from generation to generation

FALL 2015
PROUD TO BE A CHARLESTONIAN

Martin Perlmutter, Director, Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program

Mother Emanuel is very much the story this summer. No event since Hurricane Hugo—over twenty-five years ago—has so dominated the Charleston and South Carolina landscape. Like with Hugo, the response to Mother Emanuel has been overwhelming and positive, a testimony to the leadership, both political and religious, to the overwhelming decency of people, and to the altogether refreshing general concern for the well-being of the entire community. Very bad things happen—a fact that is too often beyond our control—but the response to those bad things is what shows a community’s mettle. I am proud to be a Charlestonian, to belong to a community that cares so much and with such singularity of purpose. Special kudos to the Mother Emanuel AME community and to Mayor Joe Riley and Governor Nikki Haley. We are deeply in their debt. Removing the flag from the Capitol grounds is an appropriate act of reconciliation, a sign that South Carolina is both willing to acknowledge the hurt in its past and move beyond it. And the wonderful response to the awful tragedy at Mother Emanuel speaks well to the future of the College of Charleston, since the College’s location and its history continue to be an invaluable asset.

Special thanks to Enid Idelsohn. She is “celebrating” her “Bar Mitzvah” year at Jewish Studies, having started when the Jewish Studies Center opened in the fall of 2002. Enid has been a huge part of what Jewish Studies has done, and the Program has grown enormously in the last twelve years.

Many thanks too to Marsha Alterman who has been the ongoing staff presence in JSU/Hillel for many years. On her watch all dimensions of Jewish student life at the College (and the Citadel) have blossomed. Marsha will continue to direct Jewish student life at the Citadel as an initiative of the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program.

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program is succeeding at becoming an integral piece of the College of Charleston. Roughly 10% of this year’s out-of-state incoming class (Class of 2019) identify themselves as Jewish; that is a very important demographic since out-of-state students provide a disproportionate share of the College’s tuition revenue. And many students decline the opportunity to provide a religious affiliation, so the 10% figure underestimates the out-of-state Jewish presence in the entering class. The College of Charleston has created regular staff positions for Mark Swick as the Program’s community liaison and for Helen Slucki as the Jewish Studies recruitment counselor. Jewish Studies will still bear some of the expenses of their positions, but their positions with benefits are now an ongoing commitment of the College to the Jewish Studies Program. Many thanks to the Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation for encouraging Jewish Studies to create these positions and for funding them for many years. Jewish Studies would not be where it is without the Yaschik Foundation’s consistent and generous annual support. Shari Rabin will join with Dale Rosengarten to form the leadership team for the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture. That bodes well for the Center, as it has ambitious initiatives already under way. The kosher vegan/vegetarian dining hall will be completed by November 2015, and is scheduled to open in the beginning of January 2016, in time for the second semester. That will be a real visible statement of the College’s investment in its Jewish Studies Program. It will be open to the public, so it will provide a new opportunity for town-gown interaction.

Jewish Studies now has the faculty, staff, and physical space in place to propel the Program forward. My aim as director in recent years has been precisely that: to incorporate Jewish Studies into the structure of the College, so that it is a College of Charleston program, with the College taking ownership of it. The Program’s future is now dependent on the activities of lots of talented and energetic younger people, both faculty and staff, most of whom occupy regular positions at the College.

There is much left to do. We need to continue to expand the Jewish student demographic at the College; we need to grow the Program’s annual campaign and endowment, so that we can provide scholarships, travel opportunities, and Israel programs for our growing population and activities; and we need to increase student enrollments in Jewish Studies classes.

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston is now in a very good place. For that I am very proud and deeply grateful. Many thanks for your part in creating that reality.

On the cover: Long-stemmed roses adorn the gate to the College of Charleston’s Cistern Yard in memory of the Emanuel Nine. Cover photo by Mark Swick. Marty’s photo by Adam Chandler.
JEWSH VULNERABILITY AND THE RESPONSE OF CARING
Anita Zucker, Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

The Jewish community often comes together with the most resolve and greatest sense of unity during times of tragedy. With the recent shooting at Emanuel AME, the Charleston community revealed its warm heart through the ways people came together. Our city’s leadership, Jewish and otherwise, handled the situation as well as they could, acting as true leaders.

One striking feature of the horrific Emanuel AME church shooting is the response of the victims’ families: full of deep pain and sorrow, but also of love and forgiveness. I hope that a similar sentiment is the message of Holocaust education. After the Holocaust, my parents, survivors, felt undeniable pain and psychological trauma. However, rather than live with resentment and hate, they chose to live lives of faith and forgiveness. Nonetheless, the fear of reliving such experiences still exists.

Our own Jewish vulnerability – real or perceived – to this type of hatred has felt particularly intense in the wake of this tragedy. Such a massacre could have easily happened in a synagogue, JCC, or Jewish day school. We identify with it more because it could be us. During World War II, my own grandfather, uncle, and aunt had gone to a house to pray, as there were no more synagogues in their town, when the Nazi’s came in, pulled them out, and burned them alive in a mass grave.

So yes, the horrific events at Mother Emanuel hit very close to home.

My aim in creating the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies at the College was for students to remember and learn from the past in order to make better decisions and to take better, more timely actions in the future.

Though the College’s JSU/Hillel students were mainly away during this recent ordeal, they must stand with and heal alongside a community they adopt as their own, and that adopts them in turn. Inclusivity is so critical at this time in the history of our community and our state. We must ALL care about each other, and we must never be bystanders to hate.

I am encouraged knowing that interfaith and interracial outreach and programming is a valued component of Jewish student life at the College, and that the Center for Holocaust Studies gives students access to programs that rigorously address complex issues such as hate and genocide.

I hope and pray, as I’m sure you do as well, for the healing of the bereaved, and the continued displays of tolerance and unity that have exemplified Charleston’s response to this tragedy.

CHANUKAH IN THE SQUARE
Sunday, December 6, 2015, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Join us for the eleventh annual Chanukah in the Square extravaganza. Once again the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program will team up with Chabad of the Lowcountry, the City of Charleston’s Office of Cultural Affairs, and many other community organizations to create our most festive celebration yet. Chanukah in the Square is the largest annual Jewish event in the state of South Carolina, and is a wonderful, kid-friendly way to come together as a community.

Our local Holocaust survivors will continue the tradition of lighting the candles. Please plan on being there with your neighbors, friends, and family. Bring an appetite and your dancing shoes. We will supply the hot food, the live music, and the festive atmosphere!

Bi-Lo is the presenting sponsor of Chanukah in the Square, reaching out to the Jewish community of South Carolina. We are deeply appreciative of Bi-Lo’s support. Many thanks too to Edward Berlin and Berlin’s Restaurant Supply, Eli and Ann-Therese Hyman, and to Jerry Scheer and Mark Cummins of the Homegrown Hospitality Group for their continued sponsorship.

Anita Zucker, Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board
CAROLINA ISRAELITE: HOW HARRY GOLDEN MADE US CARE ABOUT JEWS, THE SOUTH, AND CIVIL RIGHTS

KIMBERLY MARLOWE HARTNETT

Sunday, October 4, 2015 at 10:00AM

Born Hershel Goldhirsch in present-day Ukraine, Harry Golden was a charming man, who tricked people out of money and reneged on promises, had a short career on Wall Street and served a prison sentence for mail fraud, yet was best known as an influential Jewish American writer and humorist, author of the 1958 national bestseller Only in America. Golden led a remarkable life intertwined with the rise of the civil rights movement, Jewish popular culture, and the sometimes precarious position of Jews in the South and across America during the 1950s.

During World War II, the cigar-smoking, bourbon-loving raconteur landed in Charlotte, North Carolina, and founded the Carolina Israelite newspaper, which was published into the 1960s. Golden’s writings on race relations and equal rights attracted a huge popular readership, and he used his celebrity status to editorialize for civil rights as the momentous story unfolded. Hartnett’s spirited chronicle captures Golden’s message of social inclusion for a new audience today.

Kimberly Marlowe Hartnett is a writer living in Portland, Oregon. She worked as a journalist for more than thirty years in New England and the Pacific Northwest.

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

BECAUSE A SHADOW FELL:

JEWISH NARRATIVE LEGACIES AND THE NOVEL

JULIE ORRINGER

Sunday, October 11, 2015 at 10:00AM

The history of the Shoah still exists within the living memory of thousands of survivors. But in many cases the stories are deeply submerged, unbearable to tell. Julie Orringer’s novel The Invisible Bridge originated in one of those stories. In an informal and intimate talk, the author will discuss how the history of her grandparents’ survival came to light, how details emerged during the author’s research in Hungary and France, and how the story changed as the novel moved closer to its final form.

Julie Orringer is the author of The Invisible Bridge, a novel (Knopf, 2010), and How to Breathe Underwater, a short story collection (Knopf, 2003). Her stories have been widely published and awarded. She is the recipient of two Pushcart Prizes, and her work has appeared in numerous anthologies. Orringer is a 1996 graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where she held a two-year Creative Writing Teaching Fellowship. She also received a 2004-5 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for The Invisible Bridge. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, the writer Ryan Harty, and is at work on a novel about Varian Fry, the American journalist who saved thousands from the Nazis.

Co-sponsored by the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies.
ISRAEL’S CHALLENGES IN AN UNSTABLE MIDDLE EAST AMBASSADOR JUDY VARNAI SHORER, CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL TO THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 10:00AM Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor), Corner of Glebe & George Streets (Brunch at 9:00am in Arnold Hall)

Israel’s position in the Middle East has been tested regularly since its formation in 1948. The populist uprisings that have dominated the region in recent years have posed a more nuanced threat. In her first visit to South Carolina as Consul General, Ambassador Varnai Shorer will address populist revolutions in the region, Iran’s nuclear ambitions, the recent nuclear deal, and Israel’s options in response, and how each of these affect Israel’s relationship with the United States and its Jewish community.

Ambassador Judy Varnai Shorer is a nearly 40-year veteran of the Israeli diplomatic corps. She is a former ambassador to both Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as a former minister of congressional affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC. Her most recent post was desk director at the Center for Policy Research. She speaks Hebrew, French, English and Hungarian and was born in Be’er Sheva, Israel.

WHY BE JEWISH?: INTERMARRIAGE, MEIR KAHANE, AND THE CONTEMPORARY JEWISH DILEMMA SHAUL MAGID Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 10:00AM

Over the past three decades much has been written about the perilous state of intermarriage in the American Jewish community and what, if anything, can be done about it. In this talk, Shaul Magid will explore an earlier assessment of this dilemma in the writings of Rabbi Meir Kahane, a radical American rabbi who founded The Jewish Defense League and later a radically right-wing political party in Israel. In the early 1970s Kahane blamed intermarriage on the liberal American Jewish mainstream, claiming it was the natural outgrowth of liberal ideology.

Shaul Magid is the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University in Bloomington. His latest book is Hasidism Incarnate: Hasidism, Christianity, and the Construction of Modern Judaism (Stanford University Press 2014). His present book project is entitled American Jewish Survivalism: Meir Kahane and the Politics of Pride. He is a fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and a senior research fellow at The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.

ISRAELI NATIONAL SECURITY BARAK BEN ZUR Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 10:00AM

For at least three decades of its short history, Israel has faced a direct threat from Arab military forces to dismantle the Jewish state. Israel’s first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion promoted the strategy that responded to the threat faced in June 1967 (the Six Day War) and again in October 1973 (the Yom Kippur War.)

After Israel signed peace accords with Egypt and Jordan, and interim agreements with the Palestinians, the military balance changed by excluding the Arab offensive option. In the last five years after the “Arab Spring,” rapid changes have taken place as Middle Eastern states have broken apart. A new variety of religious radicalism is spreading throughout the region and is bringing devastation to countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. That and the new nuclear reality in Iran paint a different security picture for Israel. In this lecture, Barak Ben Zur will discuss these developments and their serious implications for Israeli National Security.

Dr. Col. (Res.) Barak Ben Zur is the Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies for the Fall of 2015.
A SIX-WEEK MINI-COURSE: ISRAEL FIGHTING TERROR
DR. COL. (RES.) BARAK BEN ZUR
Mondays, September 7, October 5, November 2, November 9, November 30, and December 7, 2015 at 7:00-8:15pm in Arnold Hall

In the last three decades following the end of the cold war, terror has turned to be one of the major threats on a global scale. The threat was realized on American soil on 9/11, leaving three thousand casualties in one coordinated attack. Terrorism further erupted all over Europe, Africa and aggressively in the Middle East, characterized with mass killings, destruction of cultural treasures, and the relocation of millions of people throughout the region. This community course will deal with the Israeli experience of the threat of terror, and the ways Israel has responded to that threat. Participants in this mini-course are asked to attend as many sessions as possible. Dr. Ben Zur’s regular daytime class is full, with no availability for community participation, so Jewish Studies is offering this mini-course to accommodate that demand. Nor is registration necessary.

September 7 – Global Threat, the modern terror
October 5 – Emergence of the Arab armed groups - the Arab revolt 1936-1939
November 2 – Arab organized terror groups and their attacks inside Israel, along the borders and abroad
November 9 – Islamic Terror: Hamas and the use of suicide attacks
November 30 – The Enemy Next Door; the Long Arm of Iran: Hisballah’s emergence from a Lebanese group to a regional and global threat
December 7 – Fighting Terror in a Democratic State: the balance between human rights and security needs

Dr. Col. (Res.) Barak Ben Zur is the Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies for the Fall of 2015. For his full biography, please see page 11.

READING HEBREW: ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE
INSTRUCTORS: NITSA AUERBACH AND SHULA HOLTZ
5:25-6:40pm in Room 209 and Room 323, Jewish Studies Center
Mondays, August 31–December 7, 2015

Reading Hebrew is an informal, weekly course teaching students how to read Hebrew. It is aimed at beginners and those who have rusty skills and are interested in developing more skills. The focus is reading, not language comprehension. There will be beginning and 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-minute classes, taught by native Hebrew speakers Shula Holtz (Intermediate), who has been teaching the class since its inception, and Nitsa Auerbach (Elementary), a native of Tel Aviv and graduate of Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

CHARLESTON COMMEMORATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NOSTRA AETATE
Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 1:30pm
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, 90 Hasell Street

On October 28, 1965 the Second Vatican Council passed the landmark declaration known as Nostra Aetate (In our Time), a statement on the relation of the Church with non-Christian religions. It was an important moment in the tortured history of Christian-Jewish relations, a long-overdue acknowledgment of the theological baggage that created such hardship for the Jewish people, and a moment worthy of remembrance, especially after the horrors of the Holocaust.

On Sunday, October 25th Charleston’s religious communities will gather for an afternoon of study and reflection in commemoration of this historic event. Events will include a keynote lecture presented by Dr. Michael S. Kogan: Telling Our Story – Our Past, Present and Future, as well as a panel discussion featuring clergy and civic leaders. More details to follow.
Judaism Decoded

Rabbi Hesh Epstein

Mondays, August 31, September 21, October 26, and November 23, 2015
7:00pm in Arnold Hall

Have you ever questioned the authenticity of our Jewish tradition? Is there any evidence supporting the veracity of Judaism as we practice it today? What was invented by the rabbis, and what can be traced back to ancient biblical verses? And how do contemporary rabbis know how to adapt biblical law for modern times? Just as science follows the scientific method, Jewish tradition has its own system to ensure that its authenticity remains intact.

These sessions will shed light on the “mysteries” surrounding biblical interpretation. How do we know our interpretation is true? If it is true, why is it subject to differences of opinion? And with so many interpretations to choose from, how do we know which one reflects its original intent? Rabbi Epstein will examine the traditional responses to these questions.

August 31 - The Dynamic Duo
September 21 - Debating the Divine
October 26 - Laws that Expire
November 23 - Evidence for Sinai

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

Monday Night at the Movies

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

Mondays, September 28, October 12, and November 16, 2015
7:00pm in Arnold Hall

Each semester, the Yeschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program presents a series of films on a different topic. Join us this fall for a series of three Israeli films focusing on recent representations of female soldiers in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). A discussion about military service and gender roles in the Middle-East will take place after each screening, led by Professor Oren Segal. Screenings are free and open to the public. All films are in Hebrew with English subtitles.

CLOSE TO HOME (Karov La-Bayit) September 28 (2005, 98 min)
The story of two 18-year-old girls, Smadar and Mirit, who are busy with their own worlds—falling in love, breaking-up, and the volatile relationship between the two—in an attempt to ignore the political reality in a city that slowly makes its way into their lives.

ROOM 514 (Heder 514) October 12 (2012, 91 min)
In this disturbing, realistic film, a determined young female soldier interrogates an officer. Contrary to her colleagues’ advice, she accuses him of beating up an Arab family, and ultimately perseveres against the abuse of power in the army.

ZERO MOTIVATION (Efes Be-Yachasei Enosh) November 16 (2014, 97 min)
A zany, dark, and comedic portrait of everyday life for a unit of young, female Israeli soldiers. The Human Resources Office at a remote desert base serves as the setting for this cast of characters who bide their time pushing paper and battling in computer games, counting down the minutes until they can return to civilian life. Amidst their boredom and clashing personalities, issues of commitment—friendship, love, and country—are handled with humor and sharp-edged wit.

Chanukiyot Anyone?

Chanukah in the Square 2015 is coming up in early December, and it is another opportunity to remind everyone that Chanukiyot adorn our main office year-round. We need a few more decorative or unusual ones to put on display; more ordinary ones are lent to students during Chanukah for their use. Find them on eBay, at garage sales, or in your attic. Let us know how to pick them up and we will take care of the rest. Call us at 843.953.5682 for more information.
A GIFT FROM THE HOWARD AND JULIE LEVINE FOUNDATION
CREATING A COMFORTABLE JEWISH SPACE
by Howard Levine

Jewish tradition teaches us that philanthropy is not an option, but a duty to one’s fellow man. This is a valuable lesson I learned at a very early age. If you’re fortunate enough to be in a position to give back, you do.

I prefer endowment gifts; like the Energizer Bunny, they are gifts that keep on giving. They are an investment in the long-term future. And so it was some months ago when I was contacted by Marty Perlmutter at the College of Charleston, where my daughter Amanda graduated this past May. Marty told me about Meet-to-Eats, the weekly home-cooked meals that the Jewish Student Union/Hillel provides for 80-100 students - Jewish and not - every Wednesday night throughout the semester, free of charge. Meals are often themed around upcoming Jewish or secular holidays, but are otherwise completely devoid of a religious agenda. These events create a “Jewish space” for students - again, both Jewish and not - from a wide variety of backgrounds to break bread together and mingle, to get to know one another, and in so doing, to get to know themselves. The power and importance of food in bringing people together is not at all lost on me, as it is a theme common to the Jewish community.

Welcoming, non-judgmental Jewish space in a college environment is a compelling image for me. My family and I are both proud and grateful for the opportunity to advance Jewish student life programming at the College by endowing JSU/Hillel Meet-to-Eats, so that those events might create a comfortable space in perpetuity for students to learn, of course eat, grow, and in time, give back themselves.

GERALD AND BETH POLIS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
A VIBRANT ENVIRONMENT
by Jerry Polis, ’62

The four years I attended the College of Charleston are among the most meaningful of my life for many reasons that I only began to appreciate as I grew older, and more insightful. My college options were limited by financial constraints, so I was fortunate the College offered me the opportunity to live at home and receive a quality education within my family’s means. I was also very fortunate to have been a recipient of the S.S. Solomons scholarship, providing financial assistance to students of the Jewish faith, and which made my college education affordable.

Throughout my four years (1958-1962) the College enrollment never exceeded three hundred students, and I can’t recall having a class with more than thirty students. This unique, small college experience enabled me to enjoy a personal relationship with my professors, establish close friendships that I have maintained over the years, and participate in social and athletic activities that would not have been possible in a larger institution. Where else could a skinny, six foot tall, 120-pound kid have any chance of playing four years of varsity college basketball?

While my college years were special in so many ways, what was regrettfully missing for me and the relatively few other Jewish students on campus was an organized religious and cultural experience enjoyed by today’s students through the Jewish Studies Program and JSU/Hillel. I am extremely happy for the opportunity, along with my wife Beth, to establish the Gerald and Beth Polis Endowed Scholarship, which will enable qualified Jewish students in need of financial assistance to receive a college education and to participate in a vibrant environment which will not only make their College of Charleston experience as special as mine, but also reaffirm their proud Jewish identity.
THREE RABBI PANEL
THE AMERICANIZATION OF JEWISH LIFE: PRESSURES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7:30pm
Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor)
Corner of Glebe and George Streets

Judaism, like any religious culture, is always impacted by the civilization in which it resides. The larger society’s language, dress, calendar, marriage customs, dietary behavior, burial rites, and gender roles have all affected Jewish practice from Judaism’s very beginnings. Contemporary America is no exception: residential patterns in suburban life have created pressures for Sabbath travel, gender equality has resulted in female rabbis, a less gendered God, and women counting towards some egalitarian minyanim, Church practices have helped create the practice of rabbi’s sermons, and so on.

Join us as Rabbis Andrew Terkel (KKBE), Adam Rosenbaum (Emanu-El) and Moshe Davis (BSBI) address this well-known fact by considering the contemporary American scene as it affects their movements and their congregations specifically: whether it be gay marriage or gay rabbis, sanctioning Shabbat travel by keeping parking lots open, Bat Mitzvahs, or accommodating intermarried couples in membership, burial, or marriage. Which pressures are shared? Which are specific to a particular denomination or community?

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. There will be a reception immediately after the panel welcoming Rabbi Terkel to the community.

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES:
“PAUL WAS NOT A CHRISTIAN”: RE-READING THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES WITH THE REVISIONISTS
JOHN HUDDLESTUN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Wednesdays, September 9, October 7, and November 4
12:00-1:00pm in Arnold Hall

September 9 - Paul’s “Conversion” and Obsession with Gentiles (Book of Acts, chapters 8-15; Letter to the Galatians, chapters 1-2)
October 7 - Circumcised Gentiles? : The Mess in Galatia (Letter to Galatians)
November 4 - The Larger Picture: Jews and Gentiles in the End Times (Letter to the Romans, chapters 9-11)

The above quote, from the title of a recent book on Paul, captures the direction and shift in scholarly assessment of this influential, yet paradoxical, figure in the nascent Jewish-Christian movement. While a self-confessed Pharisee, Paul has traditionally been viewed as one who “converted” to “Christianity” and, more importantly for subsequent Christian tradition, advocated the rejectionist-replacement view of Judaism vis-à-vis Christianity. In short, Paul is the pivotal figure in the origin and promulgation of what biblical scholars and historians have called “anti-Judaism. A growing number of scholars now offer a different reading, one that maintains Paul’s arguments were directed not against the Torah and Judaism of his day, but against those fellow Jewish believers in the Jesus movement who demanded that Gentiles be circumcised and follow Jewish law - a reading more in line with Paul’s self-perception and promotion as the apostle to the Gentiles, rather than than the Jews. By way of introduction to this new Paul, we will read selected portions of his letters and some recent scholarly essays. Prior to each session, copies of these essays will be made available in the Jewish Studies office.

Sessions will be facilitated by John Huddleston, (Ph.D., University of Michigan), Associate Professor of Religious Studies, who teaches classes in biblical and ancient Middle Eastern studies and in the Jewish tradition at the College of Charleston.
This course studies Israeli political leaders and their attitudes toward the Israeli intelligence services. How did they affect the world that produced the catastrophe whose meaning eludes us still.

FYSE 124.01
Ted Rosengarten
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)

Why did Nazi Germany target Jewish children with such special ferocity? A small number escaped or were rescued and lived to write their recollections which are just now surfacing. The ordeal of non-Jewish children in war-time Europe—German, Polish, Ukrainian—a story long buried in silence, is also finding a voice in film and literature today. This seminar will investigate the experiences of children who were swept up in the “Final Solution” and ask questions they might have asked about the world that produced the catastrophe whose meaning eludes us still.

FYSE 124.02 and FYSE 124.03
David Slucki

This course will examine how societies have rebuilt in the wake of genocide. Our central concerns will be how genocides are remembered, how justice has been sought at the local and international level, and whether or not reconciliation has been achieved between victims and perpetrators. We will focus particularly on the aftermath of the Holocaust, and the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia. By considering how the world has responded to genocides since the Holocaust, students will come to understand the complexities of returning to normal life after conflict.

FYSE 124.01 Children and the Holocaust
Open only to freshmen.
MW 4:00-5:15pm
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)

FYSE 124.02 and FYSE 124.03 After Genocide
Open only to freshmen.
Tu, Th 9:25-10:40am and 10:50am-12:05pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)

HBRW 101.01
Oren Segal

An introduction of fundamental language structures with emphasis on the acquisition of basic language skills: reading and listening comprehension, oral and written expression, including speaking. No prerequisite.

HBRW 101.01 Elementary Modern Hebrew
MWF 10:00-10:50am and W 9:00-9:50am
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)

HBRW 201.01
Oren Segal

The object of this course is the development of basic proficiency through practice in the use of basic language skills emphasized in previous courses, and the acquisition of new vocabulary. Prerequisite: HBRW 102.

HBRW 201.01 Intermediate Modern Hebrew
MWF 11:00-11:50am and W 12:00-12:50pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)

JWST 215.01 and JWST 215.02
Shari Rabin

A survey of the social, economic, religious and political experience of the Jewish people in the modern world, emphasizing the diversity of the Jewish experience and the interaction between Jews and their surrounding environments.

JWST 215.01 and JWST 215.02 Jewish History II: Modern to Present
MWF 10:00-10:50am and 11:00-11:50am
Jewish Studies Center, Arnold Hall (Room 100)

JWST 300.01 and
HBRW 313.01
Oren Segal

This course, taught in English, is a study of Israeli cinema in the historical and cultural context of Zionism and Judaism, the establishment of the State, its ethnic, religious, and sexual diversity, the Holocaust, and the continued Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Watching and analyzing major Israeli films, we will explore the intensity of the place, its trends throughout history, and see how filmmakers respond both to the dreams and the reality of modern Israel. Students enrolled under HBRW 313 will complete assignments in Hebrew, and have an additional class session.

JWST 300.01 and
HBRW 313.01
Special Topic: Israeli Cinema
MW 2:00-3:15pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)

JWST 300.02
Barak Ben Zur
Arnold Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies

This course studies Israeli political leaders and their attitudes toward the Israeli intelligence services. How did they affect the secret services with personnel appointments and budgeting decisions? What special operations did they approve or avoid, and why? How did they assimilate intelligence into decisions about policy?

JWST 300.02 Special Topic: Israeli Intelligence
Tu, Th 12:15-1:30pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)

JWST 310.01
David Slucki

This course takes students on a tour of the Jewish world since the Holocaust. We will consider how the Holocaust shaped the contemporary Jewish world and came to overshadow the lives of all Jewish communities. We will look at the post-Holocaust development of Jewish communities in the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Australia, and the ways in which radically-different circumstances has led to a rich diversity in Jewish life and culture. Finally, we consider some of the pressing issues affecting Jews today and the prospects for their future.

JWST 310.01 Topic in Jewish History: After the Holocaust
Tu, Th 1:40-2:55pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 209)
NORMAN AND GERRY SUE ARNOLD
DISTINGUISHED VISITING CHAIR, FALL 2015
DR. COL. (RES.) BARAK BEN ZUR

Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold are very generous supporters of the Jewish Studies Program which bears their name: the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program. They served together as the third chairs of the Advisory Board, succeeding Henry Yaschik, obm, and Jerry Zucker, obm. Their endowment of a visiting chair enables Jewish Studies to bring a world-class scholar, politician, journalist or Jewish leader to the College of Charleston each year. Dr. Barak Ben Zur is the College’s Fall 2015 appointment, and will teach a course on Israeli intelligence.

Dr. Col. (Res.) Barak Ben Zur is an expert in risk and threat analysis, strategic intelligence, Middle Eastern studies and counter-terrorism. From 1973 to 1996, Dr. Ben Zur pursued a long career in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) while serving in the military intelligence branch in a variety of positions. He reached the rank of colonel, and from 1991 to 1994 served as the head of the terrorism branch. In 1994, Col. Ben Zur was appointed chief instructor in Israel’s National Security College, a position that he kept for two years. In 1996, Dr. Ben Zur joined the Israel Security Agency (ISA), and served in a variety of leadership positions. In 2000, he was appointed as head of the research unit, until 2003 when he became, special assistant to the director. He served as well as a member of the Prime Minister’s steering committee for negotiations with the Palestinians.

Following his distinguished career in the IDF and ISA, Dr. Ben Zur was a visiting fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy where he published, “Hizballah’s Global Terror Option” with Christopher Hamilton. Dr. Ben Zur has also served as lecturer at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya and at the Department of Political Sciences at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Dr. Ben Zur has a Bachelor of Arts in Middle East Studies and Arabic from Tel Aviv University and a Master of Arts in Political Science from Haifa University. He completed his Ph.D. in the Department of International Relations at Haifa University and is a recipient of the Roizman Prize in Intelligence Studies for his work on the influence of leaders on the performance of the intelligence community. Dr. Ben Zur is fluent in Hebrew, Arabic, English, and Romanian.

WELCOME SHARI RABIN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF JEWISH STUDIES

Shari Rabin is joining the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program as an assistant professor. She comes to Charleston from Brooklyn, where she lived while finishing her PhD in Religious Studies at Yale University. Having trained in modern Jewish history and American religious history, she is interested in how Judaism is formed by ordinary people navigating everyday realities like economics, geography, space, gender, and the law. Her work focuses on nineteenth-century America, which she sees as an important precursor for - and mirror of - contemporary American Jewish life. Her dissertation focused on the possibilities and challenges of free geographic mobility, which, she argues, led to the creation of a distinctive American Judaism.

This year Professor Rabin plans to teach the modern Jewish history survey course, and a freshman seminar on “Religion and the Politics of Space.” In the future, she will teach courses on American Jewish history and various aspects of Judaism, religion, and culture, including “Judaism, Gender, and Sexuality.” Professor Rabin will also serve as associate director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture, focusing on raising the Center’s profile and developing its scholarly programs. She grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Marietta, Georgia, and in her free time enjoys playing the banjo, watching television, and cheering on the Green Bay Packers.

ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

South Carolina residents who are over 60 years old are eligible to enroll in regular College of Charleston courses on a space-available basis for a fee of $25 for the semester. Permission of the instructor is required for Jewish Studies courses. Call 843.953.5620 for details.
My name is Naomi Nudelman, and I am honored and excited to serve as the ’15-’16 Jewish Student Union/Hillel President! Originally from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, my family now lives in Columbia, South Carolina. I am a rising senior at the College, majoring in Business Administration and Jewish Studies. I have had the privilege of serving on the JSU/Hillel board for the past two years, and I cannot wait to see what the JSU accomplishes in the coming year.

From the start, it has been clear to me that the JSU is a place for people from different walks of life to come together and connect through engaging programming. That was more true than ever this past year, and the year to come promises similar highlights. We’ll test new ideas, and bring back what we do best, whether it’s social programming – like our annual Purim party and Sunday bagel brunches – or social action volunteer opportunities; interfaith events, Israel programs, or religious services on Shabbat and the holidays. Regardless of the type of program we are holding, our primary goal is to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for students.

I am excited to see what this upcoming year will bring for the JSU/Hillel. I look forward to working with the new staff members, who are going to provide the JSU with fresh ideas and perspectives as we work on developing our programming further still. I would love to see the JSU/Hillel become a home to even more students on campus as well as increase program diversity to ensure that there is something for everyone who is interested. On behalf of the incoming executive board and event planners, a big thank you to the community at large for supporting the JSU/Hillel!

WELCOME JEWISH STUDENT LIFE PROGRAM DIRECTOR: BECCA DIAMOND

After surviving the rough winters of New Jersey, Becca Diamond is very excited to move to beautiful Charleston and begin working as the Jewish Student Life Program Director. In this role, Becca will work closely with the Hillel student board and event coordinators to create meaningful, impactful, and fun Jewish programming.

Becca graduated from Muhlenberg College this past May with a history major and Jewish Studies minor. At Muhlenberg, Becca was fully immersed in Hillel life as a board member for two years and a service coordinator for four. She also served as the Hillel representative on the Interfaith Leadership Council, where she gained a passion for bridging communities and building partnerships among faith traditions. This summer, Becca spent her fifth year at the URJ Eisner Camp, where she was the unit head for sixth graders.

Having already met some students and community members, Becca is eager to learn more about the Charleston Jewish community and become a familiar face around town. She will continue to support the wonderful JSU traditions of weekly meals and holiday celebrations, and will create new opportunities for students to give back to the Charleston community and expand their own Jewish identities. Please feel free to drop by Becca’s office or send her an email diamondra@cofc.edu or call 843.953.2118 to introduce yourself, and give her a wave if you see her riding her bike around the neighborhood!
WELCOME JEWISH STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

JESSICA LILLY

Jessica Lilly has been working with students of all ages for twelve years. Throughout her career, she has worn many hats: teacher, counselor, nanny, tutor, mentor, and nonprofit professional. She moved to Charleston in August 2014 and immediately began volunteering with Reading Partners, Communities in Schools, and Darkness to Light. Before her arrival in the Lowcountry, Jessica taught high school math in Washington, DC and St. Louis public schools. Jessica was raised in New Jersey, earned her BA in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis and her Masters in Teaching from American University.

As Engagement and Operations Manager Jessica will build relationships with Jewish students on campus, lead outreach efforts to include and support new and unaffiliated students, foster Jewish life initiatives, and oversee logistics for JSU/Hillel programming. She will also spearhead recruitment for the College of Charleston Hillel Birthright trip and take charge of alumni affairs for Jewish Studies.

Jessica is very excited to help Jewish students at the College of Charleston find ways to express their emerging Jewish identities and feel at home at the JSU/Hillel! If you are new to campus, or want to learn more about getting involved with the JSU/Hillel, don’t hesitate to be in touch. Reach out to her at lillyja@cofc.edu or 843.953.3917.

AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW

Helen Slucki, Jewish Student Recruitment Counselor

It is hard to believe that Fall 2015 is upon us, and that recruiting for the Class of 2020 is well underway. The past year has been an incredibly busy one! We started off working with the College’s Marketing Department to create a recruitment piece to go on the road with our admissions counselors. That piece has been revamped, and will be on the road again this season. Some additional key achievements from the past year include:

• Forming the Jewish Student Ambassadors group, consisting of and led by twenty Jewish students who work to build relationships with prospective students and serve as engagement interns for new students on campus
• Establishing a relationship with CAJUE - Counselor Advocacy for the Jewish University Experience; being invited to speak at the National Association for College and Admissions Counselors (NACAC) annual convention about our Program and the College of Charleston
• Partnering with the Office of Admissions for a Counselor Fly-In: we were thrilled to host fifteen high school counselors who serve Jewish populations

We expect that Jewish freshmen will make up around 10% of the freshman non-resident population at the College. Additionally, Jewish students represent 8% of the Honors College freshman class. These are a remarkable group of students and I am looking forward to watching them grow and flourish here at the College.

Our goals for this coming year include increasing our Jewish applicant pool, as well as partnering with the Honors College to further increase the Jewish population in the Honors College. Most importantly, I am looking forward to getting to know a new group of students and their families who are starting their college search. Spending time with them is the most rewarding part of my role. As always, I would be happy to speak with you if you have any questions about our recruitment, or know any students who might be interested in the College of Charleston.

CALL FOR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

The College of Charleston has become an excellent choice for students interested in attending a college with a Jewish Studies program with both an academic major and minor, an active Jewish student life, a significant Jewish student population, and a supportive larger Jewish community. The kosher vegan/vegetarian kitchen will make the College even more attractive to many prospective students. Please let us know of prospective students who might have an interest in the College. Our offices will take it from there. Contact Helen Slucki at sluckihe@cofc.edu or 843.953.5657.

We are also working to develop our alumni connections. To join our Facebook alumni group go to www.cofc.edu/~jsuhillel and click on the “alumni” link. If you have ideas to share about improving our alumni network, please contact Jessica Lilly at lillyja@cofc.edu or 843.953.3917.
THE PEARLSTINE/LIPOV CENTER FOR SOUTHERN JEWISH CULTURE
Dale Rosengarten, Director
Shari Rabin, Associate Director

It is an exciting time for the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture as it takes off under the new leadership of director Dale Rosengarten, founding curator of the Jewish Heritage Collection, and associate director Shari Rabin, newly appointed assistant professor of Jewish Studies. Drawing on the rich resources of the Jewish Heritage Collection, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, and the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, we aim to make the Center a major player in studying, documenting, and educating a broad audience about southern Jewish culture and history.

We’ve developed a strategic plan for our first five years and we are eager to get started. Beginning this fall, the Center will offer enhanced educational events for the local Jewish community, including walking tours of Jewish Charleston and film screenings. Each semester, the Center will sponsor one of the Jewish Studies Program’s Sunday morning speakers—save the date now for Kimberly Hartnett, author of Carolina Israelite: How Harry Golden Made Us Care about Jews, the South, and Civil Rights, on October 4! This year we will establish a website and a social media presence to spread the word about the Center and its activities. Other elements of our vision include creating online exhibitions, training public historians to document southern Jewish communities, and encouraging new scholarship through research fellowships and academic conferences. Taken together, these projects will encourage teaching and research, while offering the public insights into the rich and often surprising history of Jews in the South.

ZUCKER/GOLDBERG CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES
Theodore Rosengarten, Zucker/Goldberg Professor of Holocaust Studies

The line to get into the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam begins forming at dawn and builds throughout the day until it stretches as far as one can see. People come from around the world to touch a part of history and pay homage to the most well-known Jewish figure from the Holocaust whose life story and life’s work—her diary—enjoy an immortality that makes a mockery of her killers’ intentions. I am writing this dispatch in an office next to the “secret annex” where Anne Frank and her family hid for almost three years before they were betrayed and sent to Auschwitz. I came here to visit two of my students, Deidre Douglas-Hubbard and Catherine Mueller, who are working as interns at AFH. Their jobs are demanding and I’m trying to stay out of their way. Each day they give private tours to AFH donors, educators, and diplomats. They edit Holocaust research and help prepare articles for publication. They consult with museum staff on the best exhibition practices and ways to convey Anne Frank’s story to school children on every continent. Since mid-June, the massacre in Charleston has monopolized everyone’s attention. It’s clear to Deirdre and Catherine, and clear to me, that the murder of the nine worshippers at Emanuel AME Church compels us to link the Jewish tragedy in Europe with the persecution of people based on their alleged race closer to home. I intend to incorporate this approach in my courses, starting in the fall with my freshman seminar, Children and the Holocaust, and picking up with my spring courses on the history and representations of the Holocaust. The Anne Frank House is looking to adopt a similar strategy in its exhibition space, a plan that will align this unique museum even more closely with the young diarist’s core beliefs.

Deidre Douglas-Hubbard and Catherine Mueller, who are working as interns at the Anne Frank House this summer.

Interior and exterior of the Anne Frank House (third from right) in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
NEWS NOTES

• The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will meet in Columbia and Orangeburg on November 7-8, 2015. *A Tale of Two Cities: Columbia and Orangeburg* will explore their histories, and dedicate an historic marker in Orangeburg. For more information and to see the JHSSC’s brand new website please visit www.jhssc.org

• Adam Mendelsohn has joined the faculty at the University of Cape Town as a professor of history and director of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research. The Kaplan Centre is the most prominent Jewish Studies Centre on the African continent.

• David Slucki has joined the College of Charleston faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor of Jewish Studies.

• Dara Rosenblatt has enrolled at Hebrew College in Boston to earn a graduate degree in Jewish education and ordination as a cantor.

• Caroline Eichholz has moved to New York City to pursue a career in sports marketing.

• Joshua Shanes is on leave for the the fall semester 2015 with his family in Chicago, where his wife Elisheva is interning in pathology. He will return in Spring 2016.

• Our students continue to hold leadership positions in various campus organizations. In particular, the past three presidents of the CoFC Student Government Association have also been members of the JSU/Hillel: Erica Arbetter in 2013-2014; Ryan Spraker in 2014-2015; and Zach Sturman in 2015-2016.

• Jewish Studies is developing a course—Doing Business with Israel—to be offered in spring 2016 in conjunction with the College’s International Business Program and Roper St. Francis Hospital’s Clinical Biotechnology Research Institute. The class will introduce students to Israeli history, culture, and businesses, before a trip to Israel over spring break spent meeting with Israeli medical and technology start-ups. Upon their return, students will develop business plans for the companies they have visited.

• The Jewish Studies Program Advisory Board will hold its fall meeting on Sunday, October 11th, 2015 at 1:00 pm.

• Construction on the Jewish Studies Center addition is on schedule for a November completion and January opening.

• Many thanks to a generous grant from Judy Byck from Savannah which enabled us to refurnish and upgrade the JSU/Hillel student lounge. Also to Caroline Eichholz for making the upgrades (which include a beautiful sofa from her home.)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MICHAEL AND ERICA RABHAN
Michael (’03) and Erica Rabhan (’04) consider themselves one of the many success stories created by Jewish Studies Director, Marty Perlmutter. A Savannah native, Michael met Erica Rovner, of Greenville, while attending a Welcome Back Picnic at the College. They were both very active in JSU/Hillel and were founding members of AEPI and SDT. After graduating, the Rabhans married and moved to Atlanta where they have lived for the past ten years. On July 1st, Michael, Erica and their children, Addison (3.5) and Noah (9mos), returned to Charleston, hopefully for good. Erica is now working in the Office of Institutional Advancement for the College and Michael is the Vice President of Sales for P&R Dental. They are very happy to be back where it all started for them, and are excited to continue their involvement with their Jewish Studies family.

BEN GOLDBERG ’48
Growing up on Coming Street in Charleston, Ben Goldberg knew that he would attend the College of Charleston when the time came. A first generation Charlestonian, Ben’s parents emigrated from Russia, and owned grocery stores in town, first on Alexander Street, then at the corner of Coming and Bogard. Throughout his youth, Ben was incredibly active both in AZA and playing sports, which he continued doing while attending the College as a member of the men’s basketball and tennis teams. Upon graduating, Ben attended law school in Columbia where he graduated with honors before serving as a JAG officer based at Fort Benning, and then in California. Following his service, Ben happily returned to his native Charleston, where he entered private practice, public service, and most significantly met his wife, Claire Endictor of Summerville. Ben became increasingly active in various Charleston organizations, serving in leadership roles at Synagogue Emanu-El (where he also taught Religious School), the JCC, AZA as an advisor, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, and the CoFC Alumni Association as president. Ben is a knowledgeable spokesman for Charleston’s Jewish history, and a proud participant in Jewish Studies’ community courses. Now officially retired, Ben continues to offer pro bono work for Neighborhood Legal Services.
Proud to be a Charlestonian: Martin Perlmutter
Jewish Vulnerability/Response of Caring; Anita Zucker
Chanukah in the Square: Sunday December 6, 2015
Sunday Mornings in Arnold Hall: Talks start at 10:00am
Israel Fighting Terror: A Six-Week Mini-Course with Dr. Col. (Res.) Barak Ben Zur
Elementary Reading Hebrew Class: Nitsa Auerbach
Intermediate Reading Hebrew Class: Shula Holtz
Charleston Commenorates 50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate
Judaism Decoded: A Class with Rabbi Hesh Epstein
Monday Night at the Movies: Three Israeli Films
Call for Chanukiyot
A Gift from the Howard and Julie Levine Foundation
The Gerald and Beth Pols Endowed Scholarship
Three Rabbi Panel: Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Brown Bag Lunch Series: John Huddleston
Academic Course Offerings
Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair: Dr. Col. (Res.) Barak Ben Zur
Welcome Shari Rabin, Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies
Jewish Student Union/Hillel: Naomi Nudelman, President
Jewish Student Life Program Director: Becca Diamond
Jewish Student Engagement Coordinator: Jessica Lilly
As We Continue to Grow: Helen Slucki
The Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture
The Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies
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Norman Arnold, life member Columbia
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