often over numerous years, until we were able to institutionalize those roles and have them funded by the College. Jewish Studies is deeply indebted to them for their ongoing generous support.

Second, this will be Anita Zucker’s last semester as chair of the Advisory Board. Not only has she done an extraordinary job of leadership, but she has continued the long-standing Zucker family role in advocacy, in philanthropy, and in leadership. Jewish Studies would not be at all where it is without the late Jerry’s and Anita’s support. They have been with Jewish Studies at every juncture. Anita has also been a terrific personal friend through it all. Words can’t convey my gratitude.

Third, Marty’s Place will open on January 10th as a vegan/vegetarian kosher dining hall. That is a major step forward in terms of creating a national presence for Jewish Studies, and in attracting Jewish students to the College. On the College side, both Steve Osborne, the Executive VP for Business Affairs, and George Watt, the Executive VP for Institutional Advancement, have spent many hours to bring about this new reality, and the Program is deeply in their debt. Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold and Anita Zucker have been the major donors to the new facility, graciously honoring me with their donations, by naming the facility after me. I am deeply thankful for their interest in honoring me, even if more than a little embarrassed by the subsequent naming in my honor.

Marty’s Place is a community facility, mirroring the town-gown collaboration that has produced such good outcomes for Jewish Studies and the College of Charleston. The success of the dining hall depends on your patronage. Please make it a point to eat there. Most of the diners will not be vegan, vegetarian, or kosher observant, so you will not be at all out of place if you are otherwise a carnivore. We will extend to you the opportunity of observing Meatless Monday every day of the work week.

Very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2016.

On the cover: Jewish Studies building addition, housing the Martin Perlmutter Dining Hall, (Marty’s Place) and state of the art classrooms. Cover photo by Leslie McKellar. Marty’s photo by Adam Chandler.
NOTE FROM THE CHAIR
Anita Zucker, Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

As many of you know, I am spread pretty thin. My interests and commitments far exceed the time that I have and even the resources that my family has been blessed with. Tikkun Olam, bettering a fractured world, is a very large, altogether overwhelming project. In fact, the rabbis were so aware of this facet of Tikkun Olam that they insisted that our inability to accomplish the result should not ever be used as an excuse not to begin the project (Pirkei Avot 2:21).

Balancing the various dimensions of my personal commitments has been a real challenge. But I have noticed that two aspects of the "overwhelming" project resonate for me, and speak to my soul. The Jewish piece is one. I am proud to be Jewish, proud even to be a product of the Holocaust, and my Jewishness defines who I am and what I care about. Education is the other; it too is an important part of who I am and what I care about. I am still a school teacher at heart and believe that education opens doors to self-realization and opportunity in the best possible way.

So, Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston is special to me. Some of it is very personal. My late husband Jerry and I have proudly supported the Jewish Studies Program for many years, almost since the Program’s inception. Jerry made the first challenge gift and served as chair of the Advisory Board for quite a few years. The Program has made a huge difference to both the College and the larger Charleston community. It has been a joy to watch it grow. Without a doubt, it has exceeded everyone’s expectations, both at the College and in the community.

In creating a thriving, multifaceted program at the College, Jewish Studies has become a vehicle in which my personal passions for education and for things Jewish are both expressed in a dynamic way, creating tangible results in framing a vibrant and integrated reality for students and community members alike. The fact that academic offerings, Jewish student life activities, and community outreach all exist under one roof creates a whole that is larger than the sum of its parts. I am blown away by large-scale events such as Chanukah in the Square and A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto, or by the new kosher vegan/vegetarian dining hall, all spawned by Jewish Studies at the College.

With my term as Chair of the Jewish Studies Advisory Board coming to a close at the end of this academic year, it is my pleasure to thank Marty publicly for all that he has done for the Program and for our community. He has made a real difference to the College, to Charleston, and to my family. I am proud to have him as a friend.

Anita G. Zucker
Chair, Advisory Board

OPENING CELEBRATION
MARTY’S PLACE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016
96 WENTWORTH STREET
1:30 – 3:30PM

Please join us on January 10th as we hold the grand opening of the College’s newest dining hall, named in honor of Dr. Martin Perlmutter. Marty’s Place will be strictly vegetarian with vegan meal options, and will be certified as kosher under the Kosher Commission of Charleston. Marty’s Place will accept student meal plans, as well as cash and credit, and be open to the entire Charleston community. The hours of operation will be Monday - Thursday from 11am-8pm and Friday from 11am-3pm

Coinciding with January’s Second Sunday on King Street, the grand opening event will take place on Sunday, January 10th from 1:30-3:30PM at 96 Wentworth Street, is open to the public, and will feature free samples, Marty’s Place giveaways, and a CofC student raffle.
JESUS, THE JEWISH STORYTELLER

AMY-JILL LEVINE

Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

The parables of Jesus – “prodigal son,” “good Samaritan,” “pearl of great price,” etc. – were originally Jewish stories told to Jews. However, through centuries of Christian interpretation, often anti-Jewish interpretations have replaced the original messages. What might the parables have sounded like to the Jewish people who first heard them, and how might they serve the purposes of Jewish/Christian dialogue today?


LIFE AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW:
IS THERE HOPE FOR JEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA?

ADAM MENDELSOHN

Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

Two years after the death of Nelson Mandela, the shine seems to have gone out of the self-described “rainbow nation.” When we hear of South Africa in the news we hear of economic crisis, poor leadership, populist politics, police brutality, and xenophobic violence. South Africa’s foreign policy is also worrisome, cozying up to China, hosting a Hamas delegation, and flirting with the BDS movement. Is there any realistic hope for a Jewish future in South Africa?

Adam Mendelsohn is Director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at the University of Cape Town, the only center of its kind in Africa. He is the author of The Rag Race (2015), winner of the National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies; and co-editor of Jews and the Civil War: A Reader (with Jonathan D. Sarna, 2011) and Transnational Traditions (with Ava Kahn, 2014). Professor Mendelsohn taught in the Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston from 2008-2015.

ALL WHO LEAVE:
THE INSULAR WORLD OF THE HASIDIM
AND THE JOURNEY AWAY FROM IT

SHULEM DEEN

Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

Among Hasidic Jews, outside culture is shunned, secular studies are avoided, and questioning fundamental beliefs is considered dangerous. What happens to those who find themselves at odds with this traditional but heavily restrictive lifestyle? Shulem Deen will discuss his former life among the Hasidim, the faith crisis that pit him against the rabbinical authorities in his community, and the heavy cost of extricating himself from his former world.

Shulem Deen is the author of All Who Go Do Not Return (Graywolf, 2015), a memoir about growing up among and then leaving the Skverers, one of the most insular Hasidic sects in the U.S. He is a columnist for the Forward, and his work has appeared in The New Republic, Salon, and Tablet Magazine. In 2015, Deen was included in the Forward 50, an annual list of American Jews with outsized roles on political and social issues. He serves as a board member at Footsteps, a New York City-based organization that offers assistance and support to those who have left the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community. He lives in Brooklyn.
Steve Stern is the author of several novels and story collections, including The Frozen Rabbi, Lazar Malkin Enters Heaven, and The Wedding Jester, which won the National Jewish Book Award. He’s been the recipient of grants from the Fulbright and Guggenheim foundations, and is a writer-in-residence at Skidmore College. His most recent book is the novel The Pinch (Graywolf, 2015).

Steve Stern began researching the city’s vanished Jewish ghetto called the Pinch. A reform Jew with little knowledge (or even interest) in his heritage, Stern was unprepared for the seismic shock of discovery. His encounter with the historical Pinch unearthed a mother lode of culture and tradition that was, to his mind, a little like the magical energies King David released when he tried to move the Foundation Stone into the Holy of Holies. In this talk, Stern will attempt to describe the consequences of the collision of an ancient Jewish folk consciousness with the contemporary world, and how those consequences may inform our understanding of the modern Jewish experience.

Steve Stern is the author of several novels and story collections, including The Frozen Rabbi, Lazar Malkin Enters Heaven, and The Wedding Jester, which won the National Jewish Book Award. He’s been the recipient of grants from the Fulbright and Guggenheim foundations, and is a writer-in-residence at Skidmore College. His most recent book is the novel The Pinch (Graywolf, 2015).

**Co-sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture.**

**MOVING FORWARD: REFLECTIONS ON MY RETIREMENT FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL RABBINATE**

**RABBI JUDY SCHINDLER**

Sunday, March 27, 2016 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

After 21 years in the congregational rabbinate, Rabbi Judy Schindler has chosen to focus the next chapter of her rabbinic work on academics and social justice. She will discuss her motivation for transitioning away from the pulpit into the academic world and share reflections and insights from her role as Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El, the largest synagogue in the Carolinas. How has the role of the synagogue changed over the past two decades? What are the greatest challenges facing the synagogue of today? What are the strengths? What are the joys and frustrations of the congregational rabbinate and what are the most significant tasks facing Jewish leadership today?

Rabbi Judy Schindler is senior Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, NC, and has served there since 1998. Rabbi Schindler has worked extensively to promote racial and ethnic understanding and address the social needs of the Charlotte community. In honor of her efforts Rabbi Schindler was named Charlotte Woman of the Year in 2011. She is the daughter of the late Rabbi Alexander Schindler who was president of the Union for Reform Judaism from 1973-1995. In August 2016, Rabbi Schindler will become an associate professor of Jewish Studies and director of the Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University in Charlotte.

**A REGION AND WORLD GONE CRAZY: THE IMPACT ON ISRAEL AND JEWS**

**KENNETH JACOBSON**

Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

This century has seen new regional threats in the Middle East – ISIS, Al Qaeda, and radical Islam – and a world stage in which these threats have become manifest. Israel and the world Jewish community are particularly vulnerable to these new threats, since the anti-Western rhetoric and ideology often focus on both the Jewish state and the Jewish people. Kenneth Jacobson will address the worrisome impact of this new reality.

Kenneth Jacobson joined the Anti-Defamation League staff in 1972 and currently serves as its Deputy National Director, responsible for overseeing and coordinating the formulation of ADL’s policy and its implementation. Mr. Jacobson is the author of numerous publications, including The Protocols: Myth and History, The Middle East: Questions and Answers, The Middle East ‘Post’ Lebanon, and US Aid to the Middle East: A Look Back, A Look Ahead. By popular demand, Ken returns each April for an informative and engaging presentation.
READING HEBREW: INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED
INSTRUCTORS: NITSA AUERBACH AND SHULA HOLTZ
5:25–6:40pm in Room 209 and Room 323, Jewish Studies Center
Mondays, January 11–April 18, 2016
(No class on January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Reading Hebrew is an informal, weekly course teaching students how to read
Hebrew. It is aimed at those who have rusty skills and are interested in
developing more skills. The focus is reading, not language comprehension.
There will be intermediate and advanced levels offered at the same time.
Participants are requested to attend all class meetings. Registration is not
required. The course is free of charge and open to the entire community. It
cannot be taken for college credit. There will be a small charge for the text used
in each class. The sessions are weekly 75-minute classes, taught by native
Hebrew speakers Shula Holtz (Advanced), who has been teaching the class
since its inception, and Nitza Auerbach (Intermediate), a native of Tel Aviv and
graduate of Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

MEDICINE AND MORALS: JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS
RABBI HESH EPSTEIN
Mondays, January 11, February 8, March 14, and April 4, 2016
7:00pm in Arnold Hall
With medicine’s increasing role in our lives, many of us will have to face complex ethical issues
relating to medical decisions at some point or another. Medicine and Morals is based on two
premises: that Jewish wisdom has much to say about these matters and that the best time to deal
with them is now.

This course is your chance to engage the subject of medical ethics, discuss actual case histories,
and get a sense of direction about difficult medical conditions.

January 11: Choosing Life: The Obligation to Seek Treatment
February 8: Flesh of My Flesh: Organ Transplants in Jewish Law
March 14: New Beginnings: The Ethics of Reproductive Technologies
April 4: Secret Code: Genetics and the Ethics of Patient Confidentiality

Rabbi Hesh Epstein has been the Executive Director of Chabad Lubavitch of South Carolina since 1987. His evening
courses have become a regular and popular fixture of Jewish Studies Community education offerings.

BEING A JEWISH WOMAN IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
RABBI SETH FARBER
Monday, February 15, 2016 at 7:00PM
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center
Israel is the only true democracy in the Middle East. With its unique version of synagogue/state relations, there are incredible
opportunities for women but also no shortage of challenges. In this lecture, Rabbi Seth Farber will address some of the
contemporary issues of synagogue and state in contemporary Israel.

Seth Farber is a Modern Orthodox rabbi and historian. A graduate of New York University, Rabbi
Farber was ordained by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University in 1991,
received his MA in Judaic Studies from Yeshiva University in 1995, and a PhD from the Hebrew
University in Jerusalem in 2000. The New York Times called Farber a “pragmatic idealist” who believes
that Orthodox Jews – including the rabbinate – and non-Orthodox Jews need to learn to “to trust
each other” sufficiently to work together on difficult issues of personal status.

Co-sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Charleston, SC
MONDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

All films start at 7:00pm, and will be shown in Arnold Hall.

Popcorn and refreshments will be served.

Mondays, January 25, February 22, March 28, April 11, and April 18, 2016
7:00pm in Arnold Hall

Each semester, the Jewish Studies Program presents a series of films on a different topic. Join us this Spring for a series of five movies focusing on and exemplifying Jewish humor in the cinema. A discussion about the films will take place after each screening led by Professor David Slucki. Screenings are free and open to the public.

The Marx Brother’s Duck Soup, January 25 (1933, 68min)
The small state of Freedonia is in a financial mess, borrowing a huge sum of cash from wealthy widow Mrs. Teasdale. She insists on replacing the current president with crazy Rufus T. Firefly and mayhem erupts. To make matters worse, the neighboring state sends inept spies Chicolini and Pinky to obtain top secret information, creating even more chaos!

The Producers, February 22 (1967, 88min)
Down-on-his-luck theatrical producer Max Bialystock is forced to romance rich old ladies to finance his efforts. When timid accountant Leo Bloom reviews Max’s accounting books, the two hit upon a way to make a fortune by producing a sure-fire flop. The play which is to be their gold mine?


Funny Girl March 28 (1968, 149min)
Plain faced Fanny Brice rises to stardom on the New York Vaudeville Stage and maintains a turbulent marriage with suave gambler Nicky Arnstein. With Barbra Streisand and Omar Sharif.

Annie Hall, April 11 (1977, 93min)
Alvy Singer, a forty year old twice divorced, neurotic, intellectual Jewish New York stand-up comic, reflects on the demise of his latest relationship, to Annie Hall, an insecure, flighty, Midwestern WASP aspiring nightclub singer. With Woody Allen and Diane Keaton.

The Frisco Kid, April 18 (1979, 119min)
A Polish rabbi wanders through the Old West on his way to lead a synagogue in San Francisco. On the way he is nearly burnt at the stake by Indians and almost killed by outlaws. With Harrison Ford and Gene Wilder.

RABBI DAVID AND BARBARA RADINSKY
Sunday and Monday - March 20th and 21st, 2016
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

Rabbi David Radinsky (Sunday, March 20th, 5:00pm)
Insights into Hannah the Prophetess
On the first day of Rosh Hashonah we read the Haftarah from the Book of Samuel about Hannah, the mother of Samuel the Prophet. When Hannah was childless, she would go to Shiloh to the Portable Temple to beseech God for a child. Rabbi Radinsky will discuss the lessons we learn from Hannah who is a model of prayer even in our modern world.

Barbara Radinsky (Monday, March 21st, 7:00pm)
Great Women, Ruth and Naomi, the Merging of Two Worlds
Ruth and Naomi join together after tragedy and rebuild their lives for the future destiny of the Jewish people. Barbara Radinsky will explore the heroines of the Book of Ruth and the relevant lessons of these role models.

Rabbi David J. Radinsky is a graduate of Yeshiva University and is Rabbi Emeritus of Brith Sholom Beth Israel Congregation (BSBI) in Charleston, having served as its senior rabbi for 34 years. Barbara Cooper Radinsky was born and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, is a graduate of Stern College for Women and The Citadel, and is Rebbetzin Emerita of BSBI. The Radinskys have retired to Memphis to be close to family, and return to Charleston each spring to present to their many long-time friends and to many other new ones.

Welcome Back Reception: Sunday, March 20th at 6:15pm (after first class).
THE MILTON AND FREDDIE KRONSBerg MEMORIAL LECTURE
BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL:
RESHAPING AMERICAN JEWRY
THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL
LEONARD Saxe
KLUTZNICK PROFESSOR OF CONTEMPORARY JEWISH STUDIES
AND SOCIAL POLICY, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Thursday, March 31, 2016, 7:30pm,
Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor)
Corner of Glebe & George Streets

More than 300,000 Jewish American young adults have participated in Birthright Israel since it was launched 15 years ago. Created to “stem the tide of assimilation,” the program has succeeded far beyond what had been expected. A growing body of evidence indicates that the program has enhanced the Jewish identities of its participants and engaged them with their Jewish identities and Israel. Most remarkable is that the program has had dramatic effects both for those with and without prior Jewish education. The lecture will unpack Birthright’s educational strategies and describe how it is reshaping American Jewish life, by altering our notion of Jewish education and changing the demography of the American Jewish community.

Leonard Saxe is Klutznick Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and Social Policy at Brandeis University where he directs the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and the Steinhardt Social Research Institute. Professor Saxe is a social psychologist and leads a program of research on Jewish identity, education and socio-demography. He is the author of more than 300 articles and books, including Ten Days of Birthright Israel (with B. Chazan) and How Goodly are Thy Tents (with A. Sales). He has been a Fulbright Professor at the University of Haifa, a science fellow for the United States Congress, and received the American Psychological Association’s Award for Distinguished Contributions in the Public Interest; in 2012, he was awarded the Marshall Sklare prize for his lifetime contributions to the social scientific study of Jewry.

The Milton Kronsberg Lecture Series began in the Fall of 1999 as a result of a generous endowment by the Kronsberg family. In the Fall of 2002, the series became the Milton and Freddie Kronsberg Memorial Lecture Series because of the passing of Freddie Kronsberg obm. The series honors the Kronsberg’s lifelong commitment to Jewish ideas and values.

CHANUKAH IN THE SQUARE: DECEMBER 6, 2015

The stars aligned for this past Chanukah in the Square. The first night of Chanukah being a Sunday, Chanukah coming early when College of Charleston students were still on campus, a pleasant December Sunday afternoon, and the serendipitous end of the Charleston Christmas parade at Marion Square, all produced by far the largest gathering ever in the eleven year history of Chanukah in the Square with perhaps 2,000 people in attendance. Many thanks to Bi-Lo, our presenting sponsor, and the many volunteers and providers, Contraforce (for the lively Chanukah music), and the stage presence of Anita Zucker, Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr, Mayor-elect John Tecklenburg, and our local Holocaust survivors for making Chanukah in the Square 2015 such a festive event.

Chanukah in 2016 has different stars aligned, with the first candle lighting falling on Christmas Eve and the lighting for the eighth day on New Year’s Eve.
THREE RABBI PANEL: POLITICS IN THE PULPIT
RABBIS ADAM ROSENBAUM, STEPHANIE ALEXANDER, AND MICHAEL DAVIES

Wednesday, April 13, 2015 at 7:30pm
New Science Center Auditorium, Room 129 -- 202 Calhoun Street (at Coming Street)

What, if any, is the appropriate role of politics within the synagogue? Should our rabbis speak on contemporary issues such as Israel, health care, economic justice, the poor, minorities, or civil rights? Or, should the pulpit be used for “Jewish” motifs, areas of specialization to which rabbinic education is addressed and topics about which rabbis have special training and expertise?

In this election year, the news media will focus on the Iran nuclear deal, the Affordable Care Act, the declining middle class, Syrian immigration, and the discriminatory ways in which African Americans are treated by the police. So too, politicians will address ISIS, Al Qaeda, and the threat of radical Islam. How might these issues be discussed from the pulpit, if they are discussed at all?

Join us as Rabbis Stephanie Alexander (KKBE), Adam Rosenbaum (Emanu-El) and Michael Davies (Dor Tikvah) reflect on the ways in which the political landscape plays a role in their denominations, their own sermons and teaching, and within their specific congregations.

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: FACES OF ORTHODOX JUDAISM
RABBIS MICHAEL DAVIES, MOSHE DAVIS, AND HESH EPSTEIN

Thursdays, January 21, February 11, and March 17, 2016
12:30 –1:30pm in Arnold Hall

Presented by local rabbis, this three-part series will focus on the history and diverse issues confronting Orthodox Judaism today.

January 21st – Rabbi Davies: The Past, Present, and Future of Modern Orthodoxy
February 11th – Rabbi Davis: Should Ultra-Orthodox Jews be conscripted into the Israeli Army?
March 17th – Rabbi Epstein: The Rebbe’s Message

A native of New Jersey, Rabbi Michael Davies serves Congregation Dor Tikvah, where he became the synagogue’s first Rabbi in 2013. He earned his BA in accounting from Yeshiva University, where he also received a Certificate in Experiential Jewish Education. He completed his studies for ordination at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University.

Rabbi Hesh Epstein received his Doctorate of Divinity from the Central Lubavitch Rabbinical Seminary in Brooklyn, NY in 1985. Rabbi Epstein is the rabbi of the Chabad Aleph House in Columbia, SC.

Originally from Chicago, Rabbi Moshe Davis received his BA in psychology, MS in Jewish education as well as rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University. He serves Brith Sholom Beth Israel (BSBI) Synagogue as its rabbi.
The object of this course is the development of basic proficiency through practice in the use of basic language skills. Everything happens somewhere. This course will analyze those “somewheres” within American religious history, ranging from churches to prisons, mikvahs to museums. Together we will study a variety of controversies in order to understand how diverse religious spaces have been shaped by political conflict and how space has been significant to discussions of religion in American public life. Using Judaism as a case study, we will explore: Where does religion happen? What is (and what is not) a religious space? How have religious practice and identity been shaped by their settings? How do spaces reflect religious and moral ideas?

**HBRW102.01**

**Elementary Modern Hebrew**

**Oren Segal**

An introduction of fundamental language structures with emphasis on acquisition of basic language skills: reading and listening comprehension, oral and written expression, including speaking. Prerequisite: HBRW 101.

**HBRW202.01**

**Intermediate Modern Hebrew**

**Oren Segal**

The object of this course is the development of basic proficiency through practice in the use of basic language skills emphasized in previous courses, and the acquisition of new vocabulary. Prerequisite: HBRW 201.

**HONS281.01**

**Special Topic: Introduction to Jewish Studies**

**Joshua Shanes**

A multidisciplinary introduction to the history, beliefs, practices, and institutions of the Jewish tradition, from its Biblical foundations to the modern state of Israel.

**JWST210.01**

**JWST210.02**

**Jewish History I: Ancient to Modern**

**Joshua Shanes**

A survey of the social, economic, religious and political experience of the Jewish people in the pre-modern world (from biblical origins through 1700). The course begins its focus just before the destruction of the second Temple (70 C.E.), and continues through the medieval period - paying equal attention to the Jewish experience in the Christian and Moslem worlds - and ends in the seventeenth century, in northwestern Europe, where the transformations of Jewish life in the modern era were already beginning.

**JWST230.01**

**The Holocaust**

**Ted Rosengarten**

Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies

Jewish Studies Center, Arnold Hall (Room 100)

From Hitler’s rise to power in Germany in 1933 to the liberation of the concentration camps in 1945, students will investigate the Holocaust in four stages: the rise of Nazism and the place of Jews in Nazi racial thinking; the expropriation of Jewish rights and property; the removal of Jews from society and their concentration in ghettos and camps; the murder of Europe’s Jewish people according to plan. The class will also consider efforts by nations to rescue Jews and issues of justice, faith, and retribution in the post-Holocaust era.

**JWST310.01/HIST350.01**

**Topics in Jewish History: Jews, Nationalism, and Revolution**

**David Slucki**

This course will explore the transformation of Jewish identity and ideology in the 19th and 20th century, focusing on the development of nationalist and socialist thought among Jews. It will look at the political and social impact that these emerging movements had on the Jewish world, and the implications that Zionism, socialism, and liberalism continue to have on contemporary Jewish life.

**JWST330.01**

**Representations of the Holocaust**

**Ted Rosengarten**

Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies

Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)

Despite historical inaccuracies, artistic deficiencies, and commercial motivations, documentary and dramatic films about the killing of the Jews and other groups deemed by the Nazis as “unworthy of life” continue to impress the Holocaust into popular consciousness. Novels and short stories, museum exhibitions and public memorials, works of fine art and site-specific art shape conventional ways of thinking about this tragic past. This class will probe issues in Holocaust representation, Hollywood and the Holocaust, the entertainment value of mass murder, voyeurism and atrocity, memory and mourning. We will analyze what happened to Jews and non-Jews—gypsies, homosexuals, communists, trade-unionists, defiant Christians, individuals with disabilities—through artistic representations of Hitler’s “final solution.”

**ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS**

*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 $25 for the semester. Permission of the instructor is required for Jewish Studies courses. Call 843.953.5620 for details.*
A BOUNDLESS TIME TO BUILD
JOHN KING, SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Since 2009, The College of Charleston and the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program have been engaged in Boundless, a comprehensive fundraising campaign created to shape the next era of distinction for the College. Culminating in June 2016, Boundless represents a seven-year timeframe, during which the College will raise a total of more than $125 million. The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program itself comprises more than $10 million of that total.

You only need to browse this newsletter to see the tremendous impact donors have on the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program. From scholarships that help attract top-tier high school students, to faculty research and community engagement, the philanthropy of the College’s Jewish community is perhaps unmatched by any other constituency. Many of the programs featured on these pages would not be possible without the generosity of so many individuals.

Why have so many people given? Because every gift—large and small—has helped create an exemplary Jewish Studies Program, unlike any other program in its mission to unite town and gown. Our donors are truly partners in a project to successfully incorporate Jewish Studies into the fabric of both the College and the Charleston community.

When the College fundraising campaign ends in June, its effects will be long-lasting. However, our endeavors will not stop when this campaign comes to an official close. We will continue to build the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program to serve the needs of our students, faculty, and community. Scholarships will remain a priority, as will securing endowment support for the Sunday Morning Lecture Series, faculty and staff development, and the Center for Israel Studies initiative. What’s more, the Boundless campaign has helped to foster a culture of philanthropy at the College of Charleston that will continue to enhance the institution’s fundraising efforts moving forward.

In collaboration with the outstanding faculty and staff who work tirelessly to grow our Jewish Studies Program, I look forward to working with all who wish to include Jewish Studies in their philanthropic ventures. Though I have only been at The College of Charleston for just over a year, the importance of the Program is not lost on me. This is my 11th year working in higher education, and I can honestly say that what has been built here is truly remarkable and unique. The impact that your philanthropy has on not only our students but the broader Charleston community is demonstrated every day.

If you would like to learn more about how you can participate in the Boundless campaign, please do not hesitate to contact me at kingj1@cofc.edu or 843-953-4374.
**GROWING A JEWISH STUDENT PRESENCE**

Helen Slucki, Jewish Student Recruitment Counselor

Last semester went by in a flash! In late September, we again connected with college counselors at the National Association of College and Admissions Counselors annual convention in San Diego. The convention provides the perfect stage for us to speak with counselors who work with Jewish students about the BOUNDLESS opportunities here at the College. In October we were invited to sit on a panel at the JCC in Westchester in New York to talk about our admissions process. We then spent time in New York City meeting with prospective students and their families. Throughout the semester, the Office of Admissions hosted a number of Super Saturdays and Maroon Mondays. These events allowed prospective families several opportunities to visit campus and get a real sense of life here at the College. And of course, our wonderful admissions counselors spent nine weeks on the road continuing the vital work they do in their designated regions to promote Jewish life here at the College.

November 1st was the application deadline for Early Notification, and February 1st is the application deadline for regular decision, so we continue to meet and speak with prospective families from all over the country. It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know these families and present Jewish life at the College. We have a strong applicant base, and the Spring semester will see us working with accepted families with the hope that they will accept our offer, and join us here at the College of Charleston.

Finally, in partnership with the Office of Admissions, this Spring we will again be hosting fly-ins for counselors who work with Jewish students. Fly-ins are wonderful opportunities for us to showcase in person everything our campus has to offer.

As always, if you know of any families who are considering the College of Charleston, please do not hesitate to put them in touch with me - sluckihe@cofc.edu or 843.953.0415.

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**JEWH STUDENT UNION/HILLEL**

Naomi Nudelman, President

This past semester at the Jewish Student Union/Hillel has been so much fun! The student board planned and executed a wide range of events. We proudly hosted a blood drive in cooperation with the Catholic Student Association, a Gift of Life bone marrow registry drive, as well as monthly Challah for Hunger events. We gathered together for our wildly successful annual Rosh Hashanah party, and had small get-togethers for the classes of ‘18 and ‘19. We learned about Israel through a cake-decorating program and we celebrated Judaism with weekly Shabbat services. We shared meals at least twice weekly, with an average of 70 people attending each Sunday bagel brunch, Meet-to-Eat and Shabbat dinner. This spring we will sustain our momentum with our annual Purim party, and events specifically for the classes of 2016 and 2017. We are also looking forward to our annual Avi Shaefer Shabbat and Passover seders. A constant mission infused into our programming is to make the JSU/Hillel a safe and welcoming space for all students, and I truly believe each event has sustained that atmosphere. This semester has been particularly successful in regards to engagement. We have had incredible participation from the freshman class. The key to a vibrant JSU/Hillel community is the continued effort to bring in new students with new ideas, opinions, and passion.

My sincere thanks go out for the support we receive from the greater Charleston community. We are deeply appreciative of all the opportunities provided to us by the local synagogues and other Jewish organizations. We also want to thank the JSU/Hillel staff, Becca and Jessica, for all their hard work and support throughout the year. It has been such an honor serving as the Jewish Student Union/Hillel President this year and I am excited to see what next semester has in store!

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**JSU/HILLEL EXECUTIVE BOARD SPRING 2016**

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REAFFIRMING OUR MISSION
STUDENT LIFE PROGRAM DIRECTOR: BECCA DIAMOND
JEWISH STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR: JESSICA LILLY

When we began working together at the start of the semester, our biggest challenge was to understand the heart of the Program we are a part of. We looked back in the records at old calendars and lists of student leaders to articulate a narrative explaining the essence of what our program does. After significant research and reflection, we crafted a mission statement which reads as follows:

The mission of the College of Charleston JSU/Hillel is to provide for students, regardless of their origin or destination, a pathway for meaningful engagement with Judaism in order to foster individual growth, strengthen the Jewish community, and enhance student life at the College of Charleston.

The student board made it very clear to us from the start that the JSU/Hillel is a special place because it does not matter what one’s background is; day school or summer camp, Reconstructionist or non-denominational, secular or religious, Jewish or non-Jewish, regardless of their origin or destination, our doors are open to all who seek a pathway for meaningful engagement with Judaism.

Part of our job is to provide training for our student leaders to help them run Hillel, as well as to aid their growth as leaders outside of our organization. We also serve as advocates and advisors for students as they navigate how to be Jewish in a secular society. In these ways, we foster individual growth.

Jewish observance cannot happen in a vacuum. Thus, in order to strengthen the Jewish community, we carefully cultivate our program as a Jewish communal space. In this space, we have student-led Shabbat services and family-style Meet to Eats and Shabbat dinners, which provide students with a stable community of mostly Jewish peers. We also have the luxury of connecting our students to the larger Charleston Jewish community, and thus we serve as a conduit through which students can access communal resources, like High Holiday services at local congregations, or meals at Hyman’s, T-Bonz, or Andolini’s.

One piece of this Hillel we are reconstructing is our relationship to the rest of student affairs at the College. As a Jewish community, it is easy for us to fall into the pattern of looking inward or communicating exclusively with other Jewish organizations, when in fact there are so many amazing resources and connections built into our program as a part of the College of Charleston. We have been examining how best to use the resources available, as well as how we can continue to enhance student life at the College of Charleston. We provide support for the Religious Life Exchange, an interfaith group founded last year by the JSU/Hillel president. We hope to connect with College programming more cohesively during Welcome Week and Prospective Student Weekend. However, the most powerful piece of our relationship with the College is how we provide informal education about Judaism to the college community, and our students regularly bring non-Jewish friends to Shabbat dinner and educate their friends and classmates about their heritage.

We will continue the work of aligning the focus of our program with this mission and understanding the evolving needs of Jewish students at the College of Charleston. One of the ways you can help us in this work is by encouraging Jewish or non-Jewish, regardless of their origin or destination, our doors are open to all who seek a pathway for meaningful engagement with Judaism.

CALL FOR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

The College of Charleston has become an excellent choice for students interested in attending a college with a Jewish Studies program with both an academic major and minor, an active Jewish student life, a significant Jewish student population, and a supportive larger Jewish community. The kosher vegan/vegetarian kitchen will make the College even more attractive to many prospective students. Registration opens February 1; go to freesraeltrip.hillel.org to preregister. Contact lillyja@cofc.edu with any questions. We hope to fill a bus full of CofC students and establish a strong relationship to Israel among our students. If you would like to receive monthly updates about Hillel programming and initiatives, please send an email to diamondra@cofc.edu and we’ll add you to the monthly Schmoozeletter. We thank all our families, community members, and alumni for your support, and wish you a wonderful 2016!

We are also working to develop our alumni connections. To join our Facebook alumni group go to www.cofc.edu/~jsuhillel and click on the “alumni” link. If you have ideas to share about improving our alumni network, please contact Jessica Lilly at lillyja@cofc.edu or 843.953.3917.
In early November, the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture held its first public event, a discussion of “Jews in the Freedom Summer” with Bruce Watson, author of this year’s College Reads! selection, Freedom Summer: The Savage Season That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy. On November 19th we co-hosted with the National Trust for Historic Preservation the Charleston premiere of Aviva Kempner’s documentary Rosenwald. More than eighty people came to the American Theater on King Street for a reception, screening, and Q&A about the film, which tells the story of Sears & Roebuck chairman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, who funded thousands of schools for rural African Americans in the Jim Crow South.

The Center’s activities actually began at the end of August with a visit from Hebrew Union College Professor Michael A. Meyer, who had come to consult the Rabbi Jacob Raisin papers in the College of Charleston’s Jewish Heritage Collection at Addlestone Library. Professor Meyer was our first Charleston Research Fellow, and while he was in town, he gave the Jewish Studies Program’s first fall Sunday brunch lecture on the changing roles and robes of the modern rabbi. Future fellows of the Center will come from the ranks of academics, journalists, and others working on projects that would benefit from the resources for studying southern Jewish history at the Jewish Heritage Collection, the College, and the city.

To spread the word about our work, we recently attended the Southern Jewish Historical Society’s annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina’s fall meeting in Columbia and Orangeburg. At a CoC campus event on diversity and creativity called “Boundless Words and Voices,” we reached out to undergraduates. We have also begun to make waves on the Internet. You can find us on Facebook (facebook.com/JewishSouth) and Twitter (twitter.com/JewishSouth), and, soon, at www.jewishsouth.cofc.edu.

In the coming year our new website will host two exciting online exhibitions: Synagogues of the South, based on postcard images from the William A. Rosenthall Judaica Collection in Special Collections at Addlestone Library, will explore the mostly lost history of Jewish sanctuaries in the American South; Mapping Jewish Charleston will show how the city’s Jewish geography has changed over four centuries.

On March 20th we will welcome novelist Steve Stern, whose new book, The Pinch, chronicles the zany history of Memphis’s traditional Jewish neighborhood. We also will co-sponsor, with the JCC, a screening in April of Carvalho’s Journey, a feature-length film about Charleston-born Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1815-1897), pioneering American Jewish artist and daguerreotypist.

As we bring our passion for southern Jewish history to a broader audience, the best is yet to come!
This coming May, my wife, Dale, and I will be leading a study-abroad to Central and Eastern Europe, starting in Munich, Germany, the birthplace of Nazism. Our second stop will be in Lviv, Ukraine, where in the fall of 1941, the Germans carried out the first mass executions of Jews. Lviv, then called Lvov, was the seat of Galician Jewish culture, a sister city of Krakow, 200 kilometers to the west. At the end of World War II, the city found itself in Soviet Ukraine, stripped of its Jewish life and its Polish identity. Today, Lviv looks west, its leaders striving to align the city, and the region of western Ukraine, with Europe. In fact, following the First World War, Lvov was the capital of the short-lived Republic of Western Ukraine, an independent state gobbled up by Poland while Russia was busy consolidating its revolution.

In Lviv, we will be welcomed by Dr. Sophia Dyak, at the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe, an “institute for historical scholarship” that sponsors a rigorous program of exhibitions and conferences which place “Jewish history in the modern space of the city.” Today Lviv is being rediscovered, an architectural gem whose beauty masks a tragic past and makes it easy to forget the once-thriving Jewish civilization. The Center is fighting against forgetfulness in the struggle to construct a national narrative that includes the Jews, not as aliens and wanderers but as builders of culture and society.

For some of us, the trip has a personal side. Lviv is only 60 kilometers from the Polish border, and we’ll cross into Poland on the road along which the Jews of Lviv who were not murdered on the spot were taken to the Belzec death camp. That’s where the Nazis deported the Jews from the small city of Tarnov, where my grandfather was born. He left as a young man, years before the war, or I would not be writing this. From the road the Belzec site looks like a junk yard, which is not so far from the truth since its purpose was to turn human beings into scrap. But inside there is a marvelous museum that provides a graphic, incisive history of the Nazi death camps in this Jewish heartland.

We will stay nearby in the small city of Zamosc, in beautiful hops country, home to a handsome restored synagogue on Zamenhofa Street (formerly ul. Zydowska—“Jewish Street”). Built in 1610 by Sephardim from the Ottoman Empire and Venice, it was the northernmost Sephardi community in Eastern Europe, tying it to the Atlantic world. The German occupiers used the building, of Polish-Italian design, as a woodshop, and thus it was saved. But the people who once worshipped here were not and no new worshippers have come to take their place. For all of its charm and outward brightness, the interior feels like a stage set—a welcome contrast, however, to synagogue ruins in other places that have been given over to vandals and graffiti artists. On second thought, perhaps the sacred rubble is a necessary reminder of the void left by the annihilation of the Jews and the impossibility of genuine restoration.

A native of Atlanta and graduate of the College of Charleston School of Business, Michael Shemtov ’00 is regarded as one of Charleston’s more successful restaurateurs of late, and he has no plans of slowing down.

How did you find your way to the College of Charleston? What were you involved with on campus?

The College mailed me a brochure, and I decided I would take a drive down to check it out. While touring campus, I couldn’t get over how much everyone I spoke to enjoyed the College, and the city itself. On campus, I wasn’t involved with much outside of academics. I wanted to work hard and learn and work as much as I could, so I could be in a position to start a business upon graduation. I spent most of the last two years working every day to make Mellow Mushroom (309 King Street) happen.

What lesson learned at the College has stuck with you the most?

Be nice to the gatekeepers. They are just as much in charge as the people they represent.

What motivated you to become a restaurateur?

I was influenced by an older cousin who is in the business. I wanted to do something on my own. Even in college, I wanted to create a business where I could make decisions, build a team, and ultimately be responsible.

In addition to three Lowcountry Mellow Mushroom locations, you’ve also opened Butcher & Bee and its sister concept, The Daily. What projects are you working on now?

We recently opened Butcher & Bee in Nashville. At press time, we’ll be close to opening The Workshop, with a new full service concept. And we have a new Mellow Mushroom in North Charleston coming this spring. We are also working on a very fun project at 1505 King Street, which features about six different concepts under one roof. Stay tuned!
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