from generation to generation

SPRING 2017

Yaschik/Arnold
Jewish Studies Program

רלזrer לדור
from generation to generation

SPRING 2017
Yaschik/A Arnold Jewish Studies Program

LOOKING BACK, AND LOOKING FORWARD, AND REMEMBERING
Martin Perlmutter, Director
Yaschik/A Arnold Jewish Studies Program

Whenever I talk about Jewish Studies at the College, I speak especially of two things. First is the unique model that Jewish Studies has, which integrates academics, student life, and community outreach under one director. It is a model that makes us nationally distinctive, and has led to many of the Program’s successes. The second is the local community, which has been the Program’s backbone since Jewish Studies’ inception at the College.

Three of our most recent successes highlight those two constitutive features of Jewish Studies.

• The College of Charleston built a vegan/vegetarian kosher dining hall on campus, serving food on the College’s meal plan. More than simply offering kosher food to kosher-observant students, the facility welcomes the larger community and caters to a predominantly non-Jewish population that is inadvertently eating kosher food as part of dining services at the College.
• The College’s Office of Admissions is making special efforts to reach out to Jewish students as an attractive out-of-state demographic. About 10% of the College’s out-of-state student population identify themselves as Jewish, and that has been a huge benefit to both the College of Charleston and Jewish Studies.
• Jewish Studies contributed disproportionately to the recently completed Boundless capital campaign at the College. Our A Time to Build campaign was a highlight of the College’s successful campaign, in large part because of the many dimensions of Jewish Studies—scholarships, community outreach, JSU/Hillel, faculty/staff development—that are supported by the Jewish Studies endowments at the College of Charleston Foundation.

Looking forward, we will build on that model and those specific successes. Regarding leadership, the College of Charleston will search for a new director who is well-suited for executing our distinctive vision of Jewish Studies. On the development side, Jewish Studies will take the lead in a targeted endowment campaign—From Strength to Strength. Scholarship funds, more support for our JSU/Hillel, and a Center for Israel Studies will be key priorities. And finally, on the admissions side, the College of Charleston will continue to feature the new kosher dining facility in its recruitment of Jewish students.

Thanks to the many individuals who have contributed in getting us to this point. The community has been at the heart of Jewish Studies and we are where we are because of you. That point has been especially vivid to me this semester, as there are no better exemplars of the community backbone than Norman Arnold obm, who passed away in August, and Anita Zucker, who just stepped down as chair of the Advisory Board. Norman adopted the Program over twenty years ago, attached his name to the Program, and helped make it what it is. Arnold Hall, The Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies, and Norman’s Patio are subsequent namings that reflect his deep commitment to Jewish Studies. Gerry Sue was a founding member of the Advisory Board and was the reason for Norman’s initial interest in the Program. Anita Zucker and her late husband, Jerry obm, also a founding member of the Advisory Board, have been the engine of the Jewish Studies Program ever since I became the Program’s director twenty-five years ago. The Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies and Jerry’s Kitchen at Marty’s Place are only a fraction of their impact on the Program.

A history of the Jewish Studies Program would have long chapters on the Arnolds and the Zukers. They have been incredible assets in most every way, first and foremost as wonderful friends. I miss Norman just as I miss Jerry. Happily, both Anita and Gerry Sue are Life Members of the Advisory Board and both have assured me of their continued interest, which will continue to propel Jewish Studies to new heights. I am grateful for them, and for each of you. Many thanks.

AN EVENING WITH KINKY FRIEDMAN
Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 7:00pm
Recital Hall, Simons Center for the Arts
54 St. Philip Street (enter from George Street)

Kinky Friedman – country musician, novelist, humorist, entrepreneur, and former candidate for governor of Texas – has paved a fascinating and distinctive path as a Jew and a Southerner. Join us on March 30 for a live performance by this iconoclastic Texan and a candid on-stage conversation about his life and career. Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance at: tinyurl.com/kinkychs. Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture, with support from the Yaschik/A Arnold Jewish Studies Program and the Department of Political Science.

Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture.

On the cover: From left to right: Ben Kanter ‘20, Sam Krantz ’19, Jamie Lief ’19, Tyler Malkin ’18, and Michelle Myers ’18 studying in the Rabbi Hirsch Levin Library.
NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Alan Nussbaum, Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

Following Anita Zucker as chair of the Jewish Studies Advisory Board is daunting. She and her family have been pioneers in this program and contributed in countless ways to education in Charleston, in South Carolina, and particularly to the College of Charleston. That she has spent an extra year as chair to see to completion a number of projects has been vital to our success.

This is a time of transition for Jewish Studies in so many ways. We recently marked the loss of Norman Arnold, a founder of the Program who had remained integrally involved in Jewish Studies’ operation during his time as chair of the Advisory Board, and for the rest of his life as a Life Member and supporter of the Program. It is fitting that the College has chosen to honor his memory by naming the new patio in back of Marty’s Place, as Norman’s Patio. Gerry Sue Arnold, who served as co-chair of the Advisory Board with Norman, is an Advisory Board Life-Member and remains invested in the Program’s success.

The interplay between the Jewish Studies Program and the College has been a real success story. The Program has attracted excellent Jewish students from all over the country, and these students in turn have contributed to all aspects of student life on campus. So too has the Program grown academically, with four tenured or tenure-track faculty members, a major and minor in Jewish Studies, plus the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies and Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture.

There is now a need to help more actively attract and support excellent Jewish students from across the country. The College has committed to helping us accomplish this by matching the interest on a number of newly-created Jewish Studies scholarship funds, thereby doubling the impact of the endowed gift. We have begun and will continue to build endowment funds earmarked for Jewish Studies. This will be another major priority in the coming year.

The Advisory Board has been involved in supporting the work of the Program since its inception. We have members both from the Lowcountry and from across the country. The talent on the Advisory Board is broad and deep, and we hope to further involve Advisory Board members in aspects of the Program which involve areas of their own particular expertise. While the Board has no direct decision making role in the College, we do have influence in that we care deeply about the presence of a high-quality Jewish Studies Program at the College, and that we represent a large and active community whose involvement can be counted on.

The next two years will be very important in the life of the Program as a new director is hired, Jewish student life is supported, excellent community programming is offered, and our faculty and staff developed to make sure that we continue to provide an outstanding place to study, teach, work, and engage Jewish history, culture, and tradition. I am so excited to be a part of this wonderful endeavor.

The Milton and Freddie Kronsberg Memorial Lecture

Judaism Without Belief: An Exploration of Jewishness

From a Post-religious Perspective

Shulem Deen

Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:30pm - Stern Center Ballroom

Corner of Glebe and George Streets

After decades steeped in Jewish faith and observance, Shulem Deen rejected Judaism’s foundational principles, and consciously detached from faith and observance. Nevertheless, he still feels the tug of heritage and bonds of kinship. As American Jews experience an unprecedented paradigm shift in their relation to both peoplehood and religiosity, many are asking: What does Jewishness mean today? In this personal and provocative presentation, Shulem Deen will offer thoughts on the continued relevance of Jewishness in his own life, and how we might engage with tradition in a post-religious, post-ethnic American Jewish reality.

Shulem Deen is the author of All Who Go Do Not Return, a memoir about growing up among and then leaving the Skverers, one of the most insular Hasidic sects in the United States. Winner of the 2015 National Jewish Book Award, he is a columnist for the Forward, and his work has appeared in The New Republic, Salon, and Tablet Magazine. In 2015, Deen was included in the Forward 50, an annual list of American Jews with outsized roles on political and social issues. He serves as a board member at Footsteps, a New York City-based organization that offers assistance and support to those who have left the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community. He lives in Brooklyn.
**SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCHES**

Sunday brunches are a hallmark of the Jewish Studies Program. Brunches begin at 9AM and lectures at 10AM. After the talk there will be an interactive discussion in the Rabbi Hirsch Zvi Levin Library with the speaker. All events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available for Sunday morning events (only) in the Wentworth Street Garage. Bring your parking ticket for validation. Upon request, free childcare will be offered during each Sunday brunch this semester. Please contact Mark Swick at swickmn@cofc.edu to RSVP so that we have adequate childcare staffing.

**POLITICS & RELIGION IN ISRAEL**

**ADAM FERZIGER**

Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

Formed in 1948 as a Jewish state, the intersection of politics and religion is at Israel’s core. A 2015 Pew Research poll reports that Israeli Jews are largely united in their need for their nation to be a homeland for Jews, regardless of their origins, but they disagree profoundly about the nature of the religious establishment. As a result, Jewish groups consistently disagree on a range of specific public policy issues. Professor Adam Ferziger will discuss the present realities and nuances of politics and religion in Israel.

Professor Adam S. Ferziger is the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies for the Spring 2017 semester, during which time he will offer a course on Religious Leadership in Modern and Contemporary Judaism. Ferziger is an intellectual and social historian whose research focuses on Jewish religious movements and religious responses to secularization and assimilation in modern and contemporary North America, Europe and Israel. He holds the Samson Raphael Hirsch Chair for Research of the Torah with the Derekh Erez Movement in the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel. Ferziger’s recent book, Beyond Sectarianism, was the winner of a National Jewish Book Award for 2015.

**LIVES ON THE YIDDISH STAGE**

**SHANE BAKER**

Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

Shane Baker, dubbed by the New York Times as “one of the most prominent proponents of Yiddish theater, language, and culture in New York,” comes to Charleston directly from a critically acclaimed Off-Broadway run as Yankl Tshaftshovitsh, the brothel owner in Sholem Asch’s infamous God of Vengeance. He was mentored by some of the last great stars of the interwar European Yiddish stage, and now you can get to know these larger than life characters for yourself as Baker offers personal and professional reminiscences, as well as his own opinions on the unique value of the Yiddish language.

**VORTKUNST: THE ART OF THE YIDDISH WORD**

Monday, February 20 and Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00pm

Theatre 220, Simons Center for the Arts, 54 St. Philip Street

Shane Baker, the best-loved Episcopalian on the Yiddish stage today, shares his favorite materials culled from two decades on the Yiddish stage, with an emphasis on a uniquely Yiddish performance style. The show will include The Yiddish Bullfight Poem; Baker’s one man impersonation of a pot of beans cooking on a stove; and a monologue by Sholem Aleichem, the best-loved Yiddish author of all time and creator of Tevye the Dairyman (Fiddler on the Roof). Baker recently returned from a world tour presenting the works of Sholem Aleichem in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his death (Sholem Aleichem’s, not Baker’s). The New York Times called his Yiddish translation of Waiting for Godot, in which he also costarred as Vladimir, even more depressing than Beckett’s original.’

In addition to acting in, translating, and adapting works for the Yiddish stage, the multi-talented Shane Baker also serves as director of the Congress for Jewish Culture, a Yiddish publishing and educational organization based in New York.

Co-sponsored by the College of Charleston Department of Theatre and Dance.
SPRING 2017

SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCHES

RE-MAKING OUR PUBLIC HISTORY

RICHARD RABINOWITZ

Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

Over the last half-century, museums and television have begun to tell very different stories about the American past. Whose stories get told, how visitors and viewers encounter these stories, and what they say about our nation—all that has radically changed. Dr. Richard Rabinowitz, one of the leading public historians in the United States, will describe this dramatic shift, and explore how his own work has drawn deeply and unexpectedly upon his background as a child of Jewish immigrants.

Richard Rabinowitz is President of the American History Workshop. Over the past forty years he has led efforts to fashion over 500 successful and innovative history programs at sites like the New York Historical Society, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and other sites in 33 states and the District of Columbia. In 2010-11, he drew up the interpretive and curatorial plan for the “Slavery and Freedom” exhibition at the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened in Washington, DC in Fall 2016. He is currently a Fellow at the Gilder Lehrman Center for Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University.

TO STAND ASIDE OR STAND ALONE:

SOUTHERN REFORM RABBIS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

STEVE KRAUSE

Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

In 1966, a young rabbinical student named P. Allen Krause conducted interviews with twelve Reform rabbis from southern congregations concerning their thoughts, principles, and activities as they related to the civil rights movement. Perhaps because he was a young seminary student or more likely because the interviewees were promised an embargo of twenty-five years before the interviews would be released to the public, the rabbis were extremely candid about their opinions on and their own involvement with what was still an incendiary subject. Now, in To Stand Aside or Stand Alone, their stories help elucidate a pivotal moment in time.

Steve Krause is an attorney in the San Francisco Bay area. He graduated magna cum laude from the Boston University School of Law in 1996 with a concentration in negotiation and dispute resolution. Krause’s Law Review article, “Punishing the Press: Using Contempt of Court to Secure the Right to a Fair Trial,” published in 1996, has been cited around the world as a primary authority in cases of media indiscretion in high-profile criminal trials. Krause’s father, P. Allen Krause obm was a congregational rabbi for over forty years, devoting his rabbinate to issues of human rights, social justice, and interfaith understanding.

HATE AND ANTI-SEMITISM

LEGITIMIZED AGAIN IN AMERICA

KENNETH JACOBSON

Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 10:00AM in Arnold Hall

A political campaign that emboldened hate and bigotry on many fronts came at a particularly bad time, because anti-Semitism was already surging on both the right and the left, both in the United States and abroad. Kenneth Jacobson will discuss these trends as well as the new Administration’s approach to Israel and Middle East issues.

Kenneth Jacobson joined the Anti-Defamation League staff in 1972 and currently serves as its Deputy National Director, responsible for overseeing and coordinating the formulation of ADL’s policy and its implementation. Mr. Jacobson is the author of numerous publications, including The Protocols: Myth and History, The Middle East: Questions and Answers, The Middle East ‘Post’ Lebanon, and US Aid to the Middle East: A Look Back, A Look Ahead. By popular demand, Ken returns each April for an informative and engaging presentation.
READING HEBREW: INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED
INSTRUCTORS: NITSA AUERBACH AND SHULA HOLTZ
5:25–6:40pm in Room 100 and Room 319, Jewish Studies Center
Mondays, January 23—April 24, 2017

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 intermediate and advanced levels offered at the same time. Participants are requested to attend all class meetings. Registration is not required. The course is free of charge, and open to the entire community. It cannot be taken for college credit. There will be a small charge for the text used in each class. The sessions are weekly 75-minute classes, taught by native Hebrew speakers Shula Holtz, who has been teaching the class since its inception, and Nitsa Auerbach, a native of Tel Aviv and graduate of Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

MONDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES
THE FILMS OF MEL BROOKS

All films start at 7:00pm, and will be shown in Arnold Hall.
Popcorn and refreshments will be served.
Mondays, January 23, March 13, March 27, and April 24 2017
7:00pm in Arnold Hall

Each semester, the Jewish Studies Program presents a series of films on a different topic relating to Jewish history or culture. Join us this Spring for a series celebrating the films of Mel Brooks. Screenings are free and open to the public.

Blazing Saddles, January 23 (1974, 93min)
The ultimate Western spoof. A town where everyone seems to be named Johnson is in the way of the railroad. In order to grab their land, Hedley Lemar, a politically connected nasty person, sends in his henchmen to make the town unlivable. After the sheriff is killed, the town demands a new sheriff from the Governor (Mel Brooks). Hedley convinces him to send the town the first Black sheriff in the West.

Young Frankenstein, March 13 (1974, 106min)
A young neurosurgeon inherits the castle of his grandfather, the famous Dr. Victor von Frankenstein. In the castle he finds a funny hunchback called Igor, a pretty lab assistant named Inga and the old housekeeper, Frau Blucher. Young Frankenstein believes that the work of his grandfather is subpar, but when he discovers the book where the mad doctor described his reanimation experiment, he suddenly changes his mind.

To Be or Not to Be, March 27 (1983, 107min)
A Polish actor and his wife are renowned in Poland at the start of WWII, but his wife has the habit of entertaining young Polish officers while he’s on stage, which is also a source of depression to him. When one of her officers comes back on a Secret Mission, the actor takes charge and comes up with a plan for them to escape.

History of the World, Part 1, April 24 (1981, 92min)
From the dawn of man to the distant future, mankind’s evolution (or lack thereof) is traced. Often ridiculous but never serious, we learn the truth behind the Roman Emperor, we learn what really happened at the Last Supper, the circumstances that surrounded the French Revolution, how to test eunuchs, and what kind of shoes the Spanish Inquisitor wore.
**THREE RABBI PANEL**

**UNPACKING THE TEXT -- Na’aseh v’Nishma (Exodus 24:7)**

RABBIS GREG KANTER, ADAM ROSENBAUM, AND MICHAEL DAVIES

Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 7:30pm
Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor)
Corner of Glebe and George Streets

Jewish tradition teaches that the pinnacle of Jewish history occurred at the foot of Mt. Sinai, as God revealed the Torah. Just before that revelation took place, though, the Jewish people pledged, *Na’aseh v’nishma* – “We will do and we will listen to all that God has declared” (Exodus 24:7). The order of this declaration is of great importance, and the verse is often interpreted differently along denominational lines.

Are we to keep the Torah and its commandments, without knowing why? Are we to first inform ourselves of Jewish law, and then choose how to implement them on an individual basis? Is action more important than understanding, or, as the Talmud teaches (*Kiddushin* 40b), does understanding lead to action? Join with Jewish Studies and members of the community as Rabbis Greg Kanter (KKBE), Adam Rosenbaum (Emanu-El) and Michael Davies (Dor Tikvah) discuss these questions and more. The reception immediately after the panel will welcome Rabbi Kanter to the Charleston community.

**Baruch ha’ba.**

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**RABBI DAVID AND BARBARA RADINSKY**

Sunday and Monday - February 12 and 13, 2017
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

**Rabbi David Radinsky (Sunday, 3:00pm)**

**G-d Helps Those Who Help Themselves**

As Jews we subscribe to the notion that “G-d helps those who help themselves”. What are the Biblical and Talmudic sources for this belief? To what extent do we believe that we have to help ourselves until G-d starts helping us? Are we allowed to rely on G-d to perform a miracle for us?

**Barbara Radinsky (Monday, 7:00pm)**

**Managing Everyday Stresses Jewishly**

Does your stress control you- or do control your stress? Balancing our busy lives can be very challenging. It is known that stress can overtake our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Mrs. Radinsky will discuss practical ways to create a calmer life style from both a Jewish and secular perspective.

Rabbi David J. Radinsky is a graduate of Yeshiva University and is Rabbi Emeritus of Brith Sholom Beth Israel Congregation (BSBI) in Charleston, having served as its senior rabbi for 34 years. Barbara Cooper Radinsky was born and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, is a graduate of Stern College for Women and The Citadel, and is Rebbitzin Emerita of BSBI. The Radinskys have retired to Memphis to be close to their family, but return each year to reconnect with their Charleston ‘family.’

**Welcome Back Reception: Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 4:15pm (after first class).**
FOOD & FAITH: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND JEWS

Monday, January 30, 2017, 6:30–8:30pm
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

Please join Muslim and Jewish students and community members for an informal conversation about cultural and religious points of contact. The event will begin with a conversation between Rabbi Michael Davies, local Orthodox rabbi, and Imam Abdel Majid, Charleston Imam, moderated by Elijah Siegler, chair of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston. Commonalities between Jewish and Muslim dietary laws (Halal and Kashrut) will be a central topic, followed by samples of three traditional Jewish and Muslim dishes afterwards.

Following the moderated conversation, attendees will form breakout groups and discuss issues beyond food, to include comparing Jewish and Muslim practices of prayer, pilgrimage, clothing, holy days, scripture, charity, and more. All are welcome to attend.

Co-sponsored by the College of Charleston Department of Religious Studies, the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, Jewish Student Union/Hillel, Arabic Club, and the Christian-Jewish Council of Greater Charleston.
CHILDREN OF THE PERPETRATORS
Theodore Rosengarten
Zucker/Goldberg Professor of Holocaust Studies

From the children of survivors, we learn that their families were different. There were happy families but there also were many homes filled with a nameless gloom. Many—perhaps most—children of survivors grew up defined by their parents’ history. Can the same be said for children of the perpetrators? If a victim’s trauma can make itself felt in the next generation, do feelings of guilt and remorse keep the children and grandchildren of the killers awake at night? Or do they wake up to each new day feeling blameless, insensible to the deeds of their fathers? Should we care about their state of mind and seek to learn how they process the past? Can they tell us the secret of the Holocaust, how it happened that Hitler found so many willing executioners?

In 2014, our study abroad met for two hours in Berlin with 80-year-old Hartmut Topf, whose grandfather and uncles built the ovens that incinerated the dead at Auschwitz. The Topf name was emblazoned on the crematoria for all to see. The builders were proud of their craftsmanship. Topf insisted his family were simply businessmen, engineers, opportunists maybe, but not anti-Semites, and, in fact, the company had employed Jews in the old days. He is of the school that believes a small group of extremists rallied the German nation to carry out the dirty work of genocide, and he defended the family’s “good name” before the war and after. He won some sympathy for himself narrating his adventures as a 10-year-old boy in April 1945, risking his life to carry food and water to the soldiers defending besieged Berlin. Half the people in our group were impressed by his sincerity and willingness to speak about the dark years of his family’s profitable immersion in the Holocaust. The other half, myself included, were repulsed by how he seemed to want to include his family in the ranks of Nazi victims.

This past May our student travelers interviewed Katrin Himmler, great-niece of Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS and architect of the Holocaust. Katrin is a very attractive woman who looks younger than her age, which is 49. She is kind and forthcoming. A political scientist and author, she has spent her adult life pursuing the truth of the Himmler family’s embrace of Nazi ideology. Asked in the 1990s by her father to look into the participation of his father—Heinrich’s brother—in the Nazi party, what she found in the archives overturned the family’s comforting narrative. She learned that all three Himmler brothers were committed to the notion of the master race, and the elimination from Germany of Jews and other lesser “races.” The outcome of the war did not alter their convictions. Heinrich was the most outspoken, and from inside the family one could see how circumstances might impel him to take a leading role in creating what one student called “the systems of torture and dehumanization that were used throughout Poland and Germany.” But he was not an anomaly and his brothers were not involuntary Nazis, as a generation had been taught to believe.

By the end of our hour-and-a-half interrogation, Katrin’s ruddy complexion had turned a deep red as if she had just run a race. She stayed briefly to talk to us one on one but had to hurry home to look after her disabled son. The boy’s father is Israeli and does not live in Berlin. One student asked Katrin what her family thought about her bringing home a Jewish man. “What did my family think? You mean what did his family think when he told them the woman he was going to marry is the great-niece of Heinrich Himmler?”

Down to the current generation, the Himmlers blame the circumstances and not the man. Katrin has taken a different path. In her talk, and in two brave books, she strives to purge herself from her emotional inheritance. We were moved by her struggle. Listening to her, our students—the ones who came with us and their new German friends in the joint class organized by Andrea Mehrlander at Berlin’s largest vocational college, where the meeting took place—felt like they were “living in history.”

The lesson continued after class as we walked through the school yard to the gymnasium where some 300 Syrian refugees from the genocidal war in their homeland were sheltered. I thought of the “family camp” at Birkenau with its semblance of normality and its air of waiting. With one big difference, of course: in the Germany of today, life, not death, awaits these “others” and the million more like them. However, life, empathy, and the flame of love face severe political trials, and not only in Germany. The Holocaust was not an accident in history; it happened because individuals and governments made choices that legalized discrimination and allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately mass murder to occur.
# ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

## FYSE 124.01  
**CRN 21891**  
First Year Seminar: Where is Religion?  
T, Th 1:40-2:55pm  
(JWST 210.01)  
(Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210))

Everything happens somewhere. This course will analyze those “somewhere”s within American religious history, from churches to prisons, mosques to mikvehs. We will use particular controversies - involving Judaism and other religious traditions - in order to understand how diverse religious spaces have been shaped by political conflict and how space has been significant to discussions of religion in American public life.

## HBRW 102.01  
**CRN 20767**  
Elementary Modern Hebrew  
MWF 10:00-10:50am and W 9:00-9:50am  
(Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210))

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

## HBRW 202.01  
**CRN 20768**  
Intermediate Modern Hebrew  
MWF 11:00-11:50am and W 12:00-12:50pm  
(Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210))

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

## HONS 381.03  
**CRN 21443**  
Holocaust Memory  
MW 2:00-3:15pm  
10 Greenway, Room 200  
(Open only to Honors students)

This course examines different controversies, tensions, and debates surrounding the Holocaust since the 1940s. It will examine ways that the Nazi persecution of the Jews has been interpreted and reinterpreted by survivors, by Jewish communities, by European, American, and Israeli societies, and by scholars across a range of disciplinary backgrounds. Beginning with controversies around Jewish resettlement in the aftermath of the Holocaust, this course will look at a range of issues that arose in the decades after the Holocaust. We will examine the controversy surrounding restitution and reparations in the 1950s, debates around various forms of justice from the 1940s through the 1990s, historiographical debates about the origin and nature of Nazism and Nazi antisemitism, and controversies about different ways that the Holocaust has come to be remembered and represented. Moreover, we will locate controversies around the Holocaust within the broader historical context and wider historical debates that shaped these debates.

## JWST 210.01  
**CRN 21842**  
Jewish History I: Ancient to Modern  
Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:15-1:30pm  
(JWST 210.01)  
(Jewish Studies Center, Arnold Hall (Room 100))

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

## JWST 210.02  
**CRN 22102**  
Jewish History I: Ancient to Modern  
Tuesdays, Thursdays 1:40-2:55pm  
(JWST 210.01)  
(Jewish Studies Center, Arnold Hall (Room 100))

An examination of the Hebrew Bible as a literary text, concentrating specifically on stories which focus on female characters. The course explores the sexual politics of Biblical narratives, from both a literary and a gender studies perspective.

## JWST 300.01  
**CRN 23520**  
Special Topic: Women in the Hebrew Bible  
MW 2:00-3:15pm  
(JWST 300.01)  
(Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210))

An examination of the Hebrew Bible as a literary text, concentrating specifically on stories which focus on female characters. The course explores the sexual politics of Biblical narratives, from both a literary and a gender studies perspective.

## JWST 300.02  
**CRN 23521**  
Special Topic: Religious Leadership in Modern and Contemporary Judaism  
MW 3:30-4:45pm  
(JWST 300.01)  
(Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210))

The integration of Jews into general society and the decline in Jewish religious observance in modern times have, paradoxically, made religious leaders more central to Jewish life. This course explores novel religious leadership roles and religious leaders who impacted the historical trajectory of Judaism from early modern to contemporary times. Topics will include: Jewish messianism, the Hasidic rebbe, the rise of the Reform rabbinate, rabbinical training, female religious leadership, the musician as religious leader, religious leadership in the State of Israel, New Age Judaism, and post-denominationalism.

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**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.
ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

JWST 300.04  CRN 23909  Special Topic: Nazi Medicine  
Mondays 5:30-8:15pm  
Ted Rosengarten  
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies  
This course explores the biomedical vision at the heart of Nazi thought: the program of “human selection” that sought to remake the demography of Europe by placing the “health” of the state over the individual; the “cleansing” of the German medical profession; so-called medical experimentation as a tool of political and social conquest; and the pursuit of personal gain over the exercise of medical ethics.

JWST 310.01  CRN 21051  History of Israel  
Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:25-10:40am  
Joshua Shanes  
A history of the modern state of Israel from its conception in the Zionist movement to the present. Topics will include the political and cultural development of the nation, its relationship to religion and to the Jewish Diaspora, and its conflicts with the surrounding Arab states and with the Palestinians.

JWST 315.01  CRN 23523  Southern Jewish History  
Tuesdays, Thursdays 10:50am -12:05pm  
Shari Rabin  
This course explores the history of Jews in the southern United States from colonial times until the present. Students will learn about Jewish economic, social, and cultural activities, using them as a case study to explore intersections between race and religion in the region. We will explore some of the key events of southern Jewish history, with a focus on how Jews have confounded, complicated, and conformed to the region's “peculiar” norms and categories.

JWST 330.02  CRN 23524  Representations of the Holocaust  
Tuesdays, Thursdays 1:40-2:55pm  
Rob Kohn  
The topic of memory, especially in its relation to the Holocaust, has gained critical importance in the German-speaking context in the last few decades. Instead of merely repeating the maxim to “never forget,” cultural memories of the Holocaust have shaped the discourses about the past, addressing issues such as guilt/responsibility, victims/victimization, trauma, and memory. In this class we will read important works of literature and memoir (in English translation) to understand the German and Austrian debates about cultural memory, responsibility, and trauma since 1945. Authors to be read and discussed include Ruth Klüger, Robert Schindel, Peter Weiss, W.G. Sebald, Art Spiegelman, and Benjamine Wilkomirski.

THE PEARLSTINE/LIPOV CENTER FOR SOUTHERN JEWISH CULTURE
by Shari Rabin, Associate Director

The Center for Southern Jewish Culture has had a busy 2016! Our website went live in March, expanding our online presence. You can now find us at JewishSouth.cofc.edu, and also at Facebook.com/JewishSouth and Twitter.com/JewishSouth. To receive the latest news about the Center’s activities, please sign up for our email list at jewishsouth.cofc.edu/contact-us/email-list.

Fall 2016 has been an exciting time for the Center for Southern Jewish Culture, even with director extraordinaire Dale Rosengarten on sabbatical!

In October, we hosted Kimberly Hartnett, author of Carolina Israelite: How Harry Golden Made us Care about Jews, the South, and Civil Rights, for an animated Sunday morning lecture. We also welcomed our third Charleston Research Fellow, Avigail Oren, a PhD candidate at Carnegie Mellon University, who spent two weeks delving into the Charleston Jewish Community Center papers in the Jewish Heritage Collection at Addlestone Library. Elsewhere at the Center, work has been moving along on Mapping Jewish Charleston. When completed, this digital project will offer an insightful – and visually beautiful – overview of where and how Charleston Jews worked, lived, and prayed from the colonial period to the present day.

There is much more to come at the Center this spring. We will sponsor Steve Krause as a Sunday Brunch speaker on April 2. He will present To Stand Aside or Stand Alone: Southern Reform Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement, a new book he co-edited with Mark Bauman, based on interviews Steve’s father, P. Allen Krause, conducted as a young rabbinical student in the mid-1960s. Our next Charleston research fellow will be Lucas Wilson, a Ph.D. student at Florida Atlantic University, who will give a public talk titled Portraits of the Post-Holocaust Home in Second Generation Oral Histories on Wednesday, May 3 at 12:30pm in Arnold Hall.

Our biggest event of the year—mark your calendars now!—will be “An Evening with Kinky Friedman” on Thursday, March 30 at 7pm in the Simons Center Recital Hall. Among his many accomplishments, the iconoclastic Friedman founded the tongue-in-cheek country music band Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys and ran for governor of Texas in 2006, coming in fourth in a field of six. Kinky will perform his music and also will hold a candid on-stage conversation about his life and career. Tickets for this exciting event are free, but must be reserved ahead of time at tinyurl.com/kinkychs.
NEWS NOTES

On Sunday, November 13th, CofC Honors student and Jewish Studies Klaper Fellow Samantha Krantz ’19 led an effort to create a living memorial of daffodil flowers alongside the Marion Square Holocaust Memorial, thereby beautifying the memorial and inspiring the next generation to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust. Daffodils represent the yellow stars that Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust, and the flower symbolizes both remembrance and resilience. Krantz is a student of Ted Rosengarten, Zucker/Goldberg Professor of Holocaust Studies, and was inspired to increase Holocaust awareness locally after learning of her own family’s connection to the Holocaust. Krantz’s project was conducted in conjunction with The Daffodil Project, a worldwide initiative empowering Holocaust education, and was supported by the Jewish Studies Program, the City of Charleston Parks Department, Charleston Parks Conservancy, and the Charleston Jewish Federation.

The Jewish Studies Program Advisory Board held their annual fall meeting on Sunday, December 4th. The Board experienced a smooth transition of leadership, from Past-Chair Anita Zucker to Alan Nussbaum, and voted in two new members, Rebecca Leibowitz Engel of Charleston, and Rachael Smith-Vaughan of Greensboro, NC. Among the highlights of the Advisory Board meeting were (1) Provost Brian McGee reaffirming the College of Charleston’s strong commitment to Jewish Studies in this time of transition in Advisory Board and Jewish Studies leadership, (2) the initiation of the sub-committee structure of the Advisory Board with breakout sessions of the various subcommittees, (3) a preview of the new development initiative for Jewish Studies called From Strength to Strength, and (4) a reception in honor of Anita Zucker at President McConnell’s home on Glebe Street.

Jewish Studies has made the creation of endowed scholarships a major priority. Happily, the College has just met Jewish Studies halfway in this initiative and has agreed to have the interest from twenty new out-of-state scholarship endowments of $50,000 matched - meaning that a $2,500 award (assuming a 5% return) would actually be worth $5,000 to the recipient after the College’s match. Jewish Studies has already secured three such endowed scholarships to date, one from Daniel Melrod of Washington DC, and two from the Norman J. Arnold Foundation in Columbia SC.

MARTY’S PLACE

Marty’s Place - the College’s vegan/vegetarian kosher dining hall, had a fantastic semester, building on the success of its inaugural semester in the Spring of 2016. It will again remain open on Second Sundays in the Spring, and will again offer special deals to families with young children on Tuesday afternoons, while also including more variety on its menu.

Jewish Studies and the JSU/Hillel work in partnership with Taglit-Birthright Israel, which sends Jews age 18-26 on an all-expense paid 10-day trip to Israel. While the JSU/Hillel at the College of Charleston organizes a trip annually through Hillel International in the spring, College of Charleston students Zach Sturman ’17 and Zack Shapiro ‘18 organized a trip of their own through Birthright organizer Israel Outdoors over Winter Break 2016. They recruited 22 students—15 from the College and 7 from elsewhere to travel to Israel in December 2016 for 10 days. Kol ha’kavod Zach and Zack.

The College of Charleston has received a record number of applications for admissions so far this year, and Jewish applicants too are in record territory. We are anticipating a large and well qualified freshman class in August 2017.

Jewish Studies has again received a generous grant from the Herzman Fund with a supplemental grant from Mindelle Seltzer and Robert Lovinger to produce A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto on June 3rd and 4th, 2017. The tentative schedule includes an expanded Jewish choral concert, a Leonard Cohen memorial, chamber music with Yuri Bekker and Andrew Armstrong, a coffee house, and a film series. Stay tuned for more information.

LIFE AND LEGACY

The Jewish Studies Program is proud to announce its participation in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s (HGF) Life and Legacy program. A four-year partnership program assisting communities across North America, Life and Legacy, promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit Jewish day schools, synagogues, social service organizations, Jewish Studies programs, and other Jewish entities. HGF recognizes that an unprecedented transfer of generational wealth is taking place before our eyes. Yet Jewish organizations have not fully recognized the possibilities. To date, endowment giving has had a tremendous impact on the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program’s success. If you would like to learn more about the Life and Legacy program, or to discuss making a planned gift to Jewish Studies through the Life and Legacy program, please contact Mark Swick at swickmn@cofc.edu or Martin Perlmutterm at perlmutterm@cofc.edu.
The Spring meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will take place in Charleston and Summerville on May 20-21, 2017. The meeting will initiate the latest project of the JHSSC—documenting the Jewish merchants of South Carolina. The dominant narrative of Jewish history in South Carolina includes Jewish peddlers and merchants, frequently immigrants, who settled and often succeeded in both the small towns—Greeleyville, Summerton, Eutawville, Union…and the larger cities—Columbia, Greenville, and, of course, Charleston. That narrative needs to be documented, and the JHSSC has committed to taking that on as its next project. A point of JHSSC history: It was the decline of the small town Jewish merchants (and a panel at Jewish Studies discussing that decline) that led Senator Isadore Lourie obm, initially from St. George, to start the JHSSC in 1994.

The meeting will focus on Charleston and Summerville, spending Saturday in Charleston with a panel of King Street merchants and Sunday in Summerville with a panel of Jewish merchants there. An historic marker documenting the Jewish presence in Summerville will be dedicated in downtown Summerville on Sunday.

IN MEMORIAM

*The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program lovingly remembers three men, all native Charlestonians, who played transformative roles in the life of the Program, and the community at large. Their memories are surely a blessing.*

**Norman J. Arnold (1929-2016).** Norman Arnold made Columbia his home, but reserved a special place in his heart for Charleston, his childhood home. Norman became President and CEO of Ben Arnold Company from 1963, after his father’s unexpected death, and grew the company until its sale in 1984. He left the company in 1994, and with his son Ben successfully developed properties in Columbia. Norman had a great admiration for the strength, cohesion, and vibrancy of the Jewish community in Charleston, and so it was with great pride that Norman and his wife Gerry Sue matched Henry and Sylvia Yaschik’s initial endowment in Jewish Studies, creating the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, and allowing Jewish Studies to significantly expand its offerings. Norman was a major supporter of Jewish Studies at every juncture of the Program: Arnold Hall, The Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair in Jewish Studies, Arnold Scholarships, and *Norman’s Patio*, located just behind *Marty’s Place*, are just a sampling of his Jewish Studies philanthropy.

**Jack P. Brickman (1921-2016).** Jack worked at his father’s clothing store on King Street before graduating from the High School of Charleston. He earned his B.S. from the College of Charleston (1942) and J.D. from University of Virginia Law School (1949) before entering private practice on Broad Street for more than 65 years. Jack was known to never turn anyone away who needed legal help, often accepting payment in vegetables. Jack served in leadership roles or on the boards of many local organizations including the Jewish Community Center of Charleston, the Charleston Jewish Federation, BSBI, and the Jewish Studies Program. In 1946 Jack married his childhood sweetheart, Fay Cohen, also a College of Charleston graduate, and, in their seventy years of marriage, they raised six children, and helped raise thirteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

**Rabbi Robert Seigel (1938-2016).** A graduate of Rivers High School and the College of Charleston, Rabbi Seigel took enormous pride in starting the first Hillel on the CofC campus in the late 50’s, as well as becoming the first native South Carolinian to be ordained as a rabbi. Throughout his 50+ year rabbinate, Rabbi Seigel held pulpits in New York, North Carolina, and California, before retiring home to Charleston with his beloved wife Faye Polis Seigel, where he remained active in the community, at Jewish Studies, and at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, where he had been consecrated, confirmed, called to the Torah, and to the chuppah.
This semester has been uniquely challenging for our student population. The internal stress of homework, social pressures, and career ambitions were mixed with the external pressures of a difficult election season and two local court cases that forced us to confront the ugliest aspects of our society. This took its toll on the energy of the student population as a whole, and students, faculty, and staff alike are still grappling with how to create a successful academic community in the face of such challenges. The difficulty that we as Hillel staff face is how to create a pluralistic community with shared, Jewish values that is inclusive of students across the political spectrum and from very different backgrounds while still standing up for righteousness and justice in the world. After all, our organization is named for the great sage Hillel the Elder, who proudly said, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?” (Pirkei Avot, 1:14).

The answer to this difficulty came from Hillel International President and CEO Eric Fingerhut. As Hillel staff, we attended the Hillel Global Assembly, a conference of around 850 Hillel professionals, from New York and Chicago to Warsaw and Kiev. Fingerhut used his presidential plenary to clearly state Hillel International’s position on justice work, saying:

“So, in addition to the fight against anti-Semitism on campus, Hillel will also lead the fight to protect those of other religions and beliefs, because that is what Jews do. And Hillel will not only fight to protect Jews of color, but all people of color. And Hillel will not only fight to protect LGBTQ Jews, but all LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff on campus.”

Once he said that, all the Hillel professionals in the room felt a swelling of pride and relief that this organization we work so hard to grow holds these important values and actively supports those of us and our students who do the work of tikkun olam, repairing the world. Our students are bursting at the seams with energy, wanting to effect change in the world around them, and we now feel like we can completely encourage and support them in these endeavors, so we want to highlight some of the things our students are doing to promote justice in our community.

Sierra Debrow has educated so many, including ourselves, on the reach of identity politics, and has served as an amplifier for minority voices. During the past few years at CofC, Sierra has helped facilitate cross-cultural dialogue with Hillel’s interfaith Avi Schaefer Shabbat program. Sierra currently serves as a writer for a publication called The Rival, and has contributed to articles such as “Hear Us: How Women at The College Really Feel About Sexual Assault.”

Mollie Selmanoff, our outgoing CofC Hillel President, has been a volunteer at People Against Rape, an advocacy group supporting survivors and victims of sexual assault. This year, she has interned at Florence Crittenton, a residential program supporting pregnant teens in Charleston. When Mollie sees a need in the community, she steps up to help without a second thought. She will continue this work after she graduates in December, as she has accepted a job at the National Crime Victims Center at MUSC.

Ethan Davis is a Bonner Leader at CofC, which is a group of students who have demonstrated a commitment to service and are advocates for social justice and change. During fall break, he led a trip to New York City for the Bonner leaders that explored hunger and homelessness. Before leaving for the trip, he put together a program for these students to explore hunger and homelessness in the Charleston community, and how the Jewish community views our commitment to this issue. Ethan does not wait for people to ask for help; he actively searches for ways in which he can make a positive change in the world.
REACHING OUT TO JEWISH STUDENTS
Helen Slucki
Assistant Director, Departmental Recruitment, Office of Admissions

Another semester has gone by in a flash. In the Fall, my travel schedule was expanded to include Jewish student recruitment events in Atlanta, New York and South Florida. I again connected with college counselors at the National Association of College and Admissions Counselors annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, and as always, our energetic admissions counselors spent nine weeks on the road continuing the important and impactful work they do in their regions to promote Jewish student life and Jewish Studies here at the College.

At the Jewish Studies Program’s Fall Advisory Board Meeting in December, our board established an Admissions Committee. That committee will be chaired by Rachael Smith-Vaughan, who has been a mentor of mine over the last few years. Rachael is the Director of College and Career Counseling at American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, NC. Her background is in admissions, having served as Senior Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Bentley University, and also in international admissions. Having sat on "both sides of the desk" – the high school and admissions side - Rachael is uniquely qualified to guide the Program in our endeavors to recruit Jewish students to the College, and I am thrilled that she has agreed to join our Advisory Board.

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

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

JEWISH STUDENT UNION/HILLEL
Michelle Myers, President

Shalom, Y’all! My name is Michelle Myers, and I am thrilled and honored to be serving as the Jewish Student Union/Hillel president this semester. I am a junior at the College of Charleston studying psychology, and my goal is to pursue a graduate degree in clinical psychology after my graduation in 2018. While home for me is just outside of Philadelphia, PA, the community I have found in Charleston makes me feel just as comfortable as I do in my hometown.

When I first came to the College, I was immediately drawn to the JSU/Hillel because of the warm, inviting community it offered. Every time I entered the doors of the Jewish Studies Center, I felt welcomed and wanted. I found it was easy to make friends at JSU events like Meet-to-Eats and Shabbats because the student board members made a special effort to get to know me. What I love most about being a student leader at the JSU/Hillel is helping to strengthen and maintain the inviting community that made me feel so welcome as a first-year student, and empowering my peers to do the same. We do this not only by being a friendly face at our regular dinners, but by creating programming that we are passionate about, and inviting others to share in it with us.

Beyond the community of students at the JSU/Hillel, we have amazing support from the greater Jewish community in Charleston. Each year CoC students are welcomed into the local synagogues for the High Holidays, rabbis from the community join our students to lead Shabbat services, and we put on programming that unites students and community members together, such as the Holocaust remembrance event spearheaded by our new Vice President Samantha Krantz. I am tremendously grateful to have the opportunity to serve in a leadership role within these communities, and am so looking forward to all that Spring 2017 has to offer!
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