

CAROLINA CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

<http://ccjs.unc.edu>

Fall 2003

When I came to UNC, it was very clear to me that diversity was something valued by this university. I love the opportunity to learn about diverse cultures and different people's experiences, and it is really special to have one of those cultures I can study be my own. Having the Jewish Studies minor as an option gives students a chance to learn about Judaism in a school where Jewish life is thriving. I'm so excited to have this chance to learn about Judaism in the way I learn about other subjects here -- from every angle, including history, culture, language, and more!

—Ruthie Warshenbrot, UNC Class of 2005



UNC Jewish Studies students visit an exhibit, "A Portion of the People: 300 Years of Southern Jewish Life," at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, NC, guided by curator Dale Rosengarten.

About the Center

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary research and teaching center on the UNC campus. The Center offers a broad range of courses that give students from a variety of backgrounds the opportunity to learn about Jewish history, culture and religion from ancient times to the present. It maintains a rich and diverse outreach program as well, with lectures, film screenings and other public events on the Carolina campus. The Center also makes its faculty available to lecture throughout the state.

Who Can Participate?

All lectures and public events are free and open to the general public. Courses are open to all enrolled students at Carolina, and, depending on the course, to auditors from outside the university as well. We seek to involve a diverse community in the Center, a community that is both multi-generational and non-denominational.

How Can I Help?

Come to our events and attend our programming! We want your input about the Center's programs. The Center is largely dependent on private funding, and your financial support is essential to our success.

We are also interested in adding family papers, oral histories, and other archival materials to the growing body of Judaic materials at the Southern Historical Collection at UNC's Wilson Library. For more information, contact Tim West, Curator of Manuscripts/Director of the Southern Historical Collection at timwest@email.unc.edu or 919-962-1345.

If you would like to make a gift to the Center, please use the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope, visit our website to make a secure gift online (<http://ccjs.unc.edu>), or contact Rebecca Crowder at rebecca.crowder@unc.edu or 919-843-4885.

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies highlights the existing strength of Carolina's faculty and course offerings in Jewish Studies through a minor. We anticipate building on this strength to create a major in Jewish Studies in the near future. The courses currently offered by faculty cover diverse fields ranging from ancient Jewish history, archaeology, and Hebrew Bible through European Jewry and the Holocaust, as well as Modern Hebrew and Biblical Hebrew.

—Jodi Magness

Professor of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill



Eli N. Evans, Advisory Board Chair, with students from Marcie Cohen Ferris's seminar, "Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Experience in the American South" (left to right: UNC foreign exchange student, Lenore Faase of Utrecht, the Netherlands; Nelson Griffin, '05; and Sumner Phillips, '06).



**Jonathan Hess,
Director of the Center**

In both its academic and its outreach initiatives across the state, the Center truly exemplifies Carolina's promise to be the people's university. The Center is in my mind integral to the mission of Carolina as the nation's first public university, and I look forward to a future in which UNC-Chapel Hill will be known throughout the South and across the country as a preeminent Center for Jewish Studies with a vision that aspires to lead our region.

—Chancellor James Moeser

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is an exciting new resource for students and scholars interested in both Jewish Studies and the American South. The Center builds on an impressive foundation of faculty and research collections already in place at the University of North Carolina and will significantly enrich UNC's legacy as the nation's first public university.

—Bill Ferris, Professor of History and Senior Associate Director, Center for the Study of the American South, UNC-Chapel Hill

From the Director's Desk

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has had an exciting first year. We now offer 28 courses in Jewish Studies at UNC, and this fall alone, 600 undergraduates enrolled in eleven Jewish Studies courses. If student interest continues at this rate, it will mean that more than 3,500 Carolina undergraduates will take a Jewish Studies course at some point during their four years at UNC, making Jewish Studies a part of the undergraduate experience of more than 15% of all UNC students. Classes offered through the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies range from popular lecture courses on the Hebrew Bible, the History of the Holocaust, Early Judaism, and Religion in Modern Israel to seminars on Jews and German culture, the Jewish experience in the American South, and representations of Jews in Eastern European literature. Biblical Hebrew has been offered at UNC for years, and for the first time in the history of the university, Modern Hebrew is part of the curriculum as well. The English department is also introducing a new course this spring on Jewish American literature.

The recently announced Jewish Studies minor already has five students officially enrolled, with many more in the works, and we're developing an undergraduate major as well. An intensive semester-long Jewish Studies program in Prague will be available for our students starting next fall, and we are planning other study abroad options, alumni seminars and weekend trips. We've had two meetings in the past two years of our Advisory Board and are grateful for all the enthusiasm and energy our dedicated Board members are bringing to the Center. Last month Eli Evans agreed to assume the chairmanship of the Board. In October Board member Debra Fox Tenenbaum hosted an event for alumni and friends in Atlanta, and Chancellor Moeser will join us in April for a similar event at the New York, NY home of Board member Steve Nislick.

Interest on the part of students, faculty and community members in our public events has been enormous. In early September, we launched our public events program with a screening of *Shalom Y'all: The Documentary Film*, followed by a discussion with director Brian Bain about his portrait of Jewish life in the American South. The 200-seat lecture hall we reserved for the event was not large enough to accommodate the crowds we drew in, and the lecture halls we have reserved for our inaugural lecture series have not been able to accommodate the over 300 people who have turned out for these events. UNC alumna Emily Bingham came to campus in September to speak about her recent book on the trials and tribulations of the Mordecai family confronting the evangelical South in eighteenth and nineteenth-century North Carolina and Virginia. In October, we brought in William Dever, one of the leading archaeologists of his generation, who gave a lecture on the origins of the ancient Israelites. Lawrence Schiffman, one of the world's authorities on the Dead Sea Scrolls, lectured in November on contemporary controversies about the Dead Sea Scrolls. Next semester, the lecture series will highlight UNC alumnus Stuart Eizenstat, former deputy secretary of the treasury, undersecretary of State and an expert on Holocaust restitution issues.

I invite you to join us in these exciting new programs and to become an active participant in the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. Please feel free to call or email me with your comments, questions and suggestions.

Jonathan M. Hess

Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, and Professor, Germanic Languages
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What's Happening on Campus?

Upcoming Events



MARILYN REIZBAUM, Professor of English, Bowdoin College
“Criminology and the Jewish Degenerationism around 1900”
January 27, 2004, 7:30 pm, Toy Lounge, Dey Hall



STUART EIZENSTAT, UNC Class of '64, Partner, Covington Burling, and former U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary and Undersecretary of State
Introduced by Eli N. Evans
“Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor, and the Unfinished Business of World War II”
February 4, 2004, 7:30 pm, Union Auditorium in the Frank Porter Graham Student Union



DAVID J. HALPERIN, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, UNC-CH
“Abraham Miguel Cardozo: The Visions of a Mystical Messiah”
March 30, 2004, 7:30 pm, Toy Lounge, Dey Hall

Please visit our website (<http://ccjs.unc.edu>) for a complete list of upcoming events.

Jewish Studies Faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill

- **Yaakov Ariel**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies (Contemporary Judaism, Jewish-Christian relations)
- **Christopher Browning**, Frank Porter Graham Professor of History (History of the Holocaust)
- **Erin Carlston**, Assistant Professor of English (Jewish American literature)
- **Bart Ehrman**, Bowman-Gray Professor and Chair of Religious Studies (Judaism and Early Christianity)
- **Marcie Cohen Ferris**, Visiting Professor of American Studies (the Jewish Experience in the American South)
- **Luceil Friedman**, Instructor of Hebrew (Modern Hebrew language)
- **Jonathan M. Hess**, Professor of German (German-Jewish cultural history)
- **Beth Holmgren**, Professor and Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures (Literatures of Russia/Soviet Union and Poland; Russian, Polish, and Jewish immigrants in American culture)
- **Armin Lange**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies (Hebrew Bible, Dead Sea Scrolls)
- **Madeline G. Levine**, Kenan Professor of Slavic Literatures (Literature of Jewish life in Poland and Russia, and of the Holocaust)
- **Jodi Magness**, Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence, Department of Religious Studies (Early Judaism, Near Eastern Archaeology)



UNC archaeologist Jodi Magness excavating in Yotvata, Israel

Ways to Give

Though most courses are taught by existing faculty, and, therefore, are not an expense to the Center, its operating costs, including lectures and outreach, are dependent upon private support. To achieve national prominence and establish a rich undergraduate major and eventually a graduate program in Jewish Studies, the Center seeks to add several endowed professorships, particularly in the Politics and History of Israel and the Middle East, Rabbinic Judaism, and Modern Jewish History. Endowed professorships are the life blood of the program, not only because they attract outstanding candidates and show the permanent staying power of the Center, but because they continue to grow over time.

A great incentive to endow professorships has been the W. R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust Matching Grant challenge. These professorships are to be endowed at the \$3 million level, providing full funding for the faculty member. The Kenan challenge provides the following formula: A donor gift of \$2,466,000 will trigger a \$344,000 match by the State of North Carolina and a \$200,000 match by the Kenan Charitable trust. Upon completion of the funding of such a professorship, named for someone of the donor's choosing, the Kenan Trust will fund another chair at the \$3 million level. A donor gift of \$667,000 will trigger a \$333,000 match by the state for a \$1 million distinguished professorship.

The annual operating budget of the Center ranges between \$125,000 and \$150,000 a year, much of which must come from private sources or endowment. If you already make an annual gift to the University, that donation can be designated for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. Expendable funds are also needed for adjunct faculty and research funding. Accordingly, support by alumni of the University, as well as by foundations and other private citizens, is of critical importance to the fulfillment of the Center's goals.

Priorities for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies include:

- Faculty support to teach courses including: Politics and History of Israel and the Middle East; Modern and Biblical Hebrew; Modern Jewish History; the Jewish Experience in America and in the American South; Jewish Life in the Middle Ages; Rabbinic Judaism. *To endow:* \$1 million to \$3 million for Distinguished Professorships; \$500,000 to \$1 million for associate and assistant professorships; \$200,000 to \$500,000 for part-time or visiting professorships.
- Graduate fellowships to attract the nation's finest student scholars to this new and unique program. *To endow:* \$300,000
- Faculty and student travel funding to ensure access to resources that will enable them to continue their top-ranked research and teaching. *To endow:* \$25,000 to \$500,000
- Library resources to purchase important monographs beyond state collections allowances. *To endow:* \$20,000 to \$500,000
- Lectureships and conferences to reach a larger public, both at the University and throughout North Carolina. *To endow:* \$30,000

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