Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program

from generation to generation

SPRING 2019
Letter from the Interim Director

Timothy Johnson
Interim Director, Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program
Dean, School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs

Time moves fast! We are halfway through another academic year, and I consider myself just as privileged to be serving as Interim Director as I did at the beginning of the year. This year has been a year of new beginnings, and a major part of what's new is that Jewish Studies continues to grow, in dynamic new ways.

This past November we were very pleased to announce that Dr. Yaron Ayalon will become the new Director of Jewish Studies on July 1, 2019. Yaron comes with an impressive record of achievement. Professor Ayalon was raised in Israel and the United States and, in addition to holding degrees from Tel Aviv University (BA) and Princeton University (MA, PhD,) he has serious on the ground experience in the Israeli business sector. He will bring real assets to the Program’s brand new Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Center for Israeli Studies, with its special focus on the Israeli business climate. He has taught widely in Middle Eastern Studies, including courses on Jews in Arab lands, Israeli society and politics, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He and his wife Keren have two sons, Yuval and Omri. Yaron loves to garden and he is going to teach me how to grow tomatoes in South Carolina.

There is more. Last July Professor Ezra Cappell joined our faculty. This spring he will teach an online course in Jewish Studies, which is a first for the Program. Noa Weinberg also joined our faculty in the Fall as our Hebrew Instructor, and she is giving tremendous new energy to our language offerings for traditional students and community members alike. All that is new builds on what Jewish Studies is already doing so well: Holocaust Studies, Southern Jewish Culture, Jewish Student Union/Hillel, Sunday morning brunches, lectures, A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto, and, just a few weeks ago, another very successful Chanukah in the Square.

I am deeply appreciative of the faculty and staff who make all this happen. And to our large and incredibly supportive Jewish Studies family, enjoy reading our news. We hope to see you soon.

Letter from the Chair

Alan Nussbaum, Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

As my final message as Chair of the Community Advisory Board, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about and celebrate the extraordinary Jewish Studies faculty and staff assembled at the College over many years. Ted Rosengarten and David Slucki are gifted teachers who have brought an understanding of the Holocaust and its persisting effects in our time. Josh Shanes is a researcher of the early 1900’s in Galicia and surrounding Jewish Eastern Europe, and like all of our faculty, is an enthusiastic teacher loved by students. Shari Rabin and Dale Rosengarten are important historians of American Jewish history whose teaching and writing have had an impact far beyond Charleston. Ezra Cappell, new to the College, is a well-respected scholar of American Jewish literature and currently working on an interesting new book about folks who depart from ultra-Orthodox Judaism. Noa Weinberg is a talented Hebrew instructor, already beloved by students and community members alike, who is very well trained in teaching Hebrew to non-Hebrew speakers. Rounding it out in the next year will be our new Director Yaron Ayalon, a scholar of Ottoman and Sephardic history and culture, who also has superb organizational and management skills which he will bring to his new position. We are thrilled to welcome Yaron, his wife Keren, and their two sons to the Jewish Studies family.

Marty Perlmutter is still retiring at a slow pace to ensure that his vision of an integrated and multifaceted Jewish Studies Program continues to be brought to fruition. As an Interim-Director and newly appointed Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, Tim Johnson has been devoted to the success of our Program and watched over our search process with respect for the views of the Search Committee, but with shared wisdom when it mattered most. A quiet hero of this process has been Morgan Koerner, Chair of the Department of German and Russian Studies, who led our search with both seriousness and enough humor to keep everyone moving in the same direction. Jewish Studies owes him a great debt of gratitude.

Another longtime Jewish Studies hero is Enid Idelsohn, who seemingly knows everything, all the time. It is thanks to Enid that Jewish Studies functions so well. And Mark Swick’s role has continued to expand over the years as Marty has taught him the intricacies of our complex program. While community outreach is his primary focus, there is nothing that he is not involved with or contributes to at some level. Rounding out our talented staff, Pamela Partridge in the JSU/Hillel and Elizabeth Meny in Admissions ensure that Jewish students are recruited intentionally and with care, and that their time on campus is both meaningful and transformative from a Jewish lens.

Robert Steinberg will take over as Chair of the Program’s Advisory Board next semester and has long been immersed in leadership of the Board as a committee chair and member of the Executive Committee. This position has been a real pleasure and labor of love for me. I look forward to my continued involvement in other roles, and, hopefully, someday as a student.
Ambassador Daniel Shapiro

Drawing on his eight years serving in the Obama Administration, and his current vantage point from Israel on the Trump Administration, Ambassador Shapiro reviews highs and lows, busts some myths, and gives a behind-the-scenes account of Israeli-Palestinian talks, the fight over the Iran deal, and the many successes in U.S.-Israel relations. He analyzes prospects for future bilateral cooperation, regional peace and security initiatives, and some continued dissonance between these two close allies in the next four years. Ambassador Shapiro will also focus on the various developments in Israel’s biotech, business, and start-up communities, which are a major focus of the Jewish Studies Program’s newly established Center for Israel Studies.

Daniel Shapiro served as United States Ambassador to Israel from July 2011-January 2017. In that role, he participated in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, U.S.-Israel discussions on the Iran nuclear agreement, and negotiations on the $38 billion Memorandum of Understanding for U.S. military assistance to Israel. He previously served as Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the National Security Council at the White House, as well as in numerous senior advisory positions in the U.S. Congress. He was a term member at the Council on Foreign Relations. Ambassador Shapiro joined the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University in March 2017 as a Distinguished Visiting Fellow. At INSS he participates in research programs, including those on Israel-U.S. Relations, Israel-Palestinian Relations, the Arab World, and Israeli Society and Public Opinion. Ambassador Shapiro has taught at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He holds a B.A. from Brandeis University and an M.A. from Harvard University.

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.

Co-sponsored by the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs and the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Center for Israel Studies

On the cover: Members of the JSU/Hillel Holocaust Education Committee pose holding daffodil bulbs during the annual Daffodil Project planting at KKBK. L-R Emily Kurzweil, Alex Furlong, Maddie Grosoff, Emilie Crossan, Samantha Krantz, Tara Gaudet, Lexi Gage, Jared Shotel, Jordana Gruber, and Sara Berwald.
ARNOLD NEMIROW LECTURE IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Gender and the Holocaust
Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 7:30pm
Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor), Corner of Glebe & George Streets

Award-winning Holocaust historian Marion Kaplan will discuss the emergence of Holocaust research into gender issues in the 1980s. She will reflect on how far the field has come since her groundbreaking work in 1998, and how it has reshaped our understanding of how victims and survivors experienced Nazi rule. Although there is still much work to be done to uncover the ways gender shaped life and death during World War II, by looking at gender we can enhance our understanding of the Holocaust and its lessons for the present and future.

Marion Kaplan is the Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at NYU. She is a three-time National Jewish Book Award winner for The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in Imperial Germany (1991), Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany (1998), and Gender and Jewish History (with Deborah Dash Moore, 2011). She has edited several other books on German-Jewish and women's history and has taught courses on German-Jewish history, European women's history, German and European history, as well as European Jewish history, and Jewish women's history. Her newest book, Jewish Refugees Fleeing Hitler: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal, 1940-45 will be published by Yale University Press in 2019.

Co-sponsored by the Department of German and Russian Studies, the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies, and the Arnold Nemirow Holocaust Education Fund

STUDENT BROWNBAG PRESENTATIONS

Jewish Studies has hosted various informal Brownbag lunch series over the years, often presented by CoC faculty or visiting research fellows. We are thrilled this semester to add student research presentations to our Brownbag offerings, beginning with two talented seniors presenting their original research in Jewish Studies. Please join us in learning from these talented students, and celebrating their efforts as budding academics.

REIGNITING THE TRAUMA: HOLOCAUST MEMORY IN ARGENTINE SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN
Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 12:00pm in Arnold Hall

In the seventy-five years since Holocaust survivors arrived in Argentina, this group has experienced discrimination, persecution, and blatant anti-Semitic attacks against their community. This project analyzes the survivors' perceptions of these events to see how their experiences during the Holocaust impacted their responses to contemporary anti-Semitism.

Sydney Zazzaro is a senior at CoC double-majoring in History and International Studies. Over the course of her academic career at the College, she has become fascinated by social justice issues around the world as well as the historical precedent behind these issues. Sydney is an inaugural Arnold M. Nemirow Scholar. Following graduation, Sydney hopes to work at a non-profit before attending law school to study civil rights law.

MECHANISMS OF ISRAELI COMEDY
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 12:00pm in Arnold Hall

This project identifies four current themes of Israeli humor: political and conflict comedy, Holocaust comedy, masculine comedy and religious and social divide comedy, which are found in popular Israeli television shows, stand-up comedy and novels. Lief will discuss why these themes arose, why they are considered Israeli, and how they reflect Israel's social climate.

Jamie Lief is a senior majoring in Jewish Studies and Exercise Science. She is a Jewish Student Recruitment Intern in the Office of Admissions and has served as the Israel Chair and Social Chair on the JSU/Hillel board. Jamie hopes to pursue a doctorate degree in Occupational Therapy and eventually work in the women’s health field.
“One should know that sexual union is holy and pure” writes the 13th-century Kabbalist and biblical commentator Nachmanides in his Holy Epistle, “when it is done as it should be, at the time it should be, and with proper intent.” Indeed, Jewish tradition considers sexual intimacy to be an act of holiness well beyond the commandment to “be fruitful and multiply,” as through intercourse husband and wife become partners with God in creation. Of course, contemporary views of sexuality are far different, with Freud’s century-old radical views now themselves dated. Sexuality has been largely naturalized, and its relationship to procreation and marriage weakened and transformed.

How, if at all, has Judaism’s understanding of sexuality changed in modern times and with the relatively recent advent of denominational Judaism? How does each movement understand the obligations, restrictions and opportunities of sexual expression and identity? How, if at all, have denominations shifted to be inclusive of those who engage in traditionally forbidden forms of sexual practice?

Join with Jewish Studies and members of the community as Rabbis Greg Kanter (KKBE), Adam Rosenbaum (Emanu-El), and Michael Davies (Dor Tikvah) answer these questions.

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. Stanley obm and Charlot have been lifelong pillars of the Charleston Jewish community, and of Jewish Studies. We are incredibly grateful for their support, and for their broad vision of K’lal Yisrael.

THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY
Mark Swick, Jewish Community Liaison

Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston is the perfect example of the power of philanthropy. Our newly established Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Center for Israel Studies is Jewish Studies’ third center, joining the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies and the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture. Jewish Studies has long appreciated the value of, and sought, endowment gifts, which keep on giving, making our philanthropic story one of creating legacies and impacting the long-term future. These centers are each supported by endowments, allowing us to educate our students, generate new scholarship, and engage our community in perpetuity.

There is always more to do. That in itself is a Jewish value, and I have no interest in our resting on the Program’s significant successes. We have established the Perlmutter Fellows Program to create a small cadre of students at the College of Charleston each year who will be trained to embody and execute the Jewish values of community and continuity. Jewish Studies also continues to seek scholarship funds to continue attracting the best and brightest students to the College, often addressing issues of real financial need. Again, these gifts keep on giving well into the future. Please reach out to me if you have any interest in creating your own legacy gift at the College.

I see the impact of philanthropy in Jewish Studies every day in my interactions with students and community members alike. Your gifts are making a real difference on campus and beyond, and the world is a better place because of it. My world is also a lot more meaningful and happy because of it, and for that I am deeply thankful.
Sunday 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.

JEWISH STUDIES CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF WOMEN

It is The Year of Women at the College, marking one hundred years since white women, and fifty years since black women, first matriculated here as students. To join in the celebration, this semester the Yashchik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program will be featuring exciting female scholars working in Jewish Studies today. While Jewish Studies strives to maintain a gender balance in those who deliver public lectures or courses on our behalf, The Year of Women provides a welcome opportunity to highlight the tremendous contributions made to the Jewish Studies and Jewish communal field by women.

STILL JEWISH AND NEWLY JEWISH: TWO HISTORIES OF WOMEN AND INTERMARRIAGE IN AMERICA

Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

This presentation will reimagine Jewish intermarriage by explaining how womanhood influences lived experiences and meaning. The stories of Jewish women, those raised Jewish and those who chose Judaism later in life, are an essential ingredient to understanding intermarriage in America. Jewish women have long been thought of as keepers of the domestic flame of Judaism and women of other faith backgrounds who marry Jewish men have often shouldered much of the responsibility for raising Jewish children. Come learn about how these women of valor shape Jewishness and Judaism.

Keren R. McGinity is a 2018 Forward 50 honoree for her clarion call for a Jewish response to the #MeToo movement, published in the New York Jewish Week. She is named on Lilith magazine’s 7 Jewish Feminist Highlights of 2018 list. Her pioneering books, Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America (NYU Press 2009), a National Jewish Book Award Finalist, and Marrying Out: Jewish Men, Intermarriage, and Fatherhood (Indiana University Press 2014), changed the narrative about Jewish continuity by focusing on gender and change over time. Dr. McGinity is the inaugural director of the Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement Program at Hebrew College's Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education, where she also teaches, and a research associate at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University. She earned her PhD from Brown University, and was the Mandell L. Berman Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Contemporary American Jewish Life at the University of Michigan's Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Dr. McGinity serves on the Sexual Misconduct Taskforce of the Association for Jewish Studies and the Academic Advisory Council of the Jewish Women’s Archive.

INTERFAITH IN ACTION: AMERICAN JEWS AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN THE U.S. MILITARY

Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

Soon after midnight on February 3, 1943, a German U-boat torpedoed the Dorchester. As the ship went down, survivors reported, the ship’s four chaplains George L. Fox (Methodist), Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed), John P. Washington (Catholic), and Alexander B. Goode (Jewish) gave away their lifejackets. Then, with arms linked together, they prayed in English, Latin, and Hebrew, and sunk together into the freezing North Atlantic. When news reached Americans, the public reaction was swift and unambiguous. Newspaper coverage dubbed the four chaplains heroes, and the men were quickly honored for their sacrifice. This talk explores how the four chaplains came to symbolize a particular form of mid-century religious pluralism and how American Jews helped shape the public idea of “Interfaith in Action.”

Ronit Y. Stahl is assistant professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley. Her prize-winning first book, Enlisting Faith: How the Military Chaplaincy Shaped Religion and State in Modern America, was published by Harvard University Press in 2017. She has also written columns for the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Huffington Post, and the Forward. Previously, she held postdoctoral fellowships in the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania and the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis.
Demons were an important part of Babylonian rabbinic life. The Babylonian Talmud is full of stories about demons, statements from demons, and laws relating to demons. In this talk, Sara Ronis will explore how the rabbis thought about demons, and how the rabbis thought “with” demons to create a particular kind of rabbinic life and rabbinic theology in Sasanian Babylonia. Ronis will also examine when and why demons stopped being a meaningful part of Jewish life.

Sara Ronis is an assistant professor of theology at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. She received her BA from Brandeis University, MA from Columbia University, and PhD from Yale University, and has been a Harry Starr Fellow at Harvard University. Her first book, Demons in the Details: Demonic Discourse and Rabbinic Culture in the Babylonian Talmud, is currently under review.

AMERICAN JEWISH WOMEN’S HISTORY: FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO TODAY
Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

Pamela Nadell asks what does it mean to be a Jewish woman in America? Weaving together stories from the colonial era’s matriarch Grace Nathan and her great-granddaughter poet Emma Lazarus to union organizer Bessie Hillman and the Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Nadell shows two threads binding the nation’s Jewish women: a strong sense of self and a resolute commitment to making the world a better place. Informed by the shared values of America’s founding and Jewish identity, America’s Jewish women—the well-known and the scores of activists, workers, wives, and mothers whose names linger on among their communities and families—left deep footprints in the history of the nation they call home.

Pamela Nadell holds the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women’s and Gender History at American University where she has received the Scholar/Teacher of the Year award. Her books include Women Who Would Be Rabbis: A History of Women’s Ordination, 1889-1985, which was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award. A past president of the Association for Jewish Studies and a recipient of the American Jewish Historical Society’s Lee Max Friedman Award for distinguished service to the profession, her consulting work for museums includes the National Museum of American Jewish History and the Library of Congress.

Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

FRUM WOMEN HAVE FACES
Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

At the heart of growing fundamentalism in the Haredi sector lies the fate of women: rabbis have decreed bans on women driving, installed modesty patrols, enforced gender segregation on buses, and photoshopped women’s faces (such as the female victims of the Pittsburgh massacre) out of newspapers and magazines. And while Haredi men attempt to render women voiceless and faceless, mainstream media does little better. Haredi women, however, are not all silently sitting at the back of the bus or locked in their homes, despairing their helpless fate. Quite the contrary! In a range of texts and genres—fiction, memoirs, magazines, films, blogs, music, and Instagram (armed with hashtags like #frumwomenhavefaces)—these women have been responding to their experiences, injunctions, and images, and thereby intervening in the contemporary culture wars about ethnoreligious women that rage around and about them. In this talk, Karen Skinazi will draw on research from her recent book, Women of Valor, to highlight the fascinating cultural work Haredi women are doing today, with a focus on the Orthodox women’s film industry.

Karen E. H. Skinazi is a Senior Teaching Fellow and Director of Liberal Arts at the University of Bristol. She studies late 19th- through 21st-century ethnic, American, and women’s literature and has recently published Women of Valor: Orthodox Jewish Troll Fighters, Crime Writers, and Rock Stars in Contemporary Literature and Culture (Rutgers University Press, 2018). Her essays have appeared in academic journals, as well as such popular venues as The Conversation, The Jewish Daily Forward, and Tablet Magazine. She received her BA from York University in Toronto, and her MA and PhD from NYU, and has taught at universities in the US, Canada, and the United Kingdom. She is also a foundation governor of the Orthodox Jewish school, King David Primary School in Birmingham.
READING HEBREW (Advanced) and HEBREW ULPAN (Immersive)
5:25 – 6:40pm, Rooms 319 and 210, Jewish Studies Center
Mondays, January 14 – April 29, 2019
(no class on Monday, January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

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: 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.

FOOD & FAITH: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND JEWS
Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center
Please join Muslim and Jewish students and community members for the third annual iteration of Food & Faith. The program will begin with a conversation between Rabbi Michael Davies of Charleston’s Congregation Dor Tikvah, and Imam Shamu Shamudeen of the Central Mosque of Charleston, moderated by Elijah Siegler, chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston. Commonalities and differences between Muslim and Jewish “blessings” will be the central topic, followed by samples of traditional Jewish and Muslim foods.

Following the moderated conversation, attendees will form breakout groups and discuss issues beyond blessings, to include Jewish and Muslim dietary practices, pilgrimage, clothing, holidays, scripture, charity, and more.

Co-sponsored by the College of Charleston Department of Religious Studies, the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, Jewish Student Union/Hillel, and the Charleston Interreligious Council.

MY FOOD IS MY FLAG: A CONVERSATION ABOUT JEWISH, AFRICAN AMERICAN, AND SOUTHERN FOODWAYS
Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 7:30pm
Recital Hall, Simons Center for the Arts
54 St. Philip Street (near George Street)

While food may seem simple, what people eat is shaped not only by geography and the environment, but also by culture, religion, and the interaction of different groups over time. Join food historian Marcie Cohen Ferris and James Beard Award-winning chef and author Michael Twitty for a conversation about two communities that have been cooking and eating in the South from the colonial period to the present day: Jews and African Americans. Drawing on their influential books, Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South and The Cooking Gene: A Journey through African American Culinary History in the Old South, Ferris and Twitty will reflect on how foodways can illuminate our understanding of the region and its people. This event is part of the College-wide World Affairs Signature Series on “Global Foodways.”
SPRING 2019

SPRING MINI-SEMINARS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Jewish Studies is many things to many different people, but learning is at the core of what the Program does. An emphasis on learning is complemented by community outreach, which has been a prominent feature of Jewish Studies’ model, from the Program’s inception more than thirty years ago. Beginning this academic year, Jewish Studies is re-introducing serious mini-seminars, free and public condensed courses consisting of class sessions devoted to a single topic. 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. To access class readings or with questions, contact Mark Swick at swickmn@cofc.edu or 843.953.4930.

This spring, Jewish Studies will again offer three mini-seminars; (1) a weekly immersive ulpan class by Professor Noa Weinberg which introduces students to Hebrew, both as a spoken language and as a written one; (2) Jewish Studies’ first formalized book club – People of the Book – facilitated by Professor Ezra Cappell; and (3) a three-session “highlights” of Professor Shari Rabin’s popular Southern Jewish History course. We hope you will join us in a semester of learning by attending one, two, or all three of these seminar series.

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK: JEWISH STUDIES’ COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB
Mondays at 7:00pm, Arnold Hall – Jewish Studies Center

Join Jewish Studies for our redesigned, community-wide book series, People of the Book. Professor Ezra Cappell will facilitate conversations on major themes and ideas animating twentieth century and contemporary Jewish American literature. Please come with your personal copy of the book.

February 18 - The Assistant (1957)
Bernard Malamud tells a simple story of a poor Jewish immigrant grocer and his Italian Catholic clerk, who together attempt to keep their struggling grocery store afloat in mid-century Brooklyn. Through the lens of their relationship we will discuss the themes of tzedakah, mid-century American anti-Semitism, inter-religious conflict, and ultimately the power of human understanding and redemption.

April 1 - The Plot Against America (2004)
Philip Roth’s 2004 novel is a “counter-history” that imagines a terrifying alternate American response to the threat of Nazism. In creating a fictional narrative to American history (aviator Charles Lindberg is elected as US President in 1940), Roth shines a light on America’s actual WWII history and the conflicts that are still very much splitting America today.

April 15 - The World to Come (2006)
Dara Horn’s award-winning novel is a detective novel, a love story, and a meditation on the tragedies of twentieth century Jewish history. We will discuss the American and European Jewish mesorah—the transmitting of tradition and culture from one generation to the next.

Ezra Cappell joined the Jewish Studies Program in the Fall of 2018 as Professor of Jewish Studies and English. Dr. Cappell comes to the College following a career at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he was instrumental in starting a Jewish Studies Program. Dr. Cappell holds degrees from NYU (M.Phil and PhD) as well as City College and Queens College. His publications include American Talmud: The Cultural Work of Jewish American Fiction (SUNY Press 2007).

SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY
Mondays at 7:00pm, Arnold Hall – Jewish Studies Center

This mini-course offers an overview of the history of Jews in the southern United States from colonial times until the present. We will explore some of the key events of southern Jewish history, seeking to understand how Jews have confounded, complicated, and conformed to the region’s “peculiar” norms and categories.

February 25 - “Jews, Heathens, and Infidels”: Southern Jewish Beginnings
March 4 - “A Class of Citizens”: Jews and the Civil War
March 11 - “The Quiet Voices”: Jews and the Civil Rights Movement

Shari Rabin is Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture at the College of Charleston. A historian of American religion and modern Judaism, she holds degrees from Boston University (BA) and Yale University (Ph.D.) Prof. Rabin is author of Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-century America (NYU Press, 2017) which was the winner of the 2017 National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies and a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature.
ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

FYSE 124.01  CRN 23697  First Year Seminar: Charleston as a Classroom: Exploring the City’s Archives and Historic Sites
Dale Rosengarten
T 1:40-2:55pm and Th 1:40-3:55pm* (Open only to first-year students)
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (JSC 210)

Charleston as a Classroom is designed to introduce freshmen to the rich historical resources housed, literally, on every street in Charleston. It aims to engage students in field work, archival research, and the field of public history. Tuesdays will be reserved for lectures, guest speakers, document study, and discussions; Thursdays for field trips to historic sites, archives, museums, churches, synagogues, and fellowship halls. The class will provide opportunities to practice documentary methods, such as producing oral histories and photographing people, places, and artifacts. *An extra hour has been added to Thursday class for field trips.

HBRW 102.01  CRN 20662  Elementary Modern Hebrew
Noa Weinberg
MWF 10:00-10:50am and W 9:00-9:50am
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (JSC 210)

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.

HBRW 202.01  CRN 20663  Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Noa Weinberg
MWF 11:00-11:50am and W 12:00-12:50pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (JSC 210)

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.

JWST200.01  CRN 23431  Introduction to Jewish Tradition
Joshua Shanes
T, Th 9:25 – 10:40am
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (JSC 210)

This course offers a general introduction to Judaism and its historical development from its formative stages through its medieval and modern transformations. Through close analysis of primary sources – sacred texts are the key to understanding Judaism – we will see how elite and everyday Jews have defined sacred time, sacred space, and religious leadership. Throughout the term, we will focus on the dynamics of Judaism as a religious “tradition,” in which innovation and change emerges ironically through asserting continuity with the past.

JWST 210.01  CRN 21505  Jewish History I: Ancient to Modern
Shari Rabin
T, Th 12:15-1:30pm
Jewish Studies Center, NEW LOCATION: JSC 233

This course will trace the history of the Jews from ancient times through the early modern period (circa 1650). Students will explore Jewish interactions with their various rulers and neighbors, with a focus on how social, economic, and political contexts shaped the development of Jewish religion and culture. Historical thinking, including the analysis of primary sources, will be emphasized.

JWST 245.01  CRN 23437  Introduction to Jewish-American Literature and Film
Ezra Cappell
ONLINE

In this course we will survey Jewish American literature and film from the beginning of the last century through the present day. Our goal will be to understand this important genre of writing and film production within the larger context of American culture. We will analyze the contributions of Jewish writers and directors to a variety of literary movements as we attempt to understand the complexities faced by Jewish artists working within the “American grain.”

JWST 300.01  CRN 21864  Special Topic: Nazi Medicine
Ted Rosengarten
Mondays 5:30-8:00pm
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies
Jewish Studies Center, NEW LOCATION: JSC 233

This course explores the biomedical vision at the heart of Nazi thought: the program of “human selection” that sought to remake the demography of Europe by placing the “health” of the state over the individual; the “cleansing” of the German medical profession; so-called medical experimentation as a tool of political and social conquest; and the pursuit of personal gain over the exercise of medical ethics.

ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

YOU MAY REGISTER FOR SPRING 2019 CLASSES ON JANUARY 15–16, 2019
In-person registration will be held at 65 George Street (Admissions Office)

Go to this website to schedule your advising appointment: tinyurl.com/CofCSeniors

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.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LOUIS TICK ‘98

As an 18-year-old leaving Paducah, Kentucky for college, Louis Tick could not have imagined that his new home on the College of Charleston campus would connect him to the city, the College, and to the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program for many more than the four years to come. Now a financial advisor for Edward Jones in West Ashley, the father of three is perhaps more involved than ever in his alma mater, primarily as an active member of the Jewish Studies Program's community Advisory Board, where he sits on the Executive Committee. Truly the proud alumnus, Louis also retains connections to his fraternity - the Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Phi - and is a committed fan of the College’s basketball team. Louis has also taken leadership roles in KKBE, the Hebrew Benevolent Society, and the Hebrew Orphan Society.

As he has recently celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his College graduation, Louis recalls that involvement with the Program's Advisory Board is much more of a thrill than a commitment. “I've gotten to watch the Jewish Studies Program grow in dramatic ways over the years, from a fledgling faculty and staff with few Jewish students, to the Program's present robust structure, which integrates academics, student life, and community outreach. My relationship with Marty is particularly important to me – traveling with him to Israel and seeing him dance remain highlights of my College experience. Years after graduating, getting to work with Marty and the Jewish Studies team to advance this incredible Program is truly icing on the cake.”
In 2010, Jewish Studies launched an ambitious capital campaign with the goal of establishing three centers of academic excellence in Southern Jewish Culture, Holocaust Studies, and Israel Studies. These three would serve as the heart of a leading, nationally recognized program of Jewish Studies education. With the extraordinarily generous support of the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Foundation, we are delighted that our third center has now been endowed, with a formal launch this semester.

The Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Center for Israel Studies will provide students at the College of Charleston, as well as members of the broader community, a deeper understanding of Israeli history, culture, and society through academic coursework, community outreach, student events, faculty exchange, and subsidized student travel to Israel. Our center will not only bring students to Israel – and Israeli faculty, business and technology leaders to Charleston – but will also build bridges within the College and broader community with its distinctive partnership with the School of Business and a focus on Israel’s start-up culture and high-tech business environment.

Already this spring, we have launched our first new seminar on Israeli business culture – team taught between myself and Professor Rene Mueller (Director of the International Business Program at the College of Charleston) – that will bring nearly a dozen students on a spring trip to Israel with significant scholarship support. We are also proud to announce that together with the School of Languages, Culture and World Affairs we will welcome Ambassador Daniel Shapiro to Charleston on March 28 to deliver the Kronsberg Memorial Lecture. Shapiro - who served as U.S. Ambassador to Israel from 2011 to 2017 and is today a leading scholar on Israel and the Middle East - will offer a behind-the-scenes account of Israeli-Palestinian talks, the fight over the Iran deal, and the many successes in U.S.-Israel relations over the past decade. Mark the date - this is a talk you will not want to miss!

We are extremely grateful to Gerry Sue and the late Norman Arnold, and the foundation bearing their name for its visionary support of the Center for Israel Studies, and many, many more Jewish Studies initiatives over the years, and look forward to developing yet more courses, student and faculty opportunities, and community events in the years to come.
In 2010, as Jewish Studies prepared to launch its $10M A Time to Build capital campaign, Anita Zucker’s transformative gift put in motion the process of establishing the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies, thereby funding the first of Jewish Studies’ three centers of academic excellence. With world class scholars in Holocaust and genocide studies, widespread student interest in the topic, and an existing communal infrastructure devoted to Holocaust education, the College of Charleston is poised to become a national center for excellence in Holocaust studies.

The Zucker/Goldberg Center will be at the cutting edge of Holocaust research, both in terms of supporting scholarship and in creating a regional scholarly community. In recent years, we have seen numerous alumni pursue graduate studies in the field of Holocaust Studies, with their interest stemming from the range of course offerings and support we provide. The Center will build on this interest and continue to create a pipeline of future Holocaust scholars and educators.

Our activities include a robust public program bringing in established and upcoming scholars to present on the latest developments in Holocaust research; support for student and faculty research, including travel funding and grants; subsidizing study abroad programs, particularly those that take students to Europe to study the Holocaust where it happened; and the launch in the 2019-2020 school year of a biennial research workshop with scholars from around the United States.

We will kick off our activities this semester on February 27th with a public lecture from Marion Kaplan, professor at New York University and leading scholar in the history of the daily life of Jews under Nazism. Professor Kaplan will present on the place of gender in Holocaust research, and how gender shaped victims’ experiences. Also, don’t miss the Brownbag Seminar from our Nemirov Scholar, Sydney Zazzaro, on February 6. Sydney will talk about her research into Holocaust survivors in Argentina - see p.4 for more information. We hope to see you there!
It’s good to be back. Sixteen years ago, I left my small and wonderful Jewish Studies family behind and headed north. The physical foundation of the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center had just been completed and the walls were underway. I had spent seven years working for the Program and had been the first officially paid employee of Jewish Studies. My work had provided me with one of those rare experiences where you actually get to see something in its infancy take hold and begin to grow. The simple vision of Henry Yaschik had materialized and I was proud to have supported his dream. But I had different ideas about my career and where my life was supposed to go, and dreams of my own, so I headed to Connecticut and the New York City Metropolitan area.

As a Lowcountry native and alumna of The College, I always knew that someday I’d return to my beloved Charleston. Each year on my annual trek home, I would stop by Jewish Studies to say hello to Marty and marvel at the Program’s success. Over the years, my love of the College and my belief in the mission of Jewish Studies never faded. Each time I encountered a young person thinking about college, I encouraged them to visit the College of Charleston. I had many conversations with students and parents about the Jewish Studies Program and the ever-growing JSU/Hillel. Now after a career in theatre, which led to a career in marketing, which led to a Juris Doctor from CUNY School of Law (life is a curvy path), I find myself right back where I started, and I couldn’t be more pleased. My position as Associate Director of Admissions for the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program feels like a natural fit: Speaking passionately to others about the Jewish Studies Program was work I had gladly done from afar for free. What a joy to be doing it again in an official capacity!

During my first week back on campus, I ran into a young woman from West Hartford, Connecticut in Marty’s Place, whom I had encountered as she made her college decision. She enthusiastically asked me to join her for lunch. She’s a sophomore now, and couldn’t stop thanking me for convincing her and her parents that a visit to the College absolutely had to be part of her college search. It is immensely rewarding to know that I played a role in helping another find an educational experience as wonderful as the one I had at the College of Charleston. If you are, or know of a prospective student who should be hearing from us, please don’t hesitate to reach to me out at meny@cofc.edu.
This past fall was a time of transition and adjustment for Jewish student life. My role as Engagement Associate for the JSU/Hillel shifted over the summer and continued to evolve to encompass overseeing the Student Board and programming. This has been a wonderful opportunity for me to work more closely with our student leaders, and to help empower them to become leaders on campus and in their communities. Last year we decided to restructure the Student Board to be smaller in size, and shifted to a calendar cycle, with students holding a leadership position from January to December. This change has proved invaluable. Over the summer, Student Board members worked hard planning six entire weeks of introductory events, coinciding with The College’s Six Weeks of Welcome. Events included a Freshman Fiesta, Yoga in the Sukkah, and a Shabbat at the Beach with Jewish cadets from The Citadel. Students continued to plan yet more events throughout the semester, focusing strategically and with purpose on programmatic content and structure. Student leaders worked to ensure that every program aligned with one of the JSU/Hillel’s values of Jewish Education, Connection, Leadership, Inclusivity, and Tikkun Olam. We managed to engage approximately 370 students during these events, in just four months. As I continue the JSU/Hillel’s critical engagement work, this data has helped guide us on how we approach our work.

Through the changes in my role with CofC JSU/Hillel, I have maintained my commitment to enriching Jewish life at The Citadel, which has been a project of Jewish Studies for well over a decade. In just one year, I have watched this group of cadets change The Citadel Hillel into something truly student-made. This past semester we were particularly pleased to host Dov Maisel, a combat medic and VP of United Hatzalah in Israel, and Rabbi Rosenbaum of Synagogue Emanu-El. The Citadel Hillel also sent Cadet Joshua Kreitzer to Jewish Warrior Weekend, a retreat in Washington, DC, that invites Jewish cadets and midshipmen from across the U.S. to network and participate in Jewish learning over a weekend. As in years past, we have continued our Citadel-CofC dinners provided by members of the community. If you are interested in bringing a dinner to an upcoming Monday night meeting at the Citadel, please contact me at ppartrid@citadel.edu.

I am so proud of everything that CofC and Citadel students have accomplished this past semester. I can’t wait to see what ideas they will think of next, and look forward to working with them in bringing those ideas to life.

It is with a mix of pride, excitement, and sadness that I find myself writing my final newsletter article as the outgoing President of the Jewish Student Union/Hillel at CofC. My journey with Hillel began before I had matriculated at the College, as I attended Accepted Students Weekend Shabbat. I felt instantly welcomed by students and staff upon entering the Jewish Studies Center, and knew that the College of Charleston was where I wanted to spend the next four years. At my freshman Welcome Back Cookout I met fellow students who would become lifelong friends, incredible professors, and leaders in the Jewish community. I sensed a strong urge to not only be part of Jewish life at CofC, but to be a leader in this organization and in the community.

While I have had the good fortune to serve in various JSU/Hillel leadership roles over the past four years, my involvement with Jewish life on campus and in the community reached far beyond my time on the JSU/Hillel Board. I initiated the Helping Hands Initiative, which calls on students to package and bring food to the homeless community on Shabbat. My passion for Holocaust education and experience as a Jewish Studies Klaper Fellow informed my decision to bring the Daffodil Project, a program that remembers children of the Holocaust, to the College of Charleston, as well as forming the Holocaust Education Committee to assist in these efforts.

I could not be more proud of all that the 2018 Student Board has accomplished. We planned and implemented more than forty events during the spring and fall semesters. Some highlights for me included monthly Challah for Hunger bakes, volunteering at the Carolina Youth and Development Center, the Faux Mitzvah, and our Ghost Tour Shabbat. The JSU/Hillel has given me some of the most memorable experiences of my college career. I have been incredibly fortunate to learn from my peers, and to have had the opportunity to grow and give back to the community.

I am confident that the incredible students at Hillel will take our regular programming, and large-scale initiatives such as the Daffodil Project and Helping Hands and grow them in years to come. I know that Izzy Dubrow and Maddie Grosoff, the 2019 President and Vice President respectively, will continue to make Hillel feel just as much as a home away from home for other students as I have felt it has been for me. The best is yet to come!
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 and Martin Perlmutter, with contributions by others. Design and layout by Enid Idelsohn.