YASCHIK/ARNOLD JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It’s hard to believe it’s already time for my Spring semester newsletter article. While, on the one hand, 2020 seems like it will never end, on the other hand, the semester has flown by at least for me, maybe not the student? I’d like to welcome Kim Browdy as our new Associate Director for Community Relations. Kim hit the ground running this past August and has shown steady growth in in and understanding of her new position. She is proving to be a strong asset for the program and I look forward to her developing strong working relationships with the Advisory Board and our community organizations.

Despite the restrictions on community gatherings, the community programming from Jewish Studies has been almost non-stop. Through the “miracle of Zoom,” we have been able to discuss with one another from not only our own distinguished faculty, but faculty and guests from across the country. In addition to these conversations, there have been Bookfest and Filmfest presentations and discussions. There were 177 guests on our recent Three Rabbi Panel on Jews and Race; Programming for the remainder of the year continues and you can see the upcoming programming for next semester on pg. 3. The Advisory Board is looking into ways we can assist the Jewish Studies program in engaging our younger, post-graduate Jewish community. This may entail programming in conjunction with other Jewish organizations and congregations. Adding this somewhat neglected age group to our programming reflects the need to include our next generation. I hope you will join us in supporting this effort. We will certainly need your help. For more information, please see jewish.cofc.edu/scholarships.

I usually end this letter thanking you for your continued support, for which we are forever grateful. This time, I must turn the spotlight on our faculty and staff, who have been working under grueling and emotionally tolling conditions the past few months. Their dedication and commitment have been truly inspirational. Since the semester began, they have put in countless hours (without additional compensation) into teaching remotely and in the classroom; meeting students and promoting them emotionally and professionally, on Zoom and in-person; serving hundreds of meals to students in the Jewish Studies Center, at the Citadel, and supporting them emotionally and professionally, on Zoom and in-person; serving hundreds of meals to students in the Jewish Studies Center, at the Citadel, and delivering them to those in quarantine; working with the Office of Admissions on recruiting Jewish students to the College; reshaping our marketing and branding strategies; reaching out to new constituencies; planning and managing events; preparing for a busy spring semester; and handling all the “under the hood” work associated with running such a complex operation. I am fortunate to be working with such an incredible group of professionals. It is thanks to them that we have been able to weather the storm so well. With their continued efforts and your support, our program will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever before.

Yaron Ayalon
Director, Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program
Associate Professor of Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies

FROM THE CHAIR


We have been improving our academic appeal to students. The Jewish Studies major is the second second major any student can pursue. It is made up largely of electives, makes one stand out in a competitive job market, works with almost any other major/minor combination, trains our students in unconventional thinking, and promotes an innovative and innovative approach to problem solving. We are especially suited for this: We have nearly three decades of experience doing things differently. And we have Jewish history and the story of Israeli ingenuity on our side too! We now have more Jewish Studies majors than we have ever had, and are on track to become the Jewish Studies program with the highest number of majors nationwide.

We shifted our public events online, but remained active as ever, with guest speakers appearing on zoom for fascinating and thought-provoking conversations. We focused on two related themes: race relations, and diversity within the Jewish community, while continuing our content on Israel and Holocaust. You can expect these conversations to continue into spring. I invite you to glance at our list of upcoming events on page 3, and consult our Facebook and events pages online for more up-to-date information. Events will be held virtually. We are, however, hoping for a gradual return to face-to-face functions, and are ready to re-introduce them so we can serve our delicious Sunday brunches as soon as conditions allow. Please stay tuned for more news on that front.

The pandemic is still with us; however, we must look to the future. We have recently launched a grassroots general scholarship initiative that accepts contributions as small as $18. Since many of our students remain here after college, supporting Jewish students at CofC is a great way to invest in the future of the Charleston Jewish community. Our goal is ambitious: To raise enough money to allow any Jewish student admitted to the College of Charleston to come here; and to match or top any tuition counter-offer other schools make to that student. We hope you will join us in supporting this effort. We will certainly need your help. For more information, please see jewish.cofc.edu/scholarships.

Yaron Ayalon
Director, Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program
Associate Professor of Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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Anita Zucker, life member

Robert Steinberg
Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

For event updates, follow us on facebook at facebook.com/cofcjswt or check our website at jewish.cofc.edu/events
The Three Rabbis 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. We are incredibly grateful for their support, and for their broad vision of Yiddishkayt.

Hillel Happenings

This Fall, Hillel adapted and innovated to provide students with meaningful experiences within health and safety guidelines. Our bi-weekly meals, which have been long standing staples of the Jewish community on campus, were adapted into a to-go style format. While we can’t all eat together, we can still safely serve delicious meals (including kosher meat meals catered by Dining In). Next semester, we are looking forward to transitioning to our smaller group dining options and/or shift-style meals to provide the personal connection that so many of us have been missing.

Most of our programs have been entirely online. We have experimented with platforms beyond Zoom with online escape rooms, House Party games, and more. Students have also planned creative hybrid events, such as a “Mytstics and Mocktails” Jewish learning program with Jamie, Hillel’s Program and Engagement Associate. Students modified the annual Daffodil Project to only have a small group planting in person coupled with a moving Zoom program around this year’s Project theme of immigration. We wrapped up the semester with our second annual holiday event with the College’s Multicultural Student Programs and Services departments. We brought students of all backgrounds together (in masks, of course) to de-stress before finals and to spread some holiday cheer.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, nearly 100 Jewish freshmen started at CofC this fall and were welcomed into our Jewish community months before they stepped onto campus. Over the summer and into the beginning of the semester we hosted different programs and mixers for freshmen to meet each other and meet returning students. We also piloted a program called FYSH (First Year Students of Hillel) which matched 40 students into mentor-mentee pairs. The freshmen appreciated having an older student take them under their wing, so to speak, and the upperclassmen have enjoyed introducing younger students to all that CofC has to offer.

As the Jewish student population at the College grows, so have the leadership and professional development opportunities that Hillel offers. This semester, we had three interns supporting Jewish Studies (a marketing intern, a community programs intern, and an admissions intern), and we are looking to add three to five more interns this spring. For the first time in recent history, the Hillel Student Board was elected by students rather than selected by staff. In a time where most other programs are struggling, I am proud to share Hillel’s successes and growth with much more to look forward to in the Spring semester.

Shira Finke
Hometown: Potomac, Maryland
Major: Psychology and Jewish Studies
Minor: Women and Gender Studies
Interests: Women’s Health, Psychology, Jewish Culture

"I plan to pursue a career in medicine and would love to use my diverse background to participate in a variety of opportunities academically, politically, and socially. This summer, I am seeking a medical internship.""I have recently discovered the field of Astrophysics, and I am looking forward to pursuing a future in it! With whatever I end up doing, I want my work to have a great impact through research and education."

Name: Madeline (Maddie) Lusad
Hometown: Mountain Brook, AL
Major: Hospitality and Tourism Management
Minor: Arts Management
Interests: Travel, Event Planning, Visual and Performing Arts

"I want to immerse myself into a program that helps me grow while helping the wider community. Charleston is a wonderful city for a hospitality major like myself, but as you can imagine COVID-19 has taken a large toll on the event planning industry. I would like to introduce myself to the field via internships and shadowing opportunities for wedding planners and arts managers in the local area.

Name: Reuben Goldstein
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Major: Business Administration
Minor: Accounting
Interests: Marketing, Event Planning, Video Production

"I am very interested in working with other people and traveling around the world. I love to plan different programs and I am also very interested in video production/media. I am looking forward to exploring my options and finding my future career.""I am looking to attend Canoral College and am very interested in zoology. I am hoping to do something related to either music or differentiated instruction. I love learning Jewish music, singing, playing guitar, and connecting communities through song and prayer."

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Interests: Women’s Health, Psychology, Jewish Culture

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 7:00PM
TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: MAPPING IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Join historian Dr. Marni Davis (Georgia State U), and author Harlan Greene (College of Charleston) as they discuss their digital mapping projects in Atlanta and Charleston. These modern digital maps reveal the hidden histories of the cities they chart.

Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 7:00PM
THE ROOTS OF RACIST POLICING: THE LAND OF ISRAEL VS. THE DIASPORA IN CLASSICAL JEWISH SOURCES

Dr. Simon Balto (U of Iowa), author of Occupied Territory: Policing Black Chicago from Red Summer to Black Power, discusses the links between racism and police brutality, what defunding the police might really mean, how to address racist policies, and what we as Jews can do to be better allies.

Sponsored by the Arnold Center for Israel Studies

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 AT 1:00PM
A CONVERSATION WITH YOSSI KLEIN HALEVI

Yossi Klein Halevi is a Jerusalem-based Israeli-American award-winning journalist and best-selling author, most recently of Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor. Once a disciple of the far-right militant Rabbi Meir Kahane, in recent years he has focused on dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

Sponsored by the Arnold Center for Israel Studies

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 10:00AM
SONG OF ATONEMENT WITH ROBERT SINGER

In this live-streamed, community wide event, Addelstone Hebrew Academy will stream Song of Atonement. Winner of Best Short Documentary at the Melech Film Festival in Tel Aviv, this film documents the Yom Kippur synagogue shooting in Halle, Germany. Following this short film, there will be a question and answer session with Robert Singer, CEO of the World Jewish Congress.

Co-sponsored by Addelstone Hebrew Academy

SUNDAY, FEB 9, MAR 2, AND MAR 23 AT 7:00PM
THREE-PART SERIES: THE FALL OF LIBERAL JUDAISM

PART I: Psychology, PART II: Peace and Security, PART III: What is Liberal Judaism, Anyway?

Former Member of the Knesset and IDF Spokesman Dr. Nachman Shai joins Jewish Studies Director Dr. Yaron Ayallon to discuss the collapse of the Zionist left in Israel, and liberal Zionism more broadly, in recent years, and what the future may hold for liberal Zionists and the Zionist left. Part I will be devoted to the emotional connection Israeli voters have developed to the ruling Likud party; part II will deal with security issues; and part III will offer ideas for the future of the Zionist left.

Sponsored by the Arnold Center for Israel Studies

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 7:00PM
A CONVERSATION WITH BAKARI SELLERS

Attorney, political commentator, and politician Bakari Sellers joins assistant professor Ashley Walters (College of Charleston) to discuss his recently published memoir: My Vanishing Country. In it, Sellers tells the story of growing up in Denmark, South Carolina. He traces his father’s rise to become a civil rights hero, a friend of Stokely Carmichael and Martin Luther King, and a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The memoir explores the plight of the South’s dwindling rural, black working class.

Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 7:00PM
ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS: INTEGRATION AND MARGINALIZATION

Join us for a conversation with Professor Don Seeman (Emory U), author of One People, One Blood: Ethiopian-Israelis and the Return to Judaism about the journey Ethiopian Jews have been through on their way to become Israelis, and the challenges they still face today.

Sponsored by the Arnold Center for Israel Studies

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 1:00PM
OUR JEWS OR FAKE JEWS: THE SEPHARDIM AND JEWISH WHITE SUPREMACY

Dr. Devin Naar (U of Washington) and Jewish Studies Director Dr. Yaron Ayallon discuss discrimination of and intra-Jewish prejudices against Sephardic Jews in the United States, and more broadly in the world of Jewish Studies and the documentation of Jewish history.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 12:30PM
JEWS OF COLOR, SEPHARDIM, AND DIVERSITY IN AMERICA

Who are Sephardic/Mizrahi Jews in America? And who are Jews of Color? Join us for a conversation with Dr. Mijal Bitton (Shalom Hartman Institute, New York) about diversity, liberalism, and politics as they pertain to non-Ashkenazi American Jews.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 AT 7:00PM
CHARLESTON JEWISH BOOKFEST PRESENTS
TEHRAN’S CHILDREN: A HOLOCAUST REFUGEE ODYSSEY
AN EVENING WITH MIKHAIL DEKEL

Dr. Mikhal Dekel, author of Tehran’s Children: A Holocaust Refugee Odyssey, joins us to discuss her award-winning and critically acclaimed book. This archival memoir follows Dekel’s father, a Jewish-Polish citizen, who fled the Holocaust into Soviet territory and is eventually evacuated to Iran.

Sponsored by the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies and the Charleston JCC Foundation

THURSDAY, MARCH 18 AT 7:00PM
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Ruth Bader Ginsburg changed the world for American women. One of the most prominent figures on the Supreme Court, she worked tirelessly in her fight for justice and equality. Join Rabbi and scholar Dr. David Dalin, author of Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court: From Brandeis to Kagan (2017), in conversation about Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s life and legacy.

Co-sponsored by Synagogue Emanu-El

TUESDAY, APRIL 6 AT 7:00PM
A CONVERSATION WITH BRUCE HAYNES

Join Davis Professor Bruce D. Haynes (U of California, Davis), for a look into the diverse origins of Jews of African descent in the United States. His most recent book The Soul of Judaism: Jews of African Descent in America, challenges the dominant western paradigm of Jews as white and of European descent.

Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

TUESDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7:00PM
THE ROOTS OF RACIST POLICING: A CONVERSATION WITH SIMON BALTO

Dr. Simon Balto (U of Iowa), author of Occupied Territory: Policing Black Chicago from Red Summer to Black Power, discusses the links between racism and police brutality, what defunding the police might really mean, how to address racist policies, and what we as Jews can do to be better allies.

Sponsored by the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture

All events will be delivered via ZOOM. Follow us on Facebook or join our email list to receive the ZOOM link for each event.
SPRING 2021 COURSES

First Year Seminar: Film and Media in Modern Israel  Instructor: Noa Weinberg
FYSE 124.01  CRN 23402  MW 2:00pm–3:15pm, JSC 337
(Open only to first-year students)

Elementary Modern Hebrew  Instructor: Noa Weinberg
HBRW 102.01  CRN 20545  MWF 10:00–10:50am and W 9:00–9:50am, JSC337

Intermediate Modern Hebrew  Instructor: Noa Weinberg
HBRW 202.01  CRN 20546  MWF 11:00–11:50am and W 12:00–12:50pm, JSC337

**Same course, two sections available: Choose in-person or online!**

- Holocaust and Antisemitism in the Modern World  Instructor: Yaron Ayalon
  JWST 201.01  CRN 23362  Tu, Th 1:40–2:55pm, JSC337
  JWST 201.04  CRN 23468  Tu, Th 1:40–2:55pm, ONLINE – Synchronous

- American Jewish History: Colonial – Present  Instructor: Ashley Walters
  JWST 201.02  CRN 23363  Tu, Th 12:15–1:40pm, JSC337

- Hollywood’s Chosen: The Jewish Experience in Film  Instructor: Ezra Cappell
  JWST 201.03  CRN 23364  W 5:30–6:15pm, JSC 233

- Jewish History: Ancient to Modern  Instructor: Yaron Ayalon
  JWST 210.01  CRN 21192  Tu, Th 10:50–12:05pm, JSC333

- The Holocaust in History  Instructor: Stacy Veeder
  JWST 230.01  CRN 23365  MWF 1:00–1:50pm, JSC337

- Special Topic: The Holocaust in Film  Instructor: Ezra Cappell
  JWST300.01  CRN 21425  Tu 5:30–8:15pm, JSC237

- Special Topic: Jews and Gender  Instructor: Ashley Walters
  JWST 300.02  CRN 21426  Tu, Th 3:05–4:20pm, JSC337

- Special Topic: Eugenics and Anti-Semitism  Instructor: Stacy Veeder
  JWST 300.03  CRN 23366  M, W 3:25–4:40pm, JSC337

- Special Topic: Nazil Looted Art  Instructor: Pat Dillon
  JWST 300.04  CRN 23491  Tu, Th 12:15–1:30pm, Simons Center for the Arts, SCFA 309

**2021 Virtual Spring Jewish FilmFest:**
A curated selection of fine international films to enjoy at home. Go to [www.facebook.com/CharlestonJewishFilmFest](http://www.facebook.com/CharlestonJewishFilmFest) to learn more about the 2021 schedule and movie details.

**NEWS NOTES**

Through a partnership with an Israeli high school, students in Dr. Ayalon’s History of Israel course were matched with Israeli students for month-long virtual interactions. Ours students also got to taste snacks imported from Israel. The experience was supported by a Globally Connected Course grant from CofC’s School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs.

Congratulations and good luck to Dr. Ashley Walters, who assumed the directorship of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture on January 1st. Her leadership is already apparent in the very exciting programming coming out of the Center this spring.

We now have an Instagram page, and it is already very active, thanks to the wonderful work of our marketing intern & Jewish Studies Major Jenna Block. Check it out here: [www.instagram.com/cofc_jwst](http://www.instagram.com/cofc_jwst)

**CONVERSATIONS WITH JUDGE RICHARD GERGEL AND ROBERT ROSEN CONTINUE IN 2021**

Join the JHSSC on Zoom for interesting guests, thought-provoking topics, and lively discussion.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021 at 5:30PM**
**JEWS AND THE CIVIL WAR: NORTH AND SOUTH**
With special guest, Dr. Jonathan D. Sarna, University Professor, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, and Director at the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021 at 5:30PM**
**AIKEN CONGREGATION ADATH YESHURUN CENTENNIAL**
**A SOURCE OF LIGHT, CELEBRATING CONGREGATION, COMMERCE & COMMUNITY**
With special guests Steve Silver and Stephen Suransky.

Register for either or both at [jhssc.org/events/upcoming](http://jhssc.org/events/upcoming)

Want to stay up to date? Sign up for the JHSSC newsletter at [jhssc.org](http://jhssc.org) and follow us.