from generation to generation

SPRING 2011
From the Director

Chanukah in the Square is behind us and the buzz of students studying for final exams in all corners of the Center has died down, which means it is time for the spring newsletter. I am happy to report that all is well with Jewish Studies. It is difficult to convey how much goes on at the Center, with coursework, student life, and our community offerings. The structure of Jewish Studies at the College is unique, with each of those dimensions thoroughly integrated. That integration, synergy is the word used often, was endorsed in the Jewish Studies strategic plan, so it is our plan moving forward.

Some highlights:

♦ The Jewish Studies baccalaureate program is in Columbia, awaiting approval by the state’s Commission on Higher Education. We anticipate offering the first Jewish Studies major in the state in August 2011.
♦ Israel travel has been approved for our students by the College, even though the State Department has a travel advisory urging caution on travel to Israel.
♦ The Zucker/Goldberg Holocaust initiatives will be funded by the College until the endowment receives full funding. Ted Rosengarten will occupy the Zucker/Goldberg Chair in Holocaust Studies, and increase our Holocaust course offerings. Information about his Maymester trip to Eastern Europe is discussed on page 15 and information about filmmaker Menachem Daum’s visit is on page 7. Anita’s gift has given us a lot of momentum and we are running with it.
♦ Linda Gradstein of NPR just returned to Jerusalem after being the first Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Chair in Jewish Studies. She did an incredible job with her classes, her public lectures, and her overwhelming willingness to be involved.

I have been absorbed with the long-term project of off-loading some of the director’s responsibilities. That too is part of the strategic plan. Jewish student life was the first focus of that off-loading project and is now under the direction of Marsha Alterman and Mimi Lewis. Marsha and Mimi have done an excellent job of engaging students, and that dimension of Jewish Studies is thriving. The Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation had generously funded those student life positions for the last five years. An anonymous donor has stepped forward and has committed to funding the positions for the next five years. I am deeply grateful for that support.

Community outreach is the next dimension to be off-loaded, and I am excited about that prospect, and the new energy that will come with it. Jess Glasser just joined Jewish Studies as our new Community Liaison and is a perfect fit for the job. Her mission is threefold: developing new programs for the larger community, engaging the Advisory Board in promoting the Program, and securing additional funding for Jewish Studies. Jewish Studies’ commitment to community outreach has been the hallmark of our Program; I know of no other Jewish Studies program in the country which is as engaged with the broader community as we are. Jess’s appointment will cement that commitment, and enable us to do yet more in making the College a resource for the larger community.

A sad note. Harriet Keyserling of Beaufort passed away on December 10 at the age of 88. Harriet was a very special person, with prophetic vision and courage, uncompromising purpose, an unwavering commitment to equality and justice, and a special passion for the arts, education, and the environment. Harriet was calm, dignified, and always caring. My life is better for having had Harriet as a model and as a friend, and I will miss her. May Judy, Billy, Paul and Beth find comfort among the mourners of Zion.

M’dor L’dor: From generation to generation. With Harriet’s inspirational spirit in mind and an ambitious spring semester ahead, I hope you will join us as we continue to build the Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston. I look forward to working together with all of you.

On the cover: Leeron Ofer (’12 from Atlanta) painting the chanukiyah cut-out for Chanukah in the Square.
From the Chair

The journey of executing the newly approved strategic plan of the College of Charleston Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program is well underway with the active engagement of the new Advisory Board and the hiring of new staff. Committee chair appointments were made at our fall meeting and they have already met with the staff and me about executing the strategic plan. Thanks for the enthusiasm all have displayed in bringing their particular talents to the program. Lots of good news with staffing: Mimi Lewis was hired as our Jewish Student Life Coordinator and teams up with an experienced and able Marsha Alterman in Jewish student life. And Jess Glasser recently joined the staff as Community Liaison. They will bring Jewish Studies to the next level.

Thanks to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee (Leslie Archer, David Cohen, Marty Perlmutter, Mark Tanenbaum, and Anita Zucker) and the sub-committees which were comprised of community members and the talented staff and faculty (Marsha Alterman, Maxine Bier, Enid Idelsohn, Larry Krasnoff, Adam Mendelsohn, Joshua Shanes and Tzipi Wagner). I have enjoyed being a part of these groups that have developed a plan to solidify the multi-dimensional vision for the program. That plan gives us real direction.

Academics remain the core of the program with student life and community outreach all reporting to one director. All of the three dimensions of Jewish Studies now have designated leaders who direct or oversee the programs. Their work will enable Marty to concentrate on a longer range vision for Jewish Studies.

Special thanks to those who have stepped up and funded some of the capital initiatives highlighted in the plan: Anita Zucker for the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Education, Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold for the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies, Samuel Greene for partially funding The Center for Southern Jewish Culture, and an anonymous donor for the Director of Jewish Student Life.

With a Jewish Studies major now imminent, our newest initiative, the construction of a kosher vegetarian/vegan dining hall, becomes critical for providing for the needs of the students that a Jewish Studies major will attract to the College. The College has agreed to fund the majority of this initiative and we are in the early stages of planning the private piece needed. We will be in touch with you for your help as this initiative progresses.

I am eager to work with you and to make the Advisory Board yet more involved. Thank you for all your support.

Kevin Archer, Chair

Three Rabbi Panel

JUDAISM AND SEXUALITY: “SECTS IN THE CITY”

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 7:30pm
at Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor)

Now in its fifteenth year, and with an altogether new generation of rabbis, the Three Rabbi Panel is one of the proudest accomplishments of Jewish Studies as it showcases the unity of the Charleston community and the importance of dialogue or, in our case, triaogue. On the heels of last semester’s controversial topic and well-received presentations, this semester we challenge our community’s spiritual leaders with the delicate task of expressing Jewish views on sexuality. It’s a theme that promises to flesh out the approaches that differentiate Judaism’s major denominations, highlight universal Jewish values, and generate rousing discussion. The rabbis will address sexuality before marriage, sexuality within marriage, and constraints on sexual expression. As always, the Three Rabbi Panel is an opportunity for all of us to increase our knowledge base and kvell over how thoughtful, dynamic, and utterly impressive our rabbis are.

Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum
Synagogue Emanu-El
(Conservative)

Rabbi Stephanie Alexander
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim
(Reform)

Rabbi Ari Sytner
Brith Sholom Beth Israel
(Orthodox)
Sunday Mornings in the Stern Center Ballroom

Monthly brunches have become a regular feature of the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program. Bagels, coffee, and orange juice will be served in Arnold Hall beginning at 9:00am. This semester the talks will be held in the Stern Center (on the corner of Glebe and George Streets) in the fourth floor ballroom. All talks begin at 10:15am. Events are free and open to the public. Immediately after the presentations, Sig Schildcrout will host an informal discussion with the speaker. Free parking is available for Sunday morning events (only) in the Wentworth Street Garage on the corner of Wentworth and St. Philip. Bring your parking ticket to the talk for validation. Thanks to Lora and David Kratzok, Jean and Zev Wolf, and Thelma Becker, our indefatigable volunteers, for their ongoing commitment, hard work, and good humor.

JOAN NATHAN
Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 10:15am
QUICHES, KUGELS, AND COUSCOUS:
MY SEARCH FOR JEWISH COOKING IN FRANCE

In her search, Nathan takes us into kitchens in Paris, Alsace, and the Loire Valley; she visits the bustling Belleville market in Little Tunis in Paris; she breaks bread around the observation of Shabbat and the celebration of special holidays. Now she gives us the fruits of her quest, kosher recipes and the often moving stories behind them, interlaced with the tumultuous two-thousand-year history of the Jewish presence in France.

Joan Nathan was born in Providence, Rhode Island and is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Harvard University. Nathan was also the executive producer and host of *Jewish Cooking in America with Joan Nathan*, a PBS series based on her cookbook, *Jewish Cooking in America*. She has written a total of ten cookbooks, winning numerous awards for them. Nathan, the mother of three grown children, lives in Washington, D.C. and in Martha’s Vineyard with her husband, Allan Gerson.

SIM PEARL
MAKING TRANSDENOMINATIONAL JEWISH EDUCATION WORK
Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 10:15am

The Weber School was founded to offer Jewish high school students in Atlanta an alternative to the denominationally-based education typical of American Jewish day schools. Dr. Pearl will share how he has created an atmosphere where students of all denominations, affiliations, and levels of observance engage in informed dialogue in the diverse community in which they live. Many Jewish institutions tout pluralism; the Weber School has achieved it. Come find out how.

Dr. Simcha Pearl is founding Principal and Current Head of The Weber School, formerly known as The New Atlanta Jewish Community High School. He is a graduate of Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, the Senior Educators Program at Hebrew University’s Melton Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora and the Jerusalem Fellows Program at the Center for Advanced Professional Educators.

ELI EVANS
Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 10:15am
JUDAH P. BENJAMIN: JEWISH CONFEDERATE

Eli Evans returns to Charleston to talk about Jewish involvement in the Civil War. At least eight thousand Jews fought in the armies of the Union and the Confederacy. In the South several rose to positions of prominence. Abraham C. Myers was the controversial first quartermaster-general of the Confederate States. Judah P. Benjamin, a distinguished U.S. Senator before the war, became Jefferson Davis’s right-hand-man. In his talk, Evans will revisit his research on Benjamin and offer us fresh insights into the troubled experience of Jews during America’s bloodiest and most divisive conflict.

Eli N. Evans was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Yale Law School. He is author of *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South, Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate*, and *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner*. He is president emeritus of the Charles H. Revson Foundation and lives in New York City.
OPHER AVIRAN  
Sunday, March 27, 2011  at 10:15am

ISRAEL’S POLITICAL AND SECURITY CHALLENGES

Israel lives in a difficult neighborhood, a neighborhood that has received lots of world attention. Consul General Aviran will address Iran’s nuclear ambitions and Israel’s options in response, the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, and Israel's relationship to the United States and its Jewish community.

Opher Aviran is a graduate of The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the University of Haifa and National Defense College. Aviran was appointed in August 2010 to serve as the Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States, based in Atlanta, and has served in Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1983. The Consul General is joined in Atlanta by his wife Talyah and daughters Adi and Noa.

KENNETH JACOBSON  
Sunday, April 10, 2011  at 10:15am

ISRAEL AT A CROSSROAD...AGAIN

Israel is at a crossroads...again. There are two competing trends—one an existential threat to Israel, the other a more hopeful sign. The campaigns to delegitimize Israel have gained strength and traction in many parts of the world. But there have been practical changes in attitudes toward Israel that offer hope for progress toward peace.

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.*

RABBIS STEPHANIE ALEXANDER AND JUDY SCHINDLER  
Sunday, April 17, 2011  at 10:15am

OPENING OUR TENTS

The demographic of American Jewish life has resulted in increased efforts to connect the unaffiliated and the non-Jew to the Jewish world and its institutions. Those efforts have resulted in dramatic changes in the Jewish establishment and Jewish identity. Both Rabbi Alexander and Rabbi Schindler share a deep commitment to Jewish outreach and will discuss both the changes inclusivity requires and its intended result.

Rabbi Stephanie Alexander is mother to Eli, wife to Rabbi Aaron Sherman, and rabbi to the people of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim. Rabbi Alexander received her undergraduate degree, a B.S. in Psychology with honors in Jewish Studies, from Tulane University in New Orleans. She earned her ordination, as well as Masters degrees in Hebrew Literature and Religious Education, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2003. Throughout her training and practice as a rabbi and educator, Rabbi Alexander has sought out institutions that value creativity and inclusivity.

Rabbi Judith Schindler has been Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El of Charlotte, North Carolina for the past seven years. She came to Beth El as an Associate Rabbi in 1998. Rabbi Judy received her Bachelors Degree in Clinical Psychology from Tufts University in 1988 (magna cum laude), her Masters from the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 1993, and was ordained at the Hebrew Union College in New York in 1995. Rabbi Schindler is one of a dozen women rabbis in our country leading congregations of over 1,000 families. She is the daughter of the late Rabbi Alexander Schindler who was president of the Union for Reform Judaism from 1973-1995.
A Class with Rabbi Epstein
MEDICINE AND MORALS - A COURSE ON PRACTICAL JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS
Mondays, January 24, February 21, March 14, and May 2, 2011
7:00 - 8:30pm Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

This course will introduce you to the traditional Jewish analysis of these issues in an environment that supports the rabbinic tradition of debate and discussion. This energetic and intellectually challenging course is sure to broaden your perspective and provide greater sophistication in analyzing and thinking about medical perplexities. Among the topics are: autonomy, infertility, confidentiality, organ donation, medical experimentation, and mental illness. This course presents a unique opportunity to earn thirty CME credits as you explore a novel comparative approach to medical ethics.

Rabbi Hesh Epstein has been the Executive Director of Chabad Lubavitch of South Carolina since 1987. Father of nine and a sought after teacher, Rabbi Hesh was Assistant Rabbi at Brith Sholom Beth Israel in Charleston from 2001-2004. His evening courses have become a regular and popular fixture of the Jewish Studies adult education offerings.

A Class with Rabbi Sytner
THE SEVEN NOAHADE LAWS
Seven Tuesday evenings, February 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2011
7:00 - 8:30pm Levin Library, Jewish Studies Center

The seven Noahide laws are requirements of behavior that are obligatory for both Jews and non-Jews, and reflect a moral and religious commonality between them. Rabbi Sytner will provide an overview of the Noahide tradition, dissecting one of the laws of Noah in each of the seven classes. This class will closely analyze key Biblical texts, as well as contemporary sources to unearth the origins of these laws. Participants will compare the role of the Jew and non-Jew in the world, and study the special power that the Noahide laws have to link all of civilization together, regardless of religion.

Rabbi Ari Sytner was raised in Monsey, New York, where he studied under Rabbi Berel Wein. Rabbi Sytner also studied for two years in Jerusalem, earned a B.A. in Psychology, an M.A. in Educational Administration, and served for three years as Senior Rabbi at Beth El Jacob Synagogue in Des Moines, Iowa. He and his family came to Brith Sholom Beth Israel in Charleston in 2004. Rabbi Sytner and his wife, Chana, have four young children: Reuven, Meyer Simcha and twins, Akiva and Aliza.

A Class with Rabbi Krohn
INTRODUCTION TO THE TALMUD: BAVA METZIA
Mondays, January 24 - May 2, 2011
5:30 - 6:30 pm in Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

As a sequel to last semester’s successful Monday night Talmud class in Tractate Brachot, this semester’s class on Tractate Bava Metzia will explore the rules of business ethics, lost objects, and various moral dilemmas associated with property. Practical cases that were adjudicated in rabbinical courts will also be examined to see how the judges came to their conclusions using the Talmud and its commentaries. In that sense, both Talmudic theory and its practical application will be studied. No background is necessary, but regular attendance is encouraged.

Rabbi Beni Krohn has been the Director of the Jewish Renaissance of Charleston (JROC), a new Jewish outreach and education initiative, since the summer of 2010. He gives formal and informal adult education classes throughout the community, and works with students in area high schools and colleges.
Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Education

FROM BEHIND THE LENS: MENACHEM DAUM’S LIFE AS A FILMMAKER

Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance After the Holocaust
Wednesday, March 16th, at 7:00pm

A Life Apart: Hasidism in America
Thursday, March 17th, at 7:00pm

Both films will be shown in Room 129, New Sciences Building, 202 Calhoun Street (at Coming)

As our inaugural Zucker/Goldberg Center community event, Menachem Daum joins us from the Holy Land (Brooklyn) to screen his two best known works to-date. After the screenings, Daum will discuss how his priorities (and films) have changed over time, and brief us on his current documentary projects that are bringing him to Poland and to Arab villages in Israel.

Dr. Menachem Daum is a graduate of Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem, Fairfield University and Fordham University and served as the Research Director of the Brookdale Center on Aging at Hunter College. He and his wife, Rifka, have lived in Boro Park, Brooklyn, for over 40 years.

Co-sponsored by the Remember Program of the Charleston Jewish Federation

Rabbi David and Barbara Radinsky

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday – January 30, 31 and February 1, 2011
in Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

Rabbi Radinsky’s topic:
ISSUES IN JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS (Sunday at 5:00pm, Tuesday at 7:00pm)
We will explore issues that include brain death, abortion, end of life, organ transplantation, and many other relevant issues. Sources that we will study include the works of Rabbi Immanuel Jacobowitz, Dr. Fred Rosner, Rabbi J. David Bleich, Dr. Abraham Abraham, and other experts in this field. A reception welcoming the Radinskys will take place at 6:15pm on Sunday, immediately after Rabbi Radinsky’s first presentation.

Barbara Radinsky’s topic:
TALKING TO GOD: MAKING PRAYER MEANINGFUL IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY (Monday at 7:00pm)
We will explore topics that include individual and communal prayer, men and women in prayer, and achieving spirituality in prayer.

Rabbi David J. Radinsky is a graduate of Yeshiva University and is Rabbi Emeritus of Brit 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.

A Class with Rabbi Rosenbaum

HIDDEN PURIM

Thursdays, March 3 and 10, 2011
7:30 - 9:00 pm in Levin Library, Jewish Studies Center

On its surface, the Book of Esther is a comedy, a satire, a wild story with a happy ending. But lingering just below are important statements about gender, power, and God’s role in our lives. As Purim approaches, you are encouraged to delve into the meaning that lies between the farcical characters and the loud noises of the groggers. It will enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of this deceptively deep holiday.

Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum has been the spiritual leader of Synagogue Emanu-El since July 2009. Before arriving in Charleston, he was the assistant rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston, NJ. He is married to Ellen Miriam Brandwein and is the proud father of Shoshana and Jonathan.
Intermediate Reading Hebrew

Mondays, January 24 - May 2, 2011
5:25 - 6:40 pm in Arnold Hall and Levin Library

Our informal Hebrew classes will continue during the Spring Semester as follows: There will be two intermediate 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 minutes classes, taught by native Hebrew speakers. Shula Holtz has been teaching the class since its inception and will teach Reading Fluency and Prayer Literacy. Tsipi Wagner is a veteran to teaching Hebrew and will teach Reading Fluency and Modern Hebrew. Basic ability to read Hebrew is a prerequisite for these classes. A beginner’s class will be offered once again in Fall 2011.

Jewish Choral Society

Mondays, January 24 - May 2, 2011
7:00 - 9:00pm in Arnold Hall

Under Madeline Hershenson’s loving and skillful leadership, the Society continues to reach new heights with performances at Marion Square and at KKBE in another Piccolo Spoleto concert. Now in its twelfth year, the Jewish Choral Society keeps growing and has become a community of singers and friends. The repertoire now includes Sephardic music, cantorial chants, contemporary Israeli music, Israeli folk songs, traditional songs from Eastern Europe, and Yiddish and Ladino music. New singers are welcome. No experience necessary. Of course, rehearsals include refreshments.

Contemporary Israeli Cinema

Tuesdays, January 25, February 22, and March 29, 2011
7:00 - 9:00pm in Arnold Hall

Tspi Wagner, our Hebrew instructor, will be screening three films showcasing modern Israeli culture and leading a discussion afterward. The movies are in Hebrew with English subtitles. Screenings are free and open to the public.


February 22nd: Time of Favor (2002; 102 minutes) This romantic drama within a political thriller dramatizes the tensions between secular and religious Zionism. Time of Favor (Ha-Hesder) won six Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

March 29th: Yossi & Jagger (2004; 65 minutes) Winner of multiple awards, a tale of two lovers, set on the border of Israel and Lebanon living in the face of a possible Hezbollah incursion.

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is continuing its work with the Jewish Heritage Collection and its oral history project, its biannual newsletters, its website, and its historical markers project. This calendar year it has two special meetings planned. The first, in conjunction with the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War, and in collaboration with the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, will take place on May 25th and 26th in Charleston. Thanks to the Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project for contributing to these meetings. The second, in conjunction with the Southern Jewish Historical Society, will take place place October 27th – 30th in Columbia. Please save the dates!

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program
The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina
Jews, Slavery and the Civil War

Wednesday and Thursday, May 25-26, 2011
Charleston, SC
Greetings from the third floor of the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center! I started as the program’s Community Liaison on November 1st and am thrilled to be an official part of this outstanding organization, providing such a unique model of promoting Jewish continuity through education.

About me: I grew up in Brooklyn, was a German major at Allegheny College, and lived in Germany for a year and a half during my studies. Since moving to Charleston, my primary connection to the Jewish community has been through my involvement with YAD (the Young Adult Division of CJF) as one of its organizers and its Social Action Chair. In my free time I’m a volunteer phone counselor with Trident United Way’s 2-1-1 Hotline.

About what I do: As Marty mentioned, there are three major dimensions of my position, all of which keep me pretty busy and all of which provide opportunities for your involvement. Here they are:

◆ Developing the Program: There are two aspects of program development: Annual Giving, our Friends of Jewish Life (FOJL) campaign, and Endowment Giving. FOJL funds the day-to-day operations of Jewish Studies including the cost of student programming (Wednesday night meet-to-eats, Shabbat dinners, yoga, bowling nights, tzedek initiatives, Passover meals, etc.) and community programming (the Sunday Brunch series, classes, and special events). FOJL pays for the speakers and the nosherie that are a signature of our ongoing hospitality here at Jewish Studies, creating that Jewish home away from home.

   Endowment Giving raises continuing funds for major new initiatives, identified by the Jewish Studies faculty and the Advisory Board, highlighted in the strategic plan, and approved by the College administration, that will permanently enhance Jewish Studies at the College. These include:

   The Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center Expansion: If you’ve been to any of the aforementioned student meals or Sunday brunches, you know that we’ve outgrown our available space. Expanding the Center will accommodate our current needs as well as the growth of the academic program, the ever-increasing Jewish student body, and our community offerings. The expansion will include a kosher vegetarian/vegan dining facility.

   The Center for Southern Jewish Culture (CSJC): CSJC promises to establish us as the nexus for research, scholarly conferences and public education on Southern Jewish history and culture as we harness Charleston’s power of place. CSJC will teach Southern Jewish history to our undergraduates, work with JHSSC on community outreach, and expand the Jewish Heritage Collection at the Addlestone Library. It will host regular conferences, master classes for tour guides and museum docents, and biennial elderhostels, significantly increasing the College’s research capabilities and boosting its reputation for excellence in higher education.

◆ Supporting with the Advisory Board: The Program’s Advisory Board provides us with leadership and experience, and its roster is complete with community members, parents and alumni who share a commitment to promoting Jewish Studies at the College. Kevin Archer (P’12, P’13) began this year as the new Chair, and serves with a vim and a day-to-day involvement that has transformed the momentum of the Board and greatly facilitates Marty’s offloading process. We welcome our new members: Leo Fishman, Risa Milbauer (P’12), Michael Rabhan (‘03), Robert Steinberg (P’13), and Louis Tick (‘98). Sadly, we say goodbye and offer heartfelt thank yous to those members who have stepped down: Karen Becker, David Berg, Tom Ervin, Terry Fisher, and Michael Kogan. And we are grieved by Harriet Keyserling’s passing; Harriet was a founding member and an important presence on the Advisory Board.

◆ Community programming: My biggest draw to this position was the Program’s impressive community offerings. Marty has been a true phenomenon in securing interesting speakers and educators who represent the breadth of contemporary Jewish thought and cutting edge research in Jewish Studies. Our strategic plan outlines a continuation of the Program’s work-to-date, and adds a high school initiative and a community-wide collaboration on text study. M’dor L’dor, indeed.

To check in on how we’re coming along with any of our goals, to provide feedback on our progress, or just say hi, email me at glasserj@cofc.edu or call me at 843.953.5657. I would love to hear from you.
### Academic Course Offerings

**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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days and Times</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HBRW 102.01</td>
<td>Elementary Modern Hebrew II</td>
<td>Zipora Wagner</td>
<td>MWF 10:00-10:50am and MWF 11:00-11:50am</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)</td>
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<td>HBRW 102.02</td>
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<td>An introduction of fundamental language structures</td>
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<td>with emphasis on acquisition of basic language skills: reading and listening comprehension, oral and written expression, including speaking.</td>
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<td>Prerequisite: HBRW 101</td>
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<td>HBRW 202.01</td>
<td>Intermediate Modern Hebrew II</td>
<td>Zipora Wagner</td>
<td>MWF 9:00-9:50am</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBRW 314.01</td>
<td>Advanced Modern Hebrew: Conversation and Composition</td>
<td>Zipora Wagner</td>
<td>MWF 12:00-12:50pm</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 200.01</td>
<td>The Jewish Tradition</td>
<td>Joshua Shanes</td>
<td>MWF 12:00-12:50pm and MWF 1:00-1:50pm</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Arnold Hall (Room 100)</td>
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<td>JWST 200.02</td>
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<td>This course offers a general introduction to Judaism and its historical development. We will focus especially on evolving interpretations of sacred texts in defining Jewish religious expression in various periods. Through these texts, we will approach Judaism as a religious &quot;tradition,&quot; in which innovation and change emerge ironically through asserting continuity with the past.</td>
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<td>JWST 215.01</td>
<td>Jewish History II: Modern to Present</td>
<td>Adam Mendelsohn</td>
<td>MWF 10:00-10:50am and MWF 11:00-11:50am</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Arnold Hall (Room 100)</td>
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<td>JWST 215.02</td>
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<td>A survey of the social, economic, religious and political experience of the Jewish people in the modern world, emphasizing the diversity of Jewish experience and the interaction between Jews and their surrounding environments. JWST215 can be used to satisfy the College's General Education requirement in history.</td>
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<td>JWST 230.01</td>
<td>The Holocaust</td>
<td>Theodore Rosengarten</td>
<td>MW 2:30-3:45pm</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 310.01</td>
<td>African Americans and Jews from Slavery to Civil Rights</td>
<td>Adam Mendelsohn</td>
<td>MW 1:00-2:15pm</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)</td>
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<td>This class will examine the complex and evolving relationship between Jews and African Americans over the course of American history. Among the themes we will discuss are Jewish responses to slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and efforts by both groups to forge an effective alliance to fight for civil rights in the Twentieth Century. We will conclude by examining the collapse of this coalition, and the sometimes troubled interactions between the two groups in its aftermath.</td>
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<td>JWST 320.01</td>
<td>Exploring Charleston's Archives and Historic Sites</td>
<td>Dale Rosengarten</td>
<td>T 3:15-4:15pm and R 3:15-4:45pm</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)</td>
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<td>An interdisciplinary course for students interested in field work, archival research, and museum studies. The class will investigate the city's historic cultural diversity and examine the nature of group identity. Students will analyze settlement patterns in Charleston over time, the construction of neighborhood boundaries, and the evolution of social hierarchies both between and within groups. 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.</td>
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A Sesquicentennial Commemoration

The United States is about to begin a five-year period of commemorating the causes, course and consequences of the Civil War. Charleston, a hub of the slave trade and the secession movement, and the very site where the conflict began, will take center stage in the Spring of 2011. At least 8,000 Jewish soldiers fought for the Union and Confederacy during the Civil War. A few served together in Jewish companies while most fought alongside Christian comrades. Many more American Jews were affected on the home front in North and South. Yet even as they stood “shoulder-to-shoulder” on the front lines and on the home front, Jews encountered unique challenges. Thanks to a generous grant to the Yashchik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program from the Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project, we have organized a range of public events designed to analyze the impact and legacy of the war on Jews and Jewish life in both North and South.

Food for Thought Lecture Series
Join us at 7:00pm on Monday evenings for our new Food for Thought Lecture Series. We’ve invited a stellar lineup of leading speakers to reexamine the course and consequences of the conflict for Jews, and to discuss its impact on Jewish - African American relations after the war ended. All the talks will be preceded by desserts and coffee.

February 7: Marni Davis (Georgia State University), Jewish Whiskey Men in the Jim Crow South
February 14: Eric Goldstein (Emory University), Choosing Sides, Again: Jews in the Reconstruction South
February 28: Hasia Diner (New York University), The Business of Jews and African Americans
March 21: Dale Rosengarten (College of Charleston), Ladies of the Lost Cause
April 4: Saskia Coenen Snyder (University of South Carolina), The Civil War and the Jews of Europe
April 11: Leonard Rogoff (Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina), Who is True Israel? Yankees, Confederates, Jews and African-Americans

Civil War Conference
On May 25 and 26 the Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will co-host a public conference on the theme of Jews, Slavery and the Civil War. We have an extraordinary lineup of scholars participating, with Jonathan Sarna delivering the keynote address at KKBE. Contact us for more information about the conference.

Sunday Morning Walking tours
Dale Rosengarten and Harlan Greene will lead two walking tours over the course of the semester.
February 13: Uptown Jewish History Tour
March 13: African American History and Culture
The tours will depart the Jewish Studies Center at 11am. The tour costs $10 per person and is limited to 15 people. Book your place today by phoning our reservation line at 843.953.3894.

JWST 330.01
Theodore Rosengarten
W 5:30-8:00pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)
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.”

JWST 335.01
Joshua Shanes
TR 12:15-1:30pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)
This course explores the rise and development of Jewish political movements in three regions – Europe, Palestine/Israel, and the United States – from the late nineteenth to the late twentieth century. We will examine a wide range of political movements – Zionist, Socialist and Liberal – and consider how these intersected and evolved over the course of the century.
A Word from our Co-President Jackson Hoberman

“A home away from home”. Ask any Jewish student who frequents the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Center, and you’ll be sure to regularly hear this sentiment about Jewish student life at the College. Yet this past fall, those words never have rung more true, as the attendance at each of the JSU/Hillel’s weekly staples—Meet to Eats and Friday evening Shabbat dinners—have grown to fill the maximum capacity of Arnold Hall.

Beyond our weekly events, JSU/Hillel continued our involvement with the greater College community through innovative new programming and building upon yearly traditions. In collaboration with the Multicultural Center and the Black Student Union, we presented Shades of You, a program that provided an opportunity for Jewish and African-American students, faculty, and staff, to network, socialize, and cultivate lasting relationships through dialogue and mutual understanding. It was a tremendous opportunity for both groups to come together with a positive program.

Continuing a timeless tradition at the College, the board represented Jewish student life at the Sottile Tree Lighting Ceremony by spreading awareness of Chanukah and serving up, hot, crispy latkes with sour cream and—my favorite—apple sauce. All of us enjoyed spreading the holiday spirit and sharing our tradition with our friends, professors, and college community. We still can’t believe we fried over 600 pounds of potato pancakes!

Falling during the academic semester for the second consecutive year, Chanukah in the Square was a great success! In cooperation with the City of Charleston and Chabad of Charleston and the Lowcountry and co-sponsored by many local Jewish organizations, the event featured live music, food, and activities for children. The JSU/Hillel board helped set-up and break-down the event, grilled burgers, and helped prepare the endless supply of potato latkes.

This spring, JSU/Hillel is looking forward to another exciting semester, full of engaging events. Some of the events in the works are an Israeli cooking seminar, a kayaking outing, and in accordance with our commitment to social action initiatives, baking challah and donating our profits to the Low Country Food Bank, serving meals at the Charleston Crisis Ministry, and building a house under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity.

As I begin my final semester of study at the College, I would like to thank you for your support of the efforts of the student board and advisors. Whether you have donated your time, money, or experience, as either an alumnus, parent, or friend of Jewish Studies, thank you for having laid down a supportive foundation for the next generation of Jewish students. As a beneficiary of such a commitment to Jewish student life, I thank you because, while I may have originally attended my first JSU/Hillel event because of the nudging of my mother, I stayed because of your generosity and the consequences thereof.

Only time will tell whether I have made a significant impression on any person or place I’ve encountered during my undergraduate years at the College. However, when I depart through the gates of Porter’s Lodge upon crossing the Cistern at graduation, I know that I’ll be just as confident as I am now that your support of the JSU/Hillel has made an impression upon me.
Reflections on My First Semester

Mimi Lewis, Jewish Student Life Coordinator

I’ve had a blast joining Jewish student life at the College of Charleston! I am grateful for the wonderful connections I’ve made with the students of the JSU. I am especially grateful to my own “Three Rabbi Panel”—Ellen Miriam Brandwein, Rabbi Beni Krohn, and Rabbi Aaron Sherman. They have helped me and the student board infuse all of our programs with Jewish content, singing, and learning.

Last semester, in numbers:

16 x 20—The dimensions of our first JSU/Hillel Sukkah! Housed in the Steinberg’s backyard, a few blocks from campus, it was a wonderful meeting place for students and a lot of fun to build and decorate.

38—The number of free Shabbat dinners and Meet to Eats we’ve hosted in Arnold Hall this year.

50-125—The numbers of students attending a meal at Arnold Hall. We average about 60 students at every meal—with some, like our awesome Chanukah Meet to Eat, attracting over 125.

40—The number of students registered during the Gift of Life bone marrow drive. These students are now entered into a worldwide database of potential blood marrow donors. From last year’s drive, JSU student Jerry Kowal (’13 from New York) was a match for a woman with leukemia and will travel to Baltimore in January for the donation.

3,000—The number of latkes made by JSU/Hillel students and Charleston community members for our Chanukah celebrations.

50—Loaves of Challah baked and sold for Challah for Hunger. All the proceeds went to the Lowcountry Food Bank. Of course, no numbers can quantify the energy and excitement of Jewish Student Life at CoC. Our greatest strength is not the number of people attending our events but the quality of programming, friendships, and memories made here at the JSU/Hillel.

Coming up next semester...

JSU/Hillel-Habitat for Humanity Build! JSU will join with Habitat for Humanity on a local building project.

Rosh Chodesh Group—A small group that meets once a month to discuss their lives as Jewish women with a monthly theme. We will combine our discussion with a craft and social action project each month. Stay tuned for more!

Alternative Spring Break to Los Angeles! This is an exciting opportunity for our students to travel with other Jewish students from the Southeast to LA for a week of hands-on volunteering, exploring the city, and discussing the Jewish connection to social justice. For more information, or just to chat, email me at lewismn@cofc.edu.

Taglit—Birthright Israel: Spend 10 days in beautiful Israel, hike Masada, spend Shabbat in Jerusalem, party in Tel Aviv...totally free! Registration opens in February and it looks like we may have the chance to send a big group! For more information, visit freeisraeltrip.org or email altermanm@cofc.edu.

Recruitment...Getting Those Numbers Up

Marsha Alterman, Jewish Student Life Advisor

The number of Jewish students attending the College of Charleston continues to grow, and JSU/Hillel is one of the most active student organizations on campus. During the weekend of Oct. 15th–17th, the Jewish Studies Program, along with JSU/Hillel, sponsored our sixth Prospective Student Weekend which coincided with the College’s Admissions Open House. We had 17 prospective students join us from NJ, CT, TX, GA, TN, MA, MD, and SC. They were able to tour the campus, see the dorms, and meet with admissions counselors and professors. JSU/Hillel offered prospective students the opportunity to attend a class, stay with a currently enrolled student, and join in JSU/Hillel events which included a Friday night Shabbat dinner and a Sunday brunch.

Initial indications about next year’s class show the trend of Jewish students from outside of SC is on the rise. Close to 300 Jewish students were admitted “early decision” in December, and we are now working to persuade them choose the College of Charleston. We are already planning Accepted Student Weekend scheduled for March 18th–20th. Once again we will offer students the opportunity to experience Jewish student life at the College.

With the help of the Admission’s Office and our JSU/Hillel Parent Network, we hope to continue to attract Jewish students from across the United States. If you know of anyone interested in receiving information about the Jewish Studies Program or Jewish student life at the College, please contact me at altermanm@cofc.edu.

Next semester, we will begin our Mix and Mingles in cities across the U.S. These events are designed for prospective Jewish students and their parents to meet with the parents and friends of the College as well as with Admissions counselors. If you would like to host a Mix and Mingle or participate in one, please email Jess Glasser at glasserj@cofc.edu.
**Sigma Delta Tau**

Another exciting semester has gone by for the sisters of Sigma Delta Tau, Delta Eta chapter! The sisters participated in the Sixth Annual “Fur Ball” auction, which helped raise money for Pet Helpers, a local non-profit pet rescue and adoption shelter. Various sisterhood events also took place this semester, from the Thanksgiving potluck dinner held at the SDT house to getting manicures and pedicures before our annual semi-formal. After having two successful recruitment weeks this past semester, the sisters welcomed the new members with a picnic at the battery and a fun-filled day at Ready, Set, Jump!

Next semester we have plenty of fun sisterhood events planned, and also are excited to welcome our mothers to our mother/daughter weekend in March!

With an eventful semester behind us, the sisters of SDT look forward to the fun this semester has in store.

*President:* Cameron Sepulveda, Charleston, SC  
*Vice President:* Molly Jarvis, Needham, MA  
*Social Chair:* Mia Phelan, Maryville, TN  
*New Member Educator:* Bridget Walsh, Charlotte, NC  
*Recruitment Chair:* Chelsea Parker, Kingsport, TN  
*Panhellenic Delegate:* Hannah Duffy, Cabin John, MD  
*Treasurer:* Rachel Botts, Charleston, SC  
*Secretary:* Sydney Blumberg, Atlanta, GA  
*Philanthropy Chair:* Hope Hendricks, Charleston, SC  
*Scholarship Chair:* Sophie Sirzyk, Atlanta, GA

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**Alpha Epsilon Pi**

The Chi Omicron chapter of AEPi at the College of Charleston now has 45 members. After participating in the national convention in New Orleans, the local chapter had new resolve to move the fraternity forward.

This fall, AEPi threw numerous cookouts, beach days, and sporting events. While learning about the morals and traditions of AEPi, our chapter’s nine new brothers were successful in raising over $1100 benefitting the chapter. The brothers all travelled together to Cheraw, SC for their yearly camping weekend retreat. The fraternity's involvement in the Jewish Student Union/Hillel was also a real highlight. The brothers of AEPi helped build the JSU/Hillel’s Sukkah and were always well-represented at JSU/Hillel events. This October, AEPi hosted a Shabbat dinner with SDT and both organizations collaborated to conduct services, prepare the festive meal, and clean up afterwards.

AEPi has many more events planned for the spring, such as their fourth annual Splash Bash, their first ever trip to the Carolina Cup, and more social gatherings at local venues.

*President:* Steven Schapiro, Columbia, MD  
*Vice President:* Zach Wall, Louisville, KY  
*Scribe:* Steven Kent, Macon, GA  
*Treasurer:* Adam Bloomberg, Atlanta, GA  
*Member at Large:* Alex Carroll, Arlington, VA  
*Sentinel:* Jason Stier, Charlotte, NC  
*Rush Chair:* Cory Maran, Atlanta, GA  
*House Manager:* Andrew London, Charlotte, NC

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**Mazel Tov!**

Congratulations to Sam Orelove ('11), on his upcoming employment as an educational leadership consultant for Alpha Epsilon Pi. Sam will travel to AEPi chapters helping them with rush, philanthropy, officer and chapter development, and any other needs of the chapter. A former president of CofC’s AEPi Chi Omicron chapter, Sam is the first national AEPi consultant to be selected from the College of Charleston. He sees his selection as both a personal accomplishment and a reflection of this chapter’s successful growth. Sam is from Richmond, VA and is majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Psychology.
The Jewish Holidays are always a special time at JSU/Hillel. Our building is filled with students eating, talking, interacting, and even studying. Just the way we like it!

From Tu B’shvat to Purim to Passover, JSU/Hillel provides opportunities for our students to observe and celebrate. There are several ways you can help a student celebrate the holidays.

Purim is a festive holiday. It’s always great seeing what costumes the students wear to the JSU/Hillel Purim party. Treat a student by ordering a Purim Shalach Manot gift bag, at $18 each. For more information or to place an order, contact Marsha, altermanm@cofc.edu, or just send a check and let us know the recipient and the donor.

Let’s not forget Passover. Last year, JSU/Hillel provided a wonderful feast to more than 135 students attending the First Passover Seder and more than fifty students the Second Seder. JSU/Hillel also provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner throughout the holiday—all free to our students! We expect nothing less this Passover. You can be a part of our Passover celebration by becoming a sponsor. There are many different levels of sponsorship. To find out more, contact Mimi at lewismn@cofc.edu.

Jewish Studies is sponsoring a Maymester trip called Tracing the Holocaust in Eastern Europe. Students get three credits and witness the unfolding account of Jewish life and death in Poland and Germany in the 20th century. Led by Ted and Dale Rosengarten, the trip emphasizes the ongoing struggle to honor memory and to understand the experiences of real people caught in the vise of history. For more information, please contact Professor Ted Rosengarten at tedrsc@gmail.com.

Where Are They Now?

Rachel Sommer (’09)
It was Southern hospitality and warm weather that brought Rachel to the College of Charleston and it’s hospitality that has kept her in Charleston. Rachel Sommer, from Buffalo, New York, graduated with a dual major in Hospitality Management and Business Administration. While at the College she served on the JSU/Hillel Executive Board Member and as the President of Sigma Delta Tau Sorority. Both these positions afforded her the opportunity to plan and facilitate events and to help make sure all students felt at home. After graduating, she was hired by ARAMARK and quickly moved up to the position of Catering Events Manager at The Citadel, where she manages weddings and other special events. Rachel is now a part of important life moments for lots of people, and still loves the warm weather.

Rae Ellen Greenberg (’92)
After graduation, Rae Ellen went on to earn an MAT in special education at the University of Charleston (1995). After teaching special education for five years, she transitioned into teaching computer technology classes at the high school level. In 2008, she earned NBCT status in Adolescent Career and Technical Education. At present, Rae Ellen teaches computer repair, networking, and computer applications at Wando High School. She also works with the Charleston County School District and the College of Charleston as a facilitator, teaching technology staff development courses. As an educator, she believes that all students have the innate ability to become successful learners.

Ami Ziff (’07)
While studying as an undergraduate at the College, Ami was fortunate to have a tremendous mentor, his uncle Loren Ziff, who taught him about commercial real estate. During his junior year he interned with Time Equities, Inc. (TEI). This experience, coupled with his training, positioned him to compete against MBA graduates in New York City for a job in commercial real estate. After graduating with a finance concentration in 2007, he took a job in New York City as an analyst with DTZ Rockwood, a real estate investment bank. Approximately eight months into his job he was approached by Time Equities, Inc. and accepted a position as a junior asset manager with TEI. Currently he is the Director of National Retail at TEI. Ami loves living in New York City.
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