

Center celebrates 15 years

On March 25, the community is invited to campus to experience what we mean by "Jewish Studies... *the Carolina Way*." Our **Anniversary Showcase** features our faculty and graduate students giving short presentations and demonstrations that bring their research and expertise to life.

Faculty speakers include Karen Auerbach (History), Michael Figueroa (Music), Ruth von Bernuth (German), Marcie Cohen Ferris (American Studies), Hanna Sprintzik (Asian Studies) and Jonathan Hess (German), plus a musical performance in Yiddish by Jeanne Fischer (Music).

Demonstrations by students will include a virtual reality synagogue tour, world language demonstrations, a Jewish material culture at Carolina exhibit and a Huqoq archaeology expedition.

In addition to these mini-lectures and interactive experiences, we'll have a **reception** for students, faculty and community members. We hope you can join us... and bring your friends!

Jewish Studies *The Carolina Way*

SHOWCASE **15** CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1-3 PM
Auditorium of the Frank Porter
Graham Student Union

Free and open to the public.
No tickets or reservations required.

Please visit jewishstudies.unc.edu
for more event information and
directions/parking information.

In spring 2003, a group of Carolina faculty, administrators and alumni banded together to lay out an ambitious plan for Jewish studies at Carolina. They created a Center with an interdisciplinary approach to academics and research along with a strong focus on community outreach. In the ensuing 15 years, the goals that were initially considered rather audacious back in 2003 soon became reality. Today the Center continues to strengthen and expand its programs for students, faculty and the general public.

Through the years, we've grown from six faculty members to 22 (in nine different academic departments), which in turn has allowed us to add more course offerings. Carolina students can now enroll in more than 100 different courses with Jewish studies content, ranging from Biblical Hebrew and Classical Jewish Texts, to Israeli Cinema, History of the Holocaust, and Jewish Folklore. Undergraduate interest in our academic program, study abroad opportunities and research initiatives has also grown at an impressive rate. Each year we have more than 1,300 students enrolled in Jewish Studies courses and we've provided nearly \$60,000 to support undergraduate study abroad and research travel since 2011. In just the past few years, we've helped bring 11 graduate students to campus with recruitment grants and we awarded more than \$300,000 in grants to support our growing network of graduate students who are based in 10 different academic departments.

But perhaps our greatest measure of success is demonstrated by our alumni. Our graduate student alumni have become faculty members, post-docs, adjunct faculty and directors at institutions such as University of Washington, University of Missouri, Virginia Tech, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum,

University of Georgia, University of Virginia, and the Institute of Southern Jewish Life. Our undergraduates are pursuing their Ph.D.'s in Jewish studies fields at leading universities such as Indiana University, University of Wisconsin and even at Carolina. Other alumni are working in social services, or for international companies, or running their own businesses.

Other alumni are in broadcasting and filmmaking, pursuing rabbinical studies, and attending medical schools. Regardless of their career path, they all carry with them their experiences from Jewish studies classes and enrichment programs.

The Center has hosted more than 170 events since 2003 and has co-sponsored dozens more. Our lectures, performances, film screenings and seminars are attended by 2,500+ students and community members each year. Special events such as last year's Defiant Requiem concert allow us to reach a broad base of students and community members. The Center is also becoming a leader in academic conferences and has recently organized the Reconsidering Antisemitism conference in 2016 and the Jewish Food in the Global South symposium in 2017. Next fall, the Center is co-hosting a conference with the NC Museum of Art focusing on Jewish Material Culture.

Despite our relative youth, the Center has emerged as one of the leading Jewish studies programs in the nation. The Center could not have reached this level of success without the generous support of so many Carolina alumni and friends. Gifts at all levels enable the Center to maintain the reputation for excellence that we have already attained and allow us to expand our programs and support our faculty and students. To learn more about becoming involved with the Center, visit jewishstudies.unc.edu.





Michele Rivkin-Fish
 Acting Director,
 Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
 Associate Professor,
 Department of Anthropology
 dir_jewishstudies@unc.edu
 (919) 962-1509

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Building Bridges, Strengthening Connections for the Long Term

It is my pleasure to introduce this celebratory issue of *News from the Center* on our 15th anniversary! Since its founding in 2003, our Center has thrived due to the unfailing support of Carolina alumni and friends. As we take time to look back on our accomplishments and consider our goals for the future, I gratefully acknowledge the decisive role that you, our supporters, play in the life of the Center. You have made it possible for us to create a hub of activity for faculty and students from different departments and programs to come together and share their interest in Jewish Studies. You have partnered with us to build bridges between the university and broader community, where we regularly exchange knowledge of Jewish history, culture, film, music, language, and philosophy. These bridges are most visible in our public and academic lecture series, our day-long thematic seminars, and our upcoming Anniversary Showcase. (We hope you will join us on March 25.) But the bridges you help us build also enrich our less immediately visible endeavors, such as our support for faculty research and innovative teaching, the opportunities we provide for students' travel and research, and our exciting partnership with local

museums. Please know how much we value your support and your participation.

As we consider our goals for the future, we take into account both our existing strengths and areas that would benefit from further development. Our grants program allows us to partner with academic departments to recruit the strongest graduate students to Carolina, a process we value for cultivating the next generation of university professors in Jewish studies. We offer numerous research, study abroad, and learning opportunities for our undergraduate majors and minors, and we look forward to further strengthening our career development work with them. And we look forward to opportunities to hire new faculty and offer innovative course offerings, securing Carolina's reputation as a national leader in Jewish studies. On this 15th Anniversary, we celebrate our connections and bridges, our bridge builders and bridge crossers, and eagerly look ahead to enhancing these significant connections.

On behalf of the 20+ faculty who teach in Jewish studies, I warmly thank you for your continued support and look forward to our ongoing collaborations.

** Professor Ruth von Bernuth, director of the Center, is on leave this academic year and returns to campus in August 2018.*

Campaign Update

This fall, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill publicly launched *For All Kind: the Campaign for Carolina* with a fundraising goal of \$4.25 billion by Dec. 31, 2022. The Center has an individual campaign goal of more than \$9 million, and donations made to the Center count toward the fundraising goal of the Campaign for Carolina. The Center is grateful for all our supporters and wishes to acknowledge the following recent gifts.

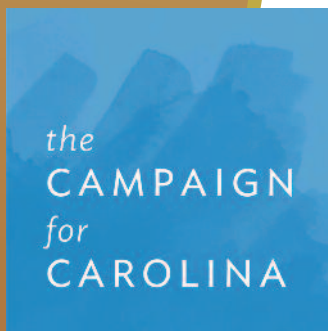
To learn more about the campaign and how you can support the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, visit jewishstudies.unc.edu.

Stuart Eizenstat provided \$110,000 to support student research and students participating in Jewish studies/Holocaust studies study abroad programs.

Len Goodman pledged \$60,000 for three years of funding for our graduate student dissertation completion grant.

Philip and Melinda Kirstein provided \$50,000 to support undergraduate and graduate student research and travel.

Breman Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, provided \$5,000 to support the graduate student speaker for 2017-2018, a series of events planned by and geared toward Carolina's graduate students who are working in a field of Jewish studies.



STUDENT PROFILE: DANIELA R.P. WEINER

*Teaching A Dark Chapter**

Teaching has long been a passion for Daniela Weiner. After completing her undergraduate work at Vassar, she joined Teach for America and was assigned to an inner-city Baltimore middle school, where she taught science. She committed to a two-year post but ended up staying three years while also earning a master's degree in educational studies from Johns Hopkins.

"I liked teaching science, and middle school students, but I found myself being drawn back to history," said Weiner. "I realized that it was time to make the career move to teach at the university level."

This semester she is a graduate student instructor for Professor Karen Auerbach's *History of the Holocaust* course, and last semester she worked for Professor Pricilla Layne's *Hitler in Hollywood: Cinematic Representations of Nazi Germany* course.

"Teaching is absolutely my favorite thing to do here," said Weiner. "Whenever I enter a classroom, the students fill me with energy."

It was at Vassar that Weiner developed her interest in European history and Holocaust studies. She entered college intending to pursue pre-med but then switched to history and Italian. A professor encouraged her to pursue European and Holocaust research projects and a semester abroad in Italy provided the inspiration for what is now several years of ongoing research.

"When I was at the University of Bologna, I was really struck by how the Holocaust and the Second World War were represented in Italian public monuments. This became the topic of my undergraduate history thesis. I then expanded on some of these themes in my master's essay and doctorate dissertation."

Given her interest in Jewish studies, European history and Holocaust studies, when she started looking into graduate programs, she discovered Carolina had faculty strengths in all three areas.

"Even when I was just starting to look into the program, Carolina's professors were really vested in getting to know me and my interests. It was during these preliminary discussions that Professor Jarausch mentioned international textbook research as a possible research topic and one week after starting at Carolina, I told him that was exactly

what I wanted to do."

Weiner joined Carolina in fall 2015, supported by a year-long fellowship from the Center. The Christopher Browning Research Grant in Holocaust Studies and other grants from the Center have allowed her to accelerate her research efforts. She has traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe in pursuit of archives, to participate in workshops and seminars and to present her work at academic conferences. Her master's research thesis was published in the November 2017 online edition of the *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*. (Title: *Tendentious texts: Holocaust representations and nation-rebuilding in East German, Italian, and West German schoolbooks, 1949–1989*.)

"My research would not be in the place it is without the Center's support. I am so grateful for all the support—both financial and academically."

* Weiner's dissertation is tentatively titled: *Teaching A Dark Chapter: Holocaust and Resistance Representations in East German, West German, and Italian History Textbooks, 1943–2000*



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SPRING 2018 EVENTS

MARCH 24, 9 am: Uhlman Family Seminar: *Learning from the Holocaust: Public Monuments, Museums and Memory.*

MARCH 25, 1 pm: Celebrating 15 Years: Carolina Center for Jewish Studies anniversary showcase.

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

Stay Connected: Visit our web site at jewishstudies.unc.edu for more event information. If you'd like to receive email updates about upcoming events, please join our listserv by emailing us at jewishstudies@unc.edu or signing up via our web site. We're also on Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, Instagram, Pinterest, and LinkedIn and all our social media links are available on our home page: jewishstudies.unc.edu.



News Briefs

SAVE THE DATE

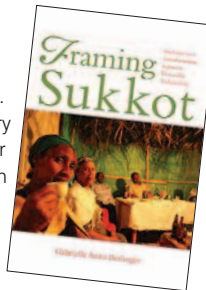
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NEW FACULTY BOOK: Now available by the Center's Gabrielle Berlinger, Babette S. and Bernard J. Tanenbaum Fellow in Jewish History and Culture and assistant professor of American Studies and Folklore in the UNC Department of American Studies: *Framing Sukkot: Tradition and Transformation in Jewish Vernacular Architecture.* The sukkah, the symbolic ritual home built during the annual Jewish holiday of Sukkot, commemorates the temporary structures that sheltered the Israelites as they journeyed across the desert after the exodus from Egypt. In this ethnography of contemporary Sukkot observance, Berlinger examines the powerful role of ritual and vernacular architecture in the formation of self and society in three sharply contrasting Jewish communities: Bloomington, Indiana; South Tel Aviv, Israel; and Brooklyn, New York.



NOSHING IN NORTH CAROLINA—IDENTITY AND MEMORY THROUGH JEWISH FOOD:



JEWISH FOOD: On December 14, Professor Berlinger hosted the final group exhibition curated by the students of FOLK/JWST 481: *The Changing Lives of Jewish Objects.* The exhibit was titled: *Noshing in North Carolina: Identity and Memory through Jewish Food* and it remains on display in the Center's seminar room, Pettigrew Hall.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT:

On January 29th, the Center hosted Professor Kaja Finkler, who spoke to students and community members about growing up in Europe before, during and after the Holocaust. Kaja Finkler is professor emerita of anthropology at Carolina, where she had taught for 25 years, and is author of *Lives Lived and Lost: East European History Before, During, and After World War II as Experienced by an Anthropologist and Her Mother.*



UHLMAN FAMILY SEMINAR—LEARNING FROM THE HOLOCAUST:

Recent controversies over monuments featuring leaders and soldiers of the Confederacy in the American Civil War have sparked heated debates—and violent acts—over what to publicly commemorate and how to do it. Many suggest that honoring the victims of historic catastrophes would provide more resolution and healing for communities than celebrating the actors that perpetrated them. This seminar explores how memorialization in art and public spaces in Europe and America of those murdered in the Holocaust offers lessons for Americans as we contend with a painful national past. The Uhlman Family Seminar, a collaboration of the Center and Carolina Public Humanities, is scheduled for March 24, 2018. Pre-registration is required. Visit jewishstudies.unc.edu for details.