**Fall 2010**

**Make a Difference**

When you make an annual gift to the Center, you help us accomplish all our activities—from expanding our academic program, to hosting compelling events, to supporting faculty and students with their research initiatives. Your annual gift—whether $25 or $25,000—will make a powerful difference, especially when combined with the annual support of other like-minded alumni, parents, and friends.

Last year, in admittedly difficult economic times, the Center’s annual fund receipts were down considerably from the prior year. Through careful planning, none of our programs will be eliminated this year, but we are working with a very tight operating budget.

Please consider making an annual gift to the Center this academic year. Your support is very important to our students, faculty and greater community. To make a gift, please use the enclosed gift envelope or visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu to make a secure gift online.

If you are already an annual donor to the Center, please know that your support is greatly appreciated.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Community Lectures**
  - Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.: Richard Elliott Friedman, The Death of the Gods
  - Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Hane Diner, Fitting Memorials

- **Academic Lectures**
  - Nov. 15, 6:00 p.m.: Allan Wells, Lives in the Balance

Please visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu for more event information. If you’d like to receive updates about upcoming events, please join our list by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu. In the email message, please provide both your email and mailing addresses.

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**The Hebrew Bible through the Ages**

For Professor David Lambert, studying the Hebrew Bible means much more than simply reading the ancient text. He extends his study to explore how the Bible is interpreted through the ages, and how different cultural assumptions alter how people approach the Bible.

Lambert, who joined Carolina’s Department of Religious Studies in July as assistant professor of Hebrew Bible, is the newest member of the Center’s Jewish Studies faculty. He specializes in the Hebrew Bible, its history of interpretation, and Second Temple Judaism.

Lambert also has interests in early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism.

Lambert initially planned to pursue study of medieval Jewish history, but while an undergraduate at Harvard, he became interested in how Jews in the Middle Ages dealt with certain realities that disturbed them in the Bible. This is the product, after all, of an ancient society that existed almost two millennia earlier. From this, his interest in the Bible and how it has been understood and construed has continued to grow.

“I am excited to join the faculty at Carolina and look forward to working in a Religious Studies department that provides a non-denominational context in which to study the Hebrew Bible,” said Lambert.

This fall, Lambert is teaching “Introduction to the Hebrew Bible” to over 200 undergraduates.

“I am excited that the course is attracting such a large number of students,” said Lambert, who cites the long-standing history of studying Hebrew Bible as a big attraction to come to Chapel Hill.

“ Repentance,” which explores whether the idea of repentance really operates in the Bible, as most have assumed.

“The word repentance actually does not appear in the Hebrew Bible. In the post-biblical period, as repentance takes on new significance, people come to read repentance into the Bible, developing new understandings of certain Hebrew terms and a variety of ancient Israelite practices, such as fasting and confession.”

Professor Lambert previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin and was a post-doctoral fellow at Yale. He received an A.B. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.
**from the director’s desk**

welcoming a new academic year

This fall, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is again starting off the academic year with a bang, with new faculty, new courses and an exciting menu of speakers who will be visiting the campus in the coming months.

With a new faculty member in Hebrew Bible on campus and a new hire just made in Jewish history, we are getting close to the point when we can launch a comprehensive major in Jewish Studies. We’ll look forward to reporting on our plans for a B.A. in Jewish Studies in upcoming issues of *News from the Center.*

The ambitions we have for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies are not modest. Indeed, we are well on our way to transforming Carolina into one of the leading universities in the nation where students can study Jewish history and culture. Increasingly, incoming students are jumping at the new opportunities we are giving them, and they have come to expect distinguished excellence in Jewish Studies from a truly great university like Carolina. Please know how grateful all of us who work and teach at Carolina are for your inspiring support. We know that the amazing success story of the Center would be unimaginable without each and every gift. Thanks so much for your investment in the future of Jewish Studies at Carolina!

**news briefs**

**Associate Director**

**JONATHAN BOYARIN**

Jonathan Boyarin, who joined Carolina’s Department of Religious Studies in 2007 as the Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Thought, has been appointed associate director for the Center. He will work with Jonathan Hess on long-range planning for the Center, curriculum development, fund raising and public outreach.

**Advisory Board MEMBERS**

Four members of the Center’s Advisory Board have rotated off the board after serving terms since 2002: Barry Schochet, Harvey Colchamiro, Jay Schwartz and Gary Kaminsky. Their enthusiasm and support through the years has been tremendous and will be missed. Joining the Advisory Board this year are Rhonda Silver of New Jersey, Lori B. Writt of Washington, D.C. and Gary J. Kaminsky of New York (no relation to the other Gary Kaminsky).

**Van der Horst PROFESSORSHIP**

Flora Cassen will join Carolina’s History department next academic year as the JMA and Sonja Van der Horst Fellow in Jewish History and Culture. She previously was an assistant professor at the University of Vermont and this academic year she holds a fellowship at Columbia University. Her research focus is Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History. She holds a B.A. from the Free University of Brussels, an M.A. from Brandeis University and a Ph.D. in History and Judaic Studies from New York University.

The JMA and Sonja van der Horst Distinguished Professorship was established by the children of the late James Morris, Ida and Alan H. Kaplan, who endowed the position in honor of their mother.

**the Ulhman family seminar**

This two-day seminar is planned for Spring 2011. Please check our Web site for event topics, speakers, dates and registration fees. The seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values and is made possible by a grant from the Ulhman Family Fund.

**special events**

corporated by the Center

**Against Indifference**

**ELIE WIESEL**

Sunday, October 10, Time TBD Memorial Hall

Free and open to public — tickets available through Memorial Hall. Check our Web site for details.

Presented by the Judith Herr Lerner and North Carolina Exhibit. Co-sponsored by the Center and other campus groups.

**Art, Community and Culture**

**TONY KUSHNER with**

**JOSEPH HAJ**

Free Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences

Sunday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. Memorial Hall

Check our Web site for details.

**academic lectures**

**Lives in the Balance: The United States, the Dominican Republic, and the Rescue of European Jews during World War II**

Monday, November 15

6:00 p.m., FedEx Global Education Center, Room 4001

**ALLEN WELLS,** Bowdoin College

Co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Americas

**Conflicting Memories: The Arabs and the Holocaust**

Monday, January 24

5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

**OMAR KANISL,** Duisburg Institute, Germany

**The Transformation of the Jews: A Historical Outline 1750–1950**

The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies

Monday, March 21

5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

**DAN DINNER,** University of Leipzig, Germany

**community events**

Mr. Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies

Monday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

**THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DISPUTE: A REPORT FROM THE FIELD**

Tuesday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.

**THE DEATH OF THE GODS: OR WHY A MONOTHEISTIC GOD SPEAKS IN THE PLURAL**

Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

**LIVES IN THE BALANCE: THE UNITED STATES, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND THE RESCUE OF EUROPEAN JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II**

Tuesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

**FORUM ON IDEOLOGY: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IDEOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

**THE DEATH OF THE GODS: OR WHY A MONOTHEISTIC GOD SPEAKS IN THE PLURAL**

Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.