
CAROLINA
CENTER
for JEWISH
STUDIES

Jewish Studies

The Carolina Way

SHOWCASE **15** CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 25, 2018

1:00 – 2:20: showcase lectures in auditorium

2:20-3:00: reception and demonstrations in atrium and gallery

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. Despite its 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. Looking ahead, the Center plans to further develop its undergraduate program, to increase support for faculty and students, and to expand its public programs. To learn more, visit us online and join us on social media.

Showcase Lecture Program

Vocal performance: Yiddish Art Song

Di Mezinke Oysgegebn is a Yiddish folk song that was arranged as an art song by Hirsh Kopit. Kopit was a member of the St. Petersburg Society for Jewish Folk Music. Organized in 1908 with the encouragement of the composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, the Society for Jewish Folk Music was actually a society of Jewish art music, full of young musicians from the St. Petersburg Conservatory. The Russian authorities would only allow the group to form as a folk music organization, because they did not believe in the legitimacy of Jewish art music. The St. Petersburg Society for Jewish Folk Music is considered part of the foundation of modern Jewish art music, not only in Russia, but around the world.

Jeanne Fischer received her B.A. in Music and English from UNC Chapel Hill. She continued her studies in the United Kingdom on a British Marshall Scholarship, completing an MM and Artist's Diploma at London's Royal Academy of Music. She received her DMA from the University of Maryland on a graduate fellowship. She teaches studio voice and French and Italian diction. Dr. Fischer has performed as a soloist throughout the U.S. and the United Kingdom. She is the recipient of several vocal prizes and awards, including First Place in the Voce Young Soloists Competition, the Royal Academy of Music's Ethel Bilsland Award, and the Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music (DipRAM). In September 2013 the Center hosted Dr. Fischer's performance, *An Afternoon of Yiddish Art Song*.



Welcome Remarks: From Audacious Idea to National Leader

Yaakov Ariel is a professor at UNC Chapel Hill, the director of the Minor in Christianity and Culture and associate director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. He received his Ph.D. and a M.A. from the University of Chicago and a M.A. and B.A. from Hebrew University. Professor Ariel's research focuses on Protestantism, especially Evangelical Christianity and its attitudes towards the Jewish people and the Holy Land; on Christian-Jewish relations in the late modern era; and on the Jewish reaction to modernity and postmodernity. He has published numerous articles and three books on these subjects. His publication *Evangelizing the Chosen People*, was awarded



the Albert C. Outler prize by the American Society of Church History. His latest book, *An Unusual Relationship: Evangelical Christians and Jews*, was published in 2013 by New York University Press. His current project looks at the religious aspects in the life and career of poet Allen Ginsberg who was, in significant ways, a pioneer and prophet to many of his generation.

Master of Ceremonies

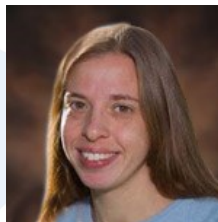
Terry Rhodes is Senior Associate Dean for Fine Arts and Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences and professor in the department of Music. As Senior Associate Dean, she oversees all departments, programs, centers and institutes in the divisions of fine arts and humanities and assists in the recruitment, development and retention of faculty. She received her doctor of musical arts and master of music from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, and her bachelor of music from UNC Chapel Hill. Especially known for her work in contemporary music, she has been on the music faculty since 1987, serving as UNC Opera Director and a member of the voice faculty, and as departmental chair from 2009 to 2012. Rhodes has performed in more than 20 countries throughout Europe, Central and South America, and across the U.S.



Encountering a Catholic Woman, a Jewish Family and the Angst of Youth in a Warsaw Archive

This talk will explore the assimilation of a Polish Jewish publishing family in the second half of the nineteenth century through a focus on a young woman's diary as she came of age and struggled with her religious identity. The family's history is a window onto a small circle of Jewish elites in nineteenth-century Warsaw who followed a path from Judaism to Catholicism as increasing antisemitism challenged the possibility for dual identifications as both Polish and Jewish.

Karen Auerbach is the Stuart E. Eizenstat Fellow and assistant professor in the department of History. Her research focuses on the social history of Polish Jews in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, especially issues relating to Jewish integration, urban life and Polish Jewish identifications. Her first book, *The House at Ujazdowskie 16: Jewish Families in Warsaw after the Holocaust* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2013), is



a microhistory of Jewish families who were neighbors in an apartment building in Warsaw after the Holocaust, exploring the reconstruction of communities and identifications in postwar Poland. She is currently completing a book about Jewish publishers of Polish books in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her teaching focuses on the Holocaust, modern Jewish history and Eastern Europe.

Listening to Jerusalem

People the world over have some idea of what Jerusalem means, but a much smaller number have actually sensed Jerusalem in person, whether through touch, vision, taste, smell, or hearing. Those who have been to the city know that the Jerusalems of imagination and of experience often produce dissonance. In my lecture, I will discuss what Jerusalem sounds like, as the city is both imagined in song and experienced in person and suggest an ethics of listening to Jerusalem that reconciles its many sounds.

Michael A. Figueroa, assistant professor in the department of Music, is an ethnomusicologist whose work resides at the intersection of music and political consciousness in Middle Eastern and African American contexts. His work argues a place for musical interpretation and performance in how people construct their notions of space, place, and society. To this end, his current book (in process) looks at the role of musicians in framing the territorial conflict in Israel/Palestine after the Six-Day War of 1967, with a focus on the contested city of Jerusalem. His other research and teaching interests include music and poetry, performance studies, black music historiography, global popular music, critical theory, diaspora studies, media and technology, and the analysis of timbre. He earned a B.A. in Musicology from Northwestern University (2006) and a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from the University of Chicago (2014). His research has been supported by the Ford Foundation, the American Musicological Society, and a Fulbright-IIIE fellowship. At Carolina, he is also affiliated with the department of Asian Studies, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, and Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Cultures.



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Annals of the North Carolina Jewish Christmas Tree Growers Association [and Other Jewish Stories]

Jews and non-Jews alike have attributed to Jews a particular sense of humor. But what turns a joke, an anecdote, a movie, or a graphic novel into an example of Jewish humor? Is it that the protagonists are Jews, or is it that the author is Jewish, or that Jews find it funny, or what? And when did “Jewish humor” start to

be a recognized cultural phenomenon? My talk will look at examples from the Middle Ages up to modern times and from various places Jews have lived, which, yes, does include Boone, North Carolina.

Ruth von Bernuth has taught Medieval and early modern German and Yiddish literature and culture in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures since 2008. She became director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies in 2013. For a research project on Yiddish literature she was awarded a visiting fellowship in Jewish Studies from Yad Hanadiv and Beracha Foundation in Israel in 2011-2012. She has published on folly literature, Old Yiddish literature and conversion narratives, and she is author of *Wunder, Spott und Prophetie: Natürliche Narrheit in den “Historien von Claus Narren”* (2009). Her most recent book project, published in fall 2016, *How the Wise Men Got to Chelm: The Life and Times of a Yiddish Folk Tradition*, examines the multiple ways in which the Jewish story tradition of the “Wise Men of Chelm” came into being.



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Wandering Jew is a Real Plant

Imagine the journey, the cultures, the languages
Imagine the plant.

Wandering Jew spreading roots and inspiration.
a real plant, persisting through love and dedication.
was it transculturation or
was it just immigration?

I truly believe it’s just “me” planted in the
Field of Education.

Hanna Sprintzik is a teaching assistant Professor of



Hebrew, within the department of Asian Studies. She teaches different levels of Modern Hebrew courses, as well as a course on Israeli Popular Music. On campus, she works closely with her students; she develops extra-curricular opportunities, authentic materials, and serves on departmental committees. She is an active member of the Jewish and Hispanic communities in the area. Her academic interests include curriculum development, cultural awareness, students advising, foreign language education, and music education.

What's at Stake in German-Jewish History and Culture Before the Holocaust?

In this presentation, I will reflect on two decades of researching and teaching the history and culture of German Jewry. We will explore how our knowledge of the Nazi genocide influences the ways students and scholars deal with the cultural accomplishments and the challenges of German-Jewish life in the two centuries leading up to the Holocaust.

Jonathan M. Hess, Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin



Distinguished Professor of Jewish History and Culture, was the director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies from 2003 until 2013. Hess currently serves as chair of the department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures. He regularly teaches an undergraduate lecture course on “German Culture and the ‘Jewish Question’” and a first-year seminar on “Germans, Jews, and the History of Antisemitism.” In Fall 2018, he is excited to be introducing a new course, “Springtime for Hitler: Jews on Stage from Shakespeare to Mel Brooks.” Hess is the author of several books on German-Jewish history and culture, more recently *Deborah and her Sisters: How One Nineteenth-Century Melodrama and a Host of Celebrated Actresses Put Judaism on the World Stage* (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).

Shalom Y'All at 15

For fifteen years, I've had the privilege of exploring the historical arc of Jewish life in the American South with Carolina's best students. During that time we've shattered many stereotypes and misconceptions about the South, the American Jewish experience, and the politics and religious experience of Jewish Southerners. We've road tripped annually to one of the most beautiful synagogues in the country—Temple Oheb Sholom in Goldsboro, NC, explored Jews of the New South in Charlotte, and examined Judaic treasures at the NC Museum of Art. Our work also took us into the archives of UNC's Southern Historical Collection where we discovered poignant southern Jewish voices. Hundreds of students have been introduced to a 'real' bagel and how to eat one properly. In the early fall of 2017, we confronted the historic eruption of virulent racism and anti-Semitism once again in our nation and the American South. As faculty and classmates, we talked, we wept, we demanded justice. AND...we graduated our first Carolina PhD in the study of the Jewish South. Happy 15th, y'all!

Marcie Cohen Ferris is a professor in the department of



American Studies, where she serves as an editor for *Southern Cultures*, a quarterly journal of the history and cultures of the U.S. South. From 2006-2008, Ferris served as president of the board of directors of the Southern Foodways Alliance. Ferris is the author of *The Edible South: The Power of Food and the Making of an American Region*, (UNC Press, 2014), *Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South* (UNC Press, 2005; nominated for a James Beard Award, 2006), and co-author of *Jewish Roots in Southern Soil: A New History* (Brandeis, 2006). Her current work, “THE BIG BOOK OF NORTH CAROLINA FOOD”, explores the history, culture, and contemporary politics of food in the Tar Heel State. Ferris is co-chair of UNC-CH's academic theme, FOOD FOR ALL: LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, 2015-2018. She served as associate director for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies from 2005-2008 and in 2017, she spearheaded the Center's Jewish Food in the Global South symposium.

Closing Remarks: Ruth von Bernuth, Michele Rivkin-Fish, Jonathan M. Hess

Reception & Demonstrations

Atrium and Gallery: 2:20 – 3:00pm

- ◆ Reception refreshments
- ◆ UNC bookstore with faculty books
- ◆ Brad Erickson – virtual reality synagogues
- ◆ Jocelyn Burney – Huqoq dig
- ◆ Gabrielle Berlinger – Jewish Material Culture
- ◆ Modern Hebrew students – calligraphy bookmarks
- ◆ Hanna Sprintzik – dancing