FROM THE DIRECTOR

It’s been six months since I took over as the Director of the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, and what a ride it has been! Things have been gradually changing. An obvious transformation is the one you are holding in your hands. It was time to finally retire the old newsletter and launch a new format. And there you have it: A lighter, cleaner version that preserves only the necessary content, designed especially for us in Israel.

Our public program this semester was planned, for the first time, by a committee made up of members of our Program and the community. This spring, the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Center for Israel Studies, under the leadership of Prof. Joshua Shanes, will take the lead, as we adopted the theme of *Israel: Literacy, not Advocacy*. We are excited by the lineup of speakers who will be visiting Charleston. Many of our events will take place in conversation mode, one that has proven very successful this past semester, including at the Three Rabbi Panel. And, our popular Sunday Brunch series will be back with a number of fascinating lectures.

When I wrote to you last, I mentioned our desire to appeal to a broader audience, including a younger demographic. This past semester, we have reached out to members of our community in their 20s to 40s. We have listened, and have already taken steps to become more relevant to this age group. Our Program will host its first-ever babysitter and tutor fair this January, a conversation on Israeli innovation and entrepreneurship in February; and a short community course on talking to our kids about Israel™ in April. Also in April, we will host Knock Knock, a successful one-man Israeli play about mandatory service in the IDF.

We recently signed an agreement with the Charleston Jewish Community Center to assume the JCC’s last remaining programs, Filmfest and Bookfest. We are so excited to see the JCC cease operations. This season, we have taken steps to become more relevant to this age group. Our Program will host its first-ever babysitter and tutor fair this January, a conversation on Israeli innovation and entrepreneurship in February; and a short community course on talking to our kids about Israel™ in April. Also in April, we will host Knock Knock, a successful one-man Israeli play about mandatory service in the IDF.

While this is technically my second “From the Chair” article, it feels like much longer ago that I assumed the leadership of the Program’s community Advisory Board. The Fall semester passed in a flash. Time flies when you’re having fun, but also when you are creating a powerful and indelible impact on students, community members, and others who pass through the College’s Jewish Studies Center seeking Jewish learning, community, and identity.

A real honor to lead this Advisory Board. As a parent of a Jewish CofC alumna, a neighbor to many students, and annual host of the CoC Hillel Sukkah, I am invested in many ways more than one in the success of our Jewish Studies Program. As the Program has entered into its next chapter at the College under the adept leadership of Yaron Ayalon, we are preparing this Spring to host a number of on- and off-campus strategic planning conversations with the Program’s stakeholders. I hope you will join me in attending the public strategic planning session on the afternoon of February 16th, during which time we hope to identify the Program’s strengths, areas for improvement, and priorities for the next five years. This Program is here not only for our amazing students – it also exists for alumni, community members, and others with a genuine interest in Judaism. We need to hear from you to best serve you, so please plan on being there.

Finally, that the Jewish Studies Program is able to provide as much content for students and community members as it does is testament to the overwhelming generosity of friends like you. If you’ve attended a program or meal, learned Hebrew with us, followed along on social media, or generally found meaning in what Jewish Studies does semester after semester, I hope you will consider joining Ellen and me by supporting Jewish Studies with a gift in an amount that is meaningful to you. It may well be the most impactful gift you make all year. After all, time flies when you are sustaining the Jewish future.

Robert Steinberg  
Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

For event updates, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/cofcjwst or check our website at jewish.cofc.edu

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College of Charleston Hillel Happenings

Fall 2019 was filled with exciting changes and delicious food! After starting the semester strong with the annual Welcome Back Cookout, attended by over 100 students, we transitioned into Weeks of Welcome events. These programs ranged from Israeli Snack Tasting, King Street Cookies Meet Up, Camp Style Shabbat, Freshman Fiesta, volunteer opportunities, and more!

Now with two full-time Hillel professionals, Jewish life on campus is rapidly growing. This has allowed students to plan out-of-the-box events and help bring new ideas into reality. We have also been able to engage with more students on a day-to-day basis thanks to our remodeled space on campus, the Hillel Lounge in the Sylvia Wosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center.

Another big enhancement this semester has been the introduction of monthly kosher meat meals at Meet To Eats, thanks to Marcie Rosenberg at Dining In. This has been a big hit and we plan on continuing this next semester. Students have also raved about our special Falafel Shabbat, cooked by YAJSP Director Yaron Ayalon and sponsored (with delicious desserts!) by Nir Arbiv of Glazed Gourmet Doughnuts.

We have had a lot of success in forming relationships with new campus partners. Challah for Hunger sponsored a campus-wide challah bake and a de-stress holiday drop in, with candle making, dreidels and gelt, and of course latkes!

As we enter the spring semester we welcome a new Hillel Student Board, and would like to thank Izzy Dubrow for her time as Hillel President this past year. For all things Hillel check out our website at cofchillel.org and follow CoC Hillel on social media.

Deb Silver, MSW
Hillel Director

Spring 2020 Courses

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Deb Silver, MSW
Hillel Director

Spring 2020 Courses

First Year Seminar: Film and Media and Modern Israel
Instructor: Noa Weinberg
FYSE 124.01  CRN 23679 (Open only to first-year students)
M, W 2:00pm-3:15pm, JSC 210
Elementary Modern Hebrew
Instructor: Noa Weinberg
HBRW 102.01 CRN 28609
MWF 10:00-10:50am and W 9:00-9:50am, JSC 237
Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Instructor: Noa Weinberg
HBRW 202.01 CRN 28606
MWF 11:00-11:50am and W 12:00-12:50pm, JSC 237
Jewish History I: Ancient to Modern
Instructor: Yaron Ayalon
JWST 210.01 CRN 21329
T, Th 12:15-1:30pm, JSC 333
Introduction to Jewish-American Literature and Film
Instructor: Ezra Cappell
JWST 245.01 CRN 22177
ONLINE
Special Topic: Nazi Medicine
Instructor: Ted Rosengarten
JWST 300.01 CRN 22164
Mondays 5:30-8:15pm, JSC 233
Special Topic: Business Climate of Israel
Instructors: Rene Mueller and Joshua Shanes
JWST 300.02 CRN 21615
Tuesdays 4:00 – 6:45pm, JSC 210
Special Topic: Jews and Muslims: Coexistence and Conflict
Instructor: Yaron Ayalon
JWST 300.04 CRN 23521
T, Th 10:50am - 12:05pm, JSC 237
Special Topic: Nazi Looted Art
Instructor: Pat Dillon
JWST 300.05 CRN 23522
T, Th 10:50am - 12:05pm, JSC 237
Simons Center for the Arts, SCFA 307
Special Topic: Holocaust in Film
Instructor: Ted Rosengarten
JWST300.06 CRN 23729
Tuesdays 5:30-8:15pm, JSC 237
AND
Special Topic: Holocaust in Film
Instructor: Ezra Cappell
JWST300.07 CRN 24098
Tuesdays 5:30-8:15pm, JSC 337
Hillel Board
President: Maddie Grosoff (Atlanta, GA)
Vice President: Jessie Berner (Fairfax Station, VA)
Communications Chair: Frannie Cohen-Dumani (Bethesda, MD)
Israel Chair: Remy Tepner (New York, NY)
Jewish Education Chair: Sarah Rosenfeld (West Hartford, CT)
Outreach Chair: Lainey Komerofsky (Austin, TX)
Tikkun Olam Chair: Jenna Lief (Marietta, GA)

Hebrew for the Community
Mondays, January 13 - April 27
No class will be held on January 20 (MLK Day)
Instructors: Professor Noa Weinberg and Shula Holtz
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: 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.

Reading Hebrew Advanced I
Instructor: Shula Holtz
Mondays 4:00-5:15pm, JSC 319
Reading Hebrew Advanced II
Instructor: Shula Holtz
Mondays 5:30-6:45pm, JSC 319
Hebrew ULPAN Immersive I
Instructor: Noa Weinberg
Mondays 4:45-5:30pm, JSC 210
Hebrew ULPAN Immersive II
Instructor: Noa Weinberg
Mondays 5:30-6:45pm, JSC 210
EVENTS

All events take place in ARNOLD HALL, JEWISH STUDIES CENTER unless otherwise noted

BABYSITTER AND TUTOR FAIR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 at 12:30PM
Bring your kids, meet CofC students who are potential tutors and babysitters.
Sponsored by College of Charleston Hillel

FOOD AND FAITH IV - MONDAY, JANUARY 27 at 6:30PM
DIVERSE WOMEN, ONE CALLING
Dr. Arlene Shawsinyk Rosenthal and Dr. Reshma Khan will discuss cultural and religious similarities and divergences between Jews and Muslims regarding female leadership in the medical profession.
Co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, College of Charleston and the Charleston interreligious Council

ISRAELI INNOVATION & ENTREPRENUERSHIP PANEL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 at 7:00PM
RITA HOLLINGS CENTER 101
Join Nanobebbe Executive Chairman, Mr. Ayal Lanternari, Dr. Jacobo Mintzer, Executive Director of the Roper/St. Francis Clinical Biotechnology Research Institute, and others for a discussion about Israeli innovation and entrepreneurship.
Sponsored by the Arnold Center for Israel Studies

KRONSBERG LECTURE
LINDA GRADSTEIN
NEW CHALLENGES FACING ISRAEL
THURSDAY, MARCH 26 at 7:00PM
ARNOLD HALL
Linda Gradstein, Bureau Chief for The Media Line news agency and former Jerusalem correspondent for NPR will discuss key issues facing Israel from a reporter's perspective.
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 Kronsbergs' lifelong commitment to Jewish ideas and values.

PURSUING JUSTICE: FIGHTING HATE WITH THE LAW
THURSDAY, APRIL 2 at 7:00PM
RITA HOLLINGS CENTER 101
The "Unite the Right" rally and hateful attacks that struck Charlottesville, VA, in August 2017 served as a wakeup call for many Americans. Former Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer and Amy Spitalnick, Director of Integrity First America, will discuss the aftermath of that attack and present strategies for combating violence based on racism, sexism, and antisemitism.
Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

TALKING TO OUR KIDS ABOUT ISRAEL
MONDAYS, APRIL 6, 13 AND 20 at 7:00PM
In this three-part series, Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program Director, Dr. Yaron Ayalon will offer tools for effective conversations about Israel, especially with children, teenagers, and college students. The first session will provide a general overview of Israel's history. The second will be devoted to questions of delegitimization of Israel. And in the third, we will discuss tips for constructive conversations about Israel.
Sponsored by the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Center for Israel Studies

KNOCK KNOCK: A PLAY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 at 7:00PM
SIMONS CENTER RECITAL HALL
Knock Knock is a one-man play by Israeli actor Niv Petel. The evening will include a reception and a post-performance conversation with the actor. See more here: www.knockknockplay.co.uk. Tickets (on sale March 1st) will be required for this event. Play only: $10, with reception: $20.
For event updates, follow us on facebook at facebook.com/cofcjwst or check our website at jewish.cofc.edu

SUNDAY BRUNCHES

Brunch at 9AM, Talks at 10AM
ARNOLD HALL, JEWISH STUDIES CENTER

ARMED RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST
FEBRUARY 2
Dr. Shay Pniniik, Executive Director of the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center in Milwaukee, will discuss the heroism and perseverance of Jewish resistance fighters – in the ghettos, camps, in partisan units, and in a variety of underground organizations.
Sponsored by the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies

A CONVERSATION WITH NACHMAN SHAI
FEBRUARY 16
Former IDF Spokesperson and Member of the Knesset, Dr. Nachman Shai will discuss Israeli politics and other matters.
Sponsored by the Arnold Center for Israel Studies

WOMEN IN ISRAELI CINEMA
MARCH 1
Dr. Rachel Harris, Associate Professor of Israeli Literature and Culture at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will discuss the role of women in Israeli cinema then and today.
Sponsored by the Arnold Center for Israel Studies

JEWISH STUDIES FILMFEST
OPENING NIGHTS
ARNOLD HALL, JEWISH STUDIES CENTER
Monday, March 2 @7PM, My Lovely Sister (Israel, 2011)
Tuesday, March 3 @7PM, Blazing Sand (Israel,1960)
Both movies will be followed by commentary and discussion with Dr. Rachel Harris.
More details about FilmFest will be announced in January.

SOUTHERN CIRCUITS: INTERSECTIONS OF RACE, RELIGION, AND ETHNICITY ON THE 19TH CENTURY STAGE
MARCH 22
Throughout the nineteenth century, Jewish American performers and audiences explored Southern theatrical circuits ranging from well-established urban centers such as Charleston, to less bustling theatrical centers like Mobile and Murfreesboro. Dr. Heather Nathans will question the ways in which Southern performance circuits may have contributed to constructions not only of Jewish American identities, but Southern Jewish identities as well.
Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

OFF THE DERECH - BOOKTALK
MARCH 29
Dr. Ezra Cappell, CoC Professor of Jewish Studies and English, and Dr. Jessica Lang, Professor of English and Director of the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center at Baruch College, City University of New York, will discuss their new co-edited book on ultra-Orthodox Jews who have left their communities.

THREE RABBI PANEL
THE MEANING AND CHALLENGES OF ISRAEL FOR AMERICAN JUDAISM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 at 7:30PM
SIMONS CENTER RECITAL HALL
Rabbis Michael Davies (Orthodox), Adam Rosenbaum (Conservative), and Greg Kanter (Reform) will sit for a conversation about how Zionism has been integrated into each Jewish denomination, and how each has dealt with the theological and political challenges it brings.
The Three Rabbis Panel is supported by the Stanley and Charlot Koresh Family Fund, an endowment given by the Koresh 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'hal Israel.
The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program is in the midst of a strategic planning process, as we think about our next five years and beyond. Come join us for a strategic planning session for the community on Sunday, February 16, following a brunch talk with Dr. Nachman Shai.

Our Program held a reception at the Association for Jewish Studies’ annual conference in San Diego in December. Scholars and students from many universities attended and got a glimpse of the wonderful things we do in Charleston. Our Program is now an institutional member of the AJS, and will continue to seek ways to leave a meaningful mark on the national scene of the field of Jewish Studies.

The College’s marketing department has created a new promotional video for the Program and Jewish life on campus. Check it out via this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=401O-aRDfKA

Marty’s Place, the vegetarian/vegan & kosher restaurant located at the Jewish Studies Center, introduced a new and exciting rotating menu this fall. Conversations with the team that operates Marty’s Place about introducing new items and new specials for families are ongoing, and you will see results already this spring.