

News from the center

CAROLINA CENTER *for* JEWISH STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL • SUMMER 2008 • CCJS.UNC.EDU

NEW FACULTY FOR JEWISH STUDIES EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The start of the academic year brings excitement, energy and the promise of new students, new scholarship and new adventures. This year, it also means three new faculty members for Carolina's Jewish Studies program.

Joining Carolina this fall is the inaugural Levine/Sklut Fellow in Jewish Studies, **Yaron Shemer**, an experienced professor of Modern Hebrew and a documentary film maker. As assistant professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israeli Culture in the Department of Asian Studies, Shemer will offer students two new courses this fall semester: Jerusalem in Israeli Literature and Cinema as well as Israeli Cinema: Nation, Gender, and Ethnicity. The chair was funded last year by advisory board member Eric Sklut, '80 and his wife, Lori, and Lori's parents, Leon and Sandra Levine.

"While serving on the Center's advisory board, I've learned how critical it is to recruit top-notch faculty to the Jewish Studies program. So we are very excited to have Yaron Shemer as our first Levine/Sklut Fellow and we look forward to all he will bring to the undergraduate experience at Carolina and to the Center as a whole," said Eric Sklut.

Also new to Carolina this year is **Ruth von Bernuth**, who joined the Department of Germanic

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Honoring a Beloved ZBT Housemother New fund to support student research in Jewish Studies

As housemother for 22 years, Elsie Kaplan Shapiro helped feed, nurse, counsel and encourage hundreds of fraternity brothers at Zeta Beta Tau. Known as "Mother Shapiro," her influence continued to make a difference long after her students graduated.

Thanks to the generosity of fraternity brothers, her family and friends, a new fund established in Shapiro's memory will ensure that future students continue to benefit from her generous spirit and remarkable dedication. The Elsie Kaplan "Mother" Shapiro ZBT Undergraduate Research and Travel Fund in Jewish Studies will provide awards to undergraduates working on projects in Jewish Studies.

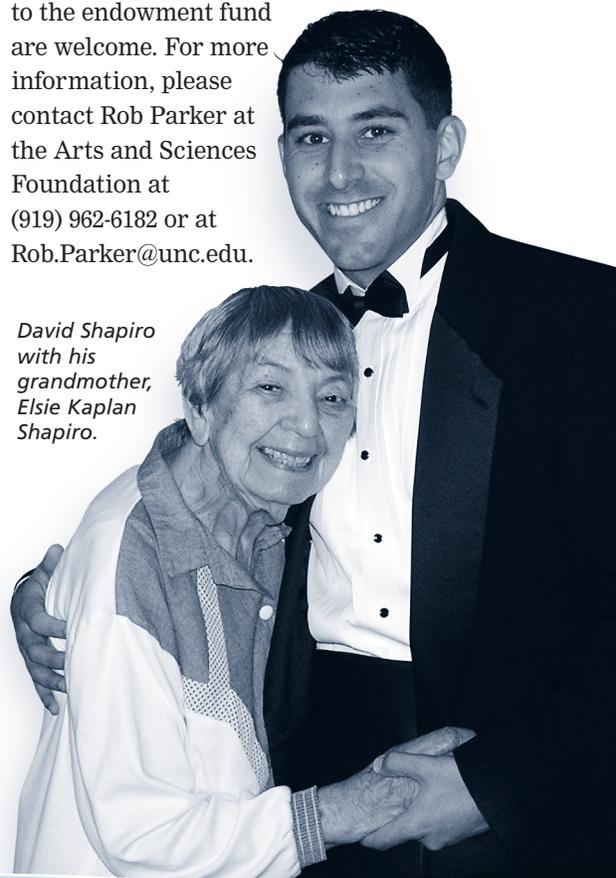
Leading the fund-raising efforts was her grandson, David Shapiro, '97. After his grandmother passed away in December 2007, he wrote to his fraternity brothers, "It was always a dream of mine that all her boys would be able to raise money so her name and spirit would live forever at Chapel Hill."

"My family and I, along with the ZBT brothers, are thrilled to give this gift to the Jewish Studies program," said David after funding was in place. "My grandmother's love of traveling, Judaism, and Chapel Hill made this gift a perfect way to honor her memory. We hope that future undergraduates will be able to use this money to learn and experience something that will impact their lives as my grandmother impacted the lives of so many undergraduates before them."

"Faculty members teaching at Carolina are privileged to work with such wonderful undergraduates. Now, thanks to the generosity of the Shapiro family and generations of ZBT brothers, we'll be able to actively support student research in Jewish Studies," added Jonathan Hess, director of the Center. "We couldn't be more excited—or more grateful—for the opportunity to carry on Elsie Kaplan Shapiro's legacy in this way."

Additional donations to the endowment fund are welcome. For more information, please contact Rob Parker at the Arts and Sciences Foundation at (919) 962-6182 or at Rob.Parker@unc.edu.

*David Shapiro
with his
grandmother,
Elsie Kaplan
Shapiro.*





Dr. Jonathan M. Hess

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from the director's desk

The start of an exciting Academic Year

Last spring marked the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies's fifth anniversary. Let me thank all of you who joined us for Christopher Browning's fascinating lecture on survivor testimony and the special reception that followed.

In this issue of *News from the Center*, we continue to share our excitement about the Center as we move forward into our next five years. Three new Jewish Studies professors are starting their careers at Carolina this fall, and in the coming academic year we'll be launching national searches for two more faculty members. For the first time in the history of the university, Carolina undergraduates this year can choose between a two-year sequence in Biblical Hebrew and a three-year sequence in Modern Hebrew, and this fall we're offering 10 other Jewish Studies courses in departments across the College.

We've also revamped our public events programming. We are now offering a full menu of community lectures, academic lectures and continuing education seminars. Our community lectures are moving to a new venue that will offer better parking and easier access for the large numbers of people from outside the university who've been regularly coming to our events.

Without the generosity of Carolina alumni and friends of the Center, none of this would be possible. Your investments in the future of Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are already yielding tremendous returns. I hope you share our sense of pride in what we've accomplished over the last five years and what we have planned for the future!

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Languages and Literatures as an assistant professor of early modern German Studies (1500-1750). Previously she was at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. She is currently writing a book on the relationship between German and Yiddish literature in early modern Europe.

Bennie Reynolds joins the Religious Studies department as a lecturer in Biblical Hebrew. For the fall 2008 semester, Reynolds will teach three courses: Elementary Biblical Hebrew, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew and Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah.

The number of Jewish Studies faculty members has doubled since 2003, which has allowed Carolina to greatly expand course offerings for its undergraduates. In the 2008-09 academic year, 12 faculty members, based in seven different academic departments, will teach and conduct research in Jewish Studies at Carolina, and funding is in place for three more faculty positions. As the faculty continues to grow, the Center will offer exciting new courses, reach more students and eventually create a truly comprehensive undergraduate program, complete with a B.A. in Jewish Studies.

news briefs



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On April 14, the Center marked its fifth anniversary with a public lecture given by faculty member Christopher Browning [shown above]. Advisory Board Chairman, Eli N. Evans, '58, delivered the opening remarks. Following the lecture, guests enjoyed a special reception to help celebrate the Center's achievements.

NEW WEB SITE

The Center has recently revamped its Web site. Please visit us at ccjs.unc.edu.

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS IN RALEIGH

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh is displaying Dead Sea Scrolls artifacts through December 28. Two of Carolina's faculty members will speak as part of the exhibit's lecture series. Jodi Magness will lecture about The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls on Thursday, October 30 and Bart Ehrman will speak about The Dead Sea Scrolls and Early Christianity on Wednesday, December 10. For information and to purchase tickets for the exhibit or the lectures, visit the museum's Web site at www.naturalsciences.org.



*community events***Rediscovering the Dance of Klezmer Music***Monday, October 27, 2008, 7:30 p.m.**William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education***Klezmer Trio Concert***Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Gerrard Hall*

WALTER ZEV FELDMAN, a leading Klezmer researcher and performer, will lecture on Monday, October 27 and perform in a Klezmer Trio concert with Christina Crowder and Alexander Fiterstein on Tuesday, October 28.

These events are made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.

Communal Genocide: Personal Accounts of the Destruction of Buczacz, Eastern Galicia, 1941-44

Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies

*Monday, November 17, 2008, 7:30 p.m.**William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education*

OMER BARTOV, the John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History at Brown University and one of the world's foremost experts on the Holocaust, will explore how genocide unfolded in a town that had a mixed Jewish-Polish-Ukrainian population for centuries.

PHOTO: HANS GLAVE

Evangelical Christian Support of Israel

Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South

*Monday, February 23, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education*

STEPHEN SPECTOR, professor of English at Stony Brook University, will examine the motives and intentions of evangelicals who support Israel.

The Settlement Cookbook and the Transformation of Jewish American Identity*Monday, March 30, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education*

NORA RUBEL, assistant professor of Religion and Classics at the University of Rochester, will examine the best-selling cookbook and the ways it shaped the identity of Jewish Americans in the 20th century.

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.

*the 2008 Uhlman family seminar***Witnessing and Memory: What is Gained, What is Lost, and What Remains from Holocaust Testimonies***Tuesday, November 11 and Wednesday, November 12, 2008.*

This two-day seminar will interrogate the idea of witnessing and what we can gain from such testimonies in regard to writing history, understanding the past and coming to terms with that past. For seminar details and fees, or to register, visit: www.unc.edu/depts/human.

This seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values.

It is made possible by a grant from the Uhlman Family Fund with additional support from the Center for European Studies.

*academic lectures***New Light on the Period of the Maccabees: The Excavations at Tel Kedesh**

Kaplan-Brauer Lecture on the Contribution of Judaism to Civilization

Monday, September 22, 2008, 5:30 p.m., Toy Lounge

ANDREA M. BERLIN, University of Minnesota

Pleasures Among the Jews in 18th-Century Europe and Their Meaning

The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies

Monday, February 9, 2009, 5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

SHMUEL FEINER, Bar Ilan University, Israel

Edward Said in Jerusalem: Exile, Criticism, and Global Culture*Monday, March 2, 2009, 5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall*

AAMIR MUFTI, UCLA

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.

Lunchtime Seminars: all three professors will also conduct seminars regarding their recent books on the day of their academic lectures. Reservations are required for the lunchtime seminars. Please call or email for details and to R.S.V.P.

All lectures are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

For event updates and parking information, please subscribe to our list serve by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu or visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu.

Web ccjs.unc.edu
Phone (919) 962-1509
Email ccjs@unc.edu



celebrating five years

2003 – 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2008

Community Lectures and Concert:

October 27, 7:30 p.m.
Walter Feldman,
Rediscovering Klezmer Dance

October 28, 7:30 p.m.
Klezmer Trio concert with
Walter Feldman

November 17, 7:30 p.m.
Omer Bartov, Communal
Genocide in Eastern Galicia

Uhlman Family Seminar:

November 11-12.
Witnessing and Memory

Academic Lecture:

September 22, 5:30 p.m.
Andrea Berlin, New Light on
the Period of the Maccabees

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 serve by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu. In the email message, please provide both your email and mailing addresses.

a closing word

Thriving in academics and outreach

As a Senior Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, I have been impressed by the exciting growth and devel-



opment of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. Now, as Interim Dean replacing Holden Thorp with his appointment to Chancellor, I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank you for your support and to encourage you to remain involved.

With your help, the Center's academic and outreach programs are thriving. More than 1,000 students are enrolled annually in Jewish Studies courses here. Three new faculty colleagues have arrived on campus this fall (joining nine already here), and our lecture programs are reaching more faculty, students and members of the public than ever before.

Now our students and colleagues in Chapel Hill and our friends across North Carolina have many opportunities to learn about the diverse worlds of Jewish history and culture.

The outstanding research, classes and public programs developed by Jonathan Hess and our Jewish Studies faculty would not have been possible without the generous support of alumni and friends like you. We are most grateful to all of you who have made gifts to support the Center's vital mission.

I hope you will renew your support by using the enclosed envelope. If you have questions about how to use appreciated securities to support the Center or if you need information on how to set up an endowment, please contact Rob Parker at the Arts and Sciences Foundation, (919) 962-6182, Rob.Parker@unc.edu.

Many thanks again for supporting the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

With best wishes,

Bruce W. Carney
Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
and Samuel Barron Distinguished Professor
of Physics and Astronomy