

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

An important goal for the Center is to increase unrestricted funding that provides critical support for our operations while also expanding the academic program and enhancing outreach initiatives. The Center also seeks support to bring new faculty members and visiting professors to Carolina and to allow the Center to continue to host international scholarly conferences. With ongoing growth in the number of students enrolling in Jewish studies courses and more and more students interested in study abroad and research and travel, the Center is also hoping to expand its grant program to support more undergraduate and graduate students. The Center's funding priorities fall within the framework of the Campaign for Carolina:

- **Students and the Educational Experience:** includes experiential learning (study abroad, research and internships): and graduate student support (fellowships and research support). Total: \$1.1 million.
- **Faculty and Scholarship:** includes professorships, visiting professorships, academic workshops and conferences, and faculty research and course enhancement. Total: \$4 million.
- **Signature Initiatives /Program Foundation Support:** includes naming the directorship, unrestricted endowment and unrestricted expendable. Total: \$4.25 million.

Income from unrestricted endowments and expendable gifts (including donations to the annual fund) is used by the director of the Center to support many important activities, including: faculty and student travel for research or attendance at scholarly conferences; visiting scholars from U.S., Israel and Europe to provide lectures and workshops; undergraduate student research, travel and educational experiences; graduate student funds to recruit and retain promising students and provide research support; and library resources, including books, journals and software that enhance the teaching and research missions of the Center.

Carolina launches ambitious fundraising campaign

FOR
ALL
KIND

the CAMPAIGN for CAROLINA

Gifts to the Center contribute to the campaign goal

This fall, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill publicly launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign by a university in the history of the state. "For All Kind: the Campaign for Carolina" aims to raise \$4.25 billion by Dec. 31, 2022, to foster an innovation generation prepared to lead the world to a better future. The campaign attempts to answer a simple but far-reaching question: What will it take to fulfill our potential so we can make the biggest difference in North Carolina, across the country and around the world?

The accomplishments of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies since its founding in 2003 are direct results of generous donations from alumni and community members, and likewise, the future success of the Center will depend on private support. This campaign will shape the legacy of the Center – our programs for students, our faculty research and teaching support, and our events and outreach to the community.

The Center has an individual campaign goal of more than \$9 million and during the quiet phase of the campaign the Center raised more than \$4 million through a combination of leadership endowment gifts, expendable gifts, planned gifts and annual fund support. Since the campaign started the quiet phase in July 2014, more than 375 donors made gifts to the Center.

"All gifts make an important and long-lasting impact on our programs and, in fact, every single thing we do is made possible by private support," said Michele Rivkin-Fish, acting director for the Center. "I

hope you share my sense of awe at the achievements made these past 15 years, and that you are just as eager as I am to see what the Center can do in the future as a result of this campaign."

Donations made to the Center count toward the fundraising goal of the Campaign for Carolina. To learn more about the campaign and how you can support the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, please visit: jewishstudies.unc.edu.

"Every single thing we do is made possible by private support."



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Generous support turns possibilities into realities

It is a great privilege to serve as Acting Director* of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies this semester and to see our amazing programs up close. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting our exceptional students, both undergraduates and graduate students, and working with them as they shape their Carolina experiences. We also have been busy creating a community event program for this academic year (please see the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter) and I very much hope to meet you, our loyal community members, very soon.

In September, I attended the fall 2017 meeting of the Center's Advisory Board, a group of dedicated alumni and community members who provide strong moral and financial support for our Center. The Board's reflections on the Center's achievements and future possibilities underscored several key insights: The Center's course offerings in Jewish history, religion and culture create enriching intersections between Jewish life and academic studies for UNC students. The Center's support provides unique opportunities for our faculty and students to conduct original research

in Jewish studies. And the Center increases the exposure of non-Jewish students and community members to Jewish culture and history. Realizing these important goals are only possible through the generous support of our donors; we are immensely grateful to you!

The Center is celebrating its 15th Anniversary during the weekend of March 24-25, 2018. We are planning a special event for community members that features our faculty, students and alumni. Also scheduled that weekend is the annual Uhlman Family Seminar. This day-long, community-focused educational event will examine what Holocaust education programs can offer to debates about commemorating traumatic events in U.S. history. We very much hope you will be able to join us.

Last but not least, we are pleased to be participating in the Campaign for Carolina. The Center's campaign goal is \$9,350,000, including endowed, expendable and estate gifts. Please know that gifts at all levels make a real difference in the programs we offer, and that we are thankful for all our wonderful donors.

**Professor Ruth von Bernuth, director of the Center, is on research leave this semester and returns to campus in January 2018.*

RECENT LEADERSHIP GIFTS

- **Malkin Family Foundation** added \$1.1 million to the existing Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Distinguished Professor of Jewish History and Culture fund. Professor Jonathan Hess holds this faculty chair.
- **Lori and Eric Sklut** pledged \$500,000 to support graduate students, undergraduate experiential learning and interns working for the Center. Eric is chair of the Center's advisory board.
- **An anonymous donor** provided \$250,000 in unrestricted endowment funds.
- **Jay Gould** provided \$133,000 in unrestricted funding through expendable and estate giving.
- **Peter W. and Barbara J. Schneider** pledged \$100,000 to support undergraduate and graduate student research initiatives, conference travel and study abroad.
- **David Katz** pledged \$25,000 in expendable funding to support undergraduate study abroad opportunities.

Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin at UNC



Last April, the Center co-hosted the signature concert of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin*, which tells the story of the courageous Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezin) during World War II who performed *Verdi's Requiem* while experiencing the depths of human degradation. The sold-out concert featured the UNC Symphony, Carolina Choir, Chamber Singers and the Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, soloists, actors, and guest conductor Murry Sidlin.

STUDENT PROFILE: *Sophie Rupp, '18*

Antisemitism and the Beilis Case: Undergraduate Research at the Center for Jewish Studies

The funding I received from the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies this summer was instrumental to the development of my project on the Mendel Beilis case and to my career as a Carolina student. This undergraduate research and travel grant allowed me to fly to New York for a week to work in the Center for Jewish History's archives, in search of primary source materials for my project—primarily letters and newspaper articles. Before I go into detail about my paper, I first want to express my immense gratitude to the Center and its supporters for giving me this opportunity. I certainly wouldn't have been able to conduct this research without your generosity.

When I first arrived at the archive, I was unsure whether or not I would find anything that would be helpful for writing my honors thesis. I'd never been to an archive before, and despite searching the CJH's collections online, I couldn't be sure of either the quality or quantity of the information I'd find. However, by the end of my first day, I'd discovered a variety of primary and secondary sources in four different languages—English, Yiddish, Russian, and German. These sources included letters to and from Beilis, newspaper clippings, and international correspondence among prominent Jews who were advocating for him. As the week progressed, the volume and quality of information I found continued to increase. I couldn't believe that I was finding so much relevant information, and I was so excited that this research was shaping my understanding of Beilis in a whole new way. Understanding the international impact of the case is an entirely new part of the project to explore, and having the opportunity to access these documents will allow me to draw new conclusions about the global Jewish community at the beginning of the 20th century, as well as Beilis himself.

This trip had an even greater impact on my academic career as a whole. Spending a week in an archive opened my eyes to the world of academic research, and the skills I learned—how to use a research library, how to work with microfilm, and how to conduct primary source historical research—will be invaluable in the years of my life to come. Having this opportunity as an undergraduate has been incredible. This experience is especially

important given that I'll be pursuing a graduate degree in Jewish History next year, and can now cite this trip as an example of research on my applications.

Studying the Beilis case has become the highlight of my academic experience at Carolina, and I'm incredibly grateful to have been given the funding to pursue it further. Thank you to each and every one of the Center's donors who have made it possible for students to have experiences like these.

Sophie Rupp is a History and Jewish Studies double major. She is the Lori and Eric Sklut Undergraduate Intern in Jewish Studies and the undergraduate representative on the Center's advisory board. This senior honors research project—which began as a paper for Professor Cassen's HIST 398: The History of Antisemitism course—studies the role of antisemitism in the blood libel case against Mendel Beilis, that began in Kiev in 1911 and ended in 1913.

“Spending a week in an archive opened my eyes to the world of academic research.”



Sophie Rupp taking a break from her research during her visit to New York City.

CAROLINA CENTER for JEWISH STUDIES

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SPRING 2018 EVENTS

JANUARY 29, 5:30 pm: *Lives Lived and Lost in Memory of Golda and Haim Finkler.* Holocaust Remembrance Day event with Kaja Finkler, UNC Chapel Hill.

FEBRUARY 19, 5:30 pm: *Jacob and Esau, Isaac and Yishmael: The Future of Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Muslim Relations.* Academic lecture with Malachi Hacohen, Duke University.

MARCH 1, 7:00 pm: *Muslim Spaces, Jewish Pasts: Genealogies of the Split Arab/Jew Figure.* Community lecture with Ella Shohat, NYU.

MARCH 24: *Uhlman Family Seminar: Learning from the Holocaust: Public Monuments, Museums and Memory.*

MARCH 25: Celebrating 15 Years: Carolina Center for Jewish Studies anniversary event.

APRIL 16, 7:00 pm: *Revealed Beauty and Hidden Danger: On Jewish Books of Time in Early Modern Europe.* Community lecture with Elisheva Carlebach, Columbia University.



For more event information: visit jewishstudies.unc.edu, follow us on social media or join our listserv (email jewishstudies@unc.edu or join online).

News Briefs

NEW FACULTY BOOKS

Flora Cassen, JMA and Sonja van der Horst Scholar in Jewish History and Culture, and associate professor, Department of History, recently published her book, *Marking the Jews in Renaissance Italy: Politics, Religion and the Power of Symbols* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). This is a study of discriminatory marks that the Jews were compelled to wear in 15th- and 16th-century Italy, which probes the roots and consequences of anti-Judaism.



Jonathan Hess, department chair for Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures and Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Distinguished Professor of Jewish History and Culture, has published *Deborah and Her Sisters: How One Nineteenth-Century Melodrama and a Host of Celebrated Actresses Put Judaism on the World Stage*, (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), offers a cultural history of one of the great blockbusters of the 19th-century stage, S. H. Mosenthal's *Deborah*. Following its 1849 premiere in Hamburg, *Deborah* rapidly became an international sensation.



SUMMER FINDINGS IN HUQOQ:

A team of specialists and students led by the Center's Professor Jodi Magness has uncovered additional mosaic scenes in the Late Roman synagogue at Huqoq, an ancient Jewish village in Israel's Lower Galilee. A medallion in the center panel depicts the Greco-Roman sun god Helios, the second panel shows the biblical story of Jonah and the whale and the third panel contains a detailed scene of men at work constructing a stone tower, apparently the Tower of Babel. Mosaics were first discovered at the site in 2012, and work has continued each summer since then. Jodi Magness is on the faculty steering committee for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies and many of the students participating on the dig received research and travel/study abroad grants from the Center.



FACULTY FELLOWSHIP: For the 2017-18 academic year, Professor David Lambert, Department of Religious Studies, is a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem as part of a research group on the topic of "The Subject of Antiquity: Contours and Expressions of the Self in Ancient Mediterranean Cultures." This project dovetails with his ongoing research on how modern notions of the self have shaped biblical interpretation.

JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATES:

Congratulations to our May graduates: Averyl Edwards graduated with her undergraduate degree in Jewish studies, while Anna Kushkova (Dept. of Anthropology), shown in photo with Professor Hess, and Josh Parshall (Dept. of American Studies) both earned their PhD's.



COURSE ENHANCEMENT FIELD TRIP:

In September, Professor Gabrielle Berlinger's students investigated the North Carolina Museum of Art's Judaic Art Gallery in Raleigh as part of the *FOLK 481: The Changing Lives of Jewish Objects* course.

