



## IN MEMORIAM Eli N. Evans, '58

Eli N. Evans '58, founding chair of the advisory board for the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, passed away in New York City on July 26, 2022. Evans led the advisory board for much of the Center's first decade (2003-2009), helping Carolina transform a bold idea into a thriving academic Center. His leadership, dedication and audacious vision for an interdisciplinary Jewish studies center at his alma mater inspired other alumni and friends to join the cause, and ultimately created a series of endowed faculty chairs, named lectureships, and funds for faculty and student support. As a result, the Center experienced a remarkable trajectory of growth and expansion of programs.

"So much of what we do today is made possible because of the leadership and creative vision of Eli Evans," said Patricia A.

**"It is impossible to imagine we'd have the Center we have today without the benefit of of Eli's wisdom, energy and imagination."**

Rosenmeyer, director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. "It is impossible to imagine that we'd have the Center we have today without the benefit of Eli's wisdom, energy and imagination. Carolina will benefit from his generous legacy in perpetuity because of Eli's strong commitment to this campus and to building the Carolina Center for Jewish

Studies, even when few others thought it could be done."

Evans also was a frequent guest visitor to Jewish studies classrooms, where he shared his personal experience of growing up Jewish in the American south. These experiences are captured in two of his books: *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South* (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1973) and *The Lonely Days Were Sundays* (Univ. of Mississippi Press, 1993).

"A highlight of my 'Shalom Y'all' seminar on the history of the Jewish South was an in-person conversation and visit with Eli Evans each fall," said Marcie Cohen Ferris, professor emerita, department of American studies. "Students treated Eli like the southern Jewish celebrity he was, mesmerized by his storytelling and lyrical writing. One day after class, as we walked through campus, Eli asked, 'How did I do?' 'Was it OK?' And I answered, 'It was more than OK. It was life changing.'"

Evans completed his undergraduate studies at Carolina in 1958 and then earned his law degree from Yale Law School. He received an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree at Carolina's May 2009 commencement ceremony. The Evans family name is connected to two endowments at the Center: Eli's parents are honored with the Sara and E.J. Evans Distinguished Professorship and Eli is honored with the Eli N. Evans '58 Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies. The next Evans Lecture is September 19th, and we invite the community to join us for this special event (details on our website).

"I was saddened by the news about Eli Evans' death. As the founding chair of the Center's advisory board, he followed all our activities and frequently asked about our teaching and research work and student



ABOVE: Receiving an honorary degree at a UNC commencement ceremony, 2009. TOP RIGHT: with Prof. Marienberg, the inaugural Sara and E.J. Evans Fellow, 2009. BOTTOM RIGHT: speaking to students during a classroom visit

[ Continued on page 2 ]



"I hope you share our sense of pride as we reflect on all that has been accomplished these past 20 years and that you also eagerly look forward to our third decade of excellence."

— Patricia Rosenmeyer

As part of the Center's 20th anniversary celebrations in 2022-2023, the September 19th Evans Lecture with **Naomi Graber** is the inaugural Alumni Lecture hosted by the Center. Graber earned her Ph.D. from Carolina in 2013 with the dissertation "Found in Translation: Kurt Weill on Broadway and in Hollywood, 1935-1939." Graber was the first graduate student to receive a full-year dissertation fellowship



from the Center, and thus, it seems fitting to have her also provide the inaugural Alumni Lecture. We hope you will attend the lecture and

help welcome Dr. Graber back to Chapel Hill. Since this is the Evans Lecture, we will also include a remembrance of Eli N. Evans at the event. Details on the event can be found on our website ([jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu)).

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# A Welcoming Community

## Patricia A. Rosenmeyer, Director

Seymour and Carol Levin Distinguished Term Professor  
G.L. Paddison Professor of Classics, department of classics  
Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies  
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I am delighted to introduce myself as the director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.



My colleague Ruth von Bernuth has done a fantastic job as director for the past nine years, and I am sure that she will continue to guide us wisely from behind the stage as we move into this new phase of

development. She has set us up for success as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Center this academic year, with all sorts of exciting events planned for spring 2023.

I arrived at UNC Chapel Hill in Fall 2017 as the G.L. Paddison Professor of Classics, and quickly discovered a welcoming community of friends and colleagues, both in my home department and at the Center. As I attended more Center events, I realized how much I enjoyed the interdisciplinary nature of the Center, and its focus on Jewish culture, history, religion, and language. As someone whose research centers on ancient Greek and Latin literature, I was pleased to find intellectual connections among colleagues in religious studies, Yiddish, and German. As someone whose parents were German Jews who became refugees in the late 1930s, I was pleased to find personal connections among community members and visitors to our campus.

As I begin my tenure, I will be ably assisted by Michele Rivkin-Fish (associate professor, department of anthropology) our associate director, and Karen Gajewski (M.A.), our

executive director. We are thrilled to announce a new hire: Jillian Hinderliter (assistant professor, department of gender and women's studies and Carolina Center for Jewish Studies), who is the Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Fellow in Jewish History and Culture, and will contribute to our Center's academic strengths. This spring she teaches "A Social History of Jewish Women in America." We hope to move forward with more faculty hires this coming academic year. While the Center will continue its efforts to focus on Jewish history and culture, we also welcome the challenge of keeping an open and safe space for conversations about antisemitism, both locally and (inter)nationally, whether in our lecture series or in our community outreach programs.

We encourage you to keep an eye out for our upcoming programming for the 20th anniversary, especially the major celebration on campus on March 2, 2023. We would love to see you at any of our regular events, which occur both in person and on Zoom.

I hope you share our sense of pride as we reflect on all that has been accomplished these past 20 years and that you also eagerly look forward to our third decade of excellence. All our academic and outreach programming is made possible by private support, and everyone affiliated with the Center is very grateful for your generous donations. If you haven't already renewed your support of the Center, you may use the enclosed envelope or visit our website ([jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu)) to make a secure, online gift. With your help and participation, I look forward to an amazing year ahead!

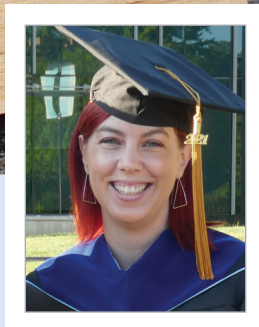
*Continued from page 1*

enrollments and our expanding activities. His interest in anything the Center was doing never stopped," said Ruth von Bernuth, former director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. "It was his interest in people and his love for Carolina which helped to start the Center. A thriving Jewish Studies academic

center very much belonged to Eli's vision of UNC."

The leadership, faculty and staff at the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies remain committed to furthering Eli's vision and ensuring that the Center will continue to serve Carolina's campus community and the general public.





## ALUMNA PROFILE Tine Rassalle

In 2014, Tine Rassalle came to Carolina as the Center's very first TEP Fellow, and, after more than seven years of intense study and research, she recently graduated and landed her dream job at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans.

The Tau Epsilon Phi Graduate Student Fellowship in Jewish Studies was created by the Center as a recruitment tool in order to attract outstanding students to Carolina to earn doctoral degrees in a subfield of Jewish Studies. Without fellowships such as this, it is often difficult to recruit the very best students to Carolina.

The TEP Fellowship allowed Rassalle to come to Carolina from the Netherlands to study with faculty advisor Jodi Magness in the department of religious studies. Her program included courses in ancient Mediterranean religions, Hebrew Bible, archaeology and Jewish history, and she frequently spent her summers on archaeological digs.

"The Center's support, through the TEP Fellowship, made it possible for me to attend Carolina," said Rassalle. "I am so grateful to the Center and the donors because I truly would not have come to the U.S., or to Carolina, without the TEP Fellowship. Not only did it make my graduate program a reality, it now has also led me to my first career position."

Rassalle was an active participant at the Center throughout her graduate school career. She regularly attended academic and social events, she organized a graduate network lecture with Swiss art historian Naomi Lubrich, and in her last year, she was the Center's graduate student assistant, working on social media and virtual events. Rassalle graduated in December 2021 with a dissertation on coin hoards found in ancient synagogues ([www.ancientsynagoguecoins.com](http://www.ancientsynagoguecoins.com)). In

February 2022, she gave an Emerging Scholars talk on this topic, which is available to view on the Center's YouTube channel.

Just a few months after graduating with her Ph.D. and the graduate certificate in Jewish studies, she has started her career as the new curator at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience. At the museum, Rassalle is responsible for a collection of over 4,000 items related to Jews living in the American south (from North Carolina to Texas). She will also be setting up museum exhibitions, giving regular talks, and helping to advance the museum's mission to make the space a vital part of the Southern Jewish community.



## UHLMAN FELLOWS

in Jewish Studies Public Humanities

The Center, in collaboration with Carolina Public Humanities (CPH), has established a new fellowship program for our graduate students: the Uhlman Fellowship in Jewish Studies Public Humanities. The Uhlman Fellows will participate in a year-long interdisciplinary graduate workshop that explores the public role of the humanities and Jewish studies. Up to two Uhlman Fellows will be selected each academic year, starting this year. The Uhlman Fellows program, made possible by a generous gift to the Center, provides unique training for future careers in both the academic sector and alternatives such as museums, foundations, archives and non-profits.



After a two-year pause, the dig at Huqoq is active again. The Center co-sponsored the project and provided study abroad grants to student participants.

# The Return to Huqoq

The Center's Jodi Magness, the Kenan Distinguished Professor of religious studies, and a group of Carolina students spent the early summer in Israel's Lower Galilee to continue unearthing nearly 1,600-year-old mosaics in an ancient Jewish synagogue at Huqoq. Discoveries made this year include the first known depiction of the biblical heroines Deborah and Jael.

"Looking at the book of Joshua chapter 19, we can see how the story might have had special resonance for the Jewish community at Huqoq, as it is described as taking place in the same geographical region — the territory of the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulon," Magness said.

Mosaics were first discovered at the Huqoq site in 2012, and work continued each summer until the pandemic paused work after the dig in 2019. The mosaics exposed in the last 10 active seasons cover the synagogue's aisles and main hall.



*Fox eating grapes mosaic in Huqoq synagogue mosaic.*

Thanks to generous private support, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies helped sponsor the program and also provided study abroad grants to several undergraduate participants. Excavations are scheduled to continue in summer 2023. Visit our website ([jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu)) for more details on this year's findings and the Huqoq program.



*Suzy Brito Lagunas working at Huqoq.*



*Jodi Magness (back row, third from left) with UNC participants on the Huqoq dig.*



*Jada Enoch working at Huqoq.*





*Carolina students supported by the Center:*  
 FRONT: Suzy Brito Lagunas. BACK ROW, L-R: David Richman, Christine Stamey, Aislynn Grantz, Jada Enoch.

Photos: J. Haberman



*The Israelite commander Barak depicted in the Huqoq synagogue mosaic.*



*Jocelyn Burney, PhD student and one of the Center's TEP Fellows.*



## FACULTY

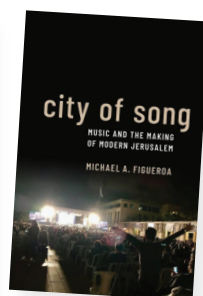
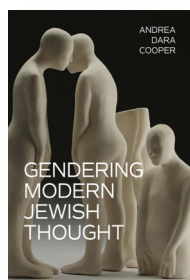
**Michele Rivkin-Fish** was appointed associate director for the Center for the 2022-23 academic year. Previously, she served as acting director for the Center in 2017-18.

Congratulations to **Gabrielle Berlinger**, who earned tenure and was recently promoted to associate professor of American studies and folklore. She is the Tanenbaum Scholar in Jewish History and Culture, funded through a generous gift to the Center.



Welcome back to **Marcie Cohen Ferris**, professor emerita in American Studies and former associate director of the Center. This semester she serves as interim director of the Center for the Study of the American South. Professor Ferris is also editor of the recently published *Edible North Carolina: A Journey across a State of Flavor* (UNC Press, 2022).

**FACULTY BOOKS:** Associate Professors **Andrea Cooper**, the Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Scholar in Modern Jewish Thought and Culture in the department of religious studies, and **Mike Figueroa**, department of music, both published books this past academic year. Prof. Cooper's book, titled: *Gendering Modern Jewish Thought* (Indiana University Press, 2021), explores critical gender analysis of key works in the Jewish studies field. Prof. Figueroa's book, *City of Song: Music and the Making of Modern Jerusalem* (Oxford University Press, 2022), focuses on Israeli and Palestinian music.



**RESEARCH LEAVE:** Several faculty members have support for research leave in fall or spring—semester, or the full year, including: **Karen Auerbach**, Institute of Arts and Humanities (IAH) Johnson Fellow; **David Lambert**, IAH Schwab Fellow; **Andrea Cooper**, departmental leave; **Eliza Rose**, IAH Townsend Fellow; **Ruth von Bernuth**, senior fellowship, Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, Hamburg, Germany and visiting fellowship, Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies, Oxford, Great Britain.

## Grant Awards to Students and Faculty

In spring 2022, the Center made grant awards in support of faculty research and travel, course development, undergraduate study abroad, grad student research and travel, as well as grad student recruitment. More than 20 different endowed and expendable funds gifted to the Center made these grant awards and other research funds possible. On behalf of all our affiliated faculty and students, thank you for your support of our work in Jewish studies.

### Graduate Student Awards for 2022-23

#### *Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2022-2023*

**Emily Branton**, department of religious studies, for her dissertation titled: "Words that Stand: Efficacious Speech in Ancient Israel"

#### *TEP Fellowship 2022-2023*

**Oskar Czende**, department of history, for his dissertation work on the Jewish immigrant experience

#### *Top Up recruitment grant 2022-23*

**Hagar Netser**, department of Asian and middle eastern studies, for her master's program work in Israel studies

#### *Jack O. Spies and Family Jewish Studies Summer stipend 2022*

**Morgan Morales**, department of history, for her dissertation research in Polish archives. (See sidebar.)

### Graduate Student Research and Travel Grants for 2022-23

#### *Carolina Center for Jewish Studies Research and Travel grants:*

**Alison Curry**, department of history, for research travel to Warsaw, Poland for her project: Ritual, Tradition, and Change in the Jewish Cemeteries of Poland, 1918-1945; **Tara Jordan**, department of music, to conduct research and begin ethnographic work; **Joseph Block**, department of history, for his dissertation work titled: "The Image of the Jews and the Idea of the Superiority of Oppressed Peoples in African American Political Thought, 1827-1925"

#### *Frances Carol Eizenstat Student Travel grant:*

**Grant Peet**, Transatlantic Master's Program (TAM), for research in the United Kingdom that examines contemporary Holocaust remembrance throughout Europe

#### *Christopher Browning Holocaust Studies Research and Travel grant:*

**Tara Jordan**, department of music, to conduct research of a Monastirli Jewish community

#### *Marcie Cohen Ferris Jewish History / Jewish Gender Studies Research and Travel grant:*

**Ameliah Leonhardt**, department of Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures, for enrollment in the Yiddish language program at YIVO Institute, to enhance her research on female Yiddish writers

#### *Philip L. and Melinda R. Kirstein Research and Travel grant:*

**Joseph Block**, department of history for his dissertation work; **Emily Branton**, department of religious studies, for modern Hebrew language program to improve her dissertation project

#### *Jewish Language grants:*

**Alison Curry**, for Yiddish training program. Also: **Ameliah Leonhardt** and **Emily Branton** (details included above.)



## GRAD STUDENT PROFILE

## Morgan Morales

I received the Spies Family Summer Stipend for summer 2022 from the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. The Spies Family Stipend allows me to finally begin archival work on my dissertation, "A Matter of Life and Death: Jewish Women Who Chose Abortion During the Holocaust." I will spend much of this summer in Warsaw, Poland doing research at the Jewish Historical Institute, the Polish National Library, the Archiwum Akt Nowych, and the University of Warsaw. Additionally, I received a generous Jewish language grant from the Center and the College that will allow me to begin learning modern Hebrew. This is a crucial step for my dissertation research because it will allow me to read rabbinical responsa concerning birth control and abortion, an important aspect of everyday life for Jewish women during the Holocaust.



*Morales is based in the department of history with faculty advisor Karen Auerbach. Her work is also supported by the European Holocaust Research Initiative's Conny Kristel Fellowship, and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Dissertation Research Grant in Women and Gender Studies.*

## Undergraduate Study Abroad Grants

**Aislynn Grantz, Christine Stamey, Jada Enoch, David Richman, Suzy Brito Lagunas, Ellen Garfinkle and Zoe Beyer.** The students either participated in the Huqoq dig in summer 2022 or spent a semester at Hebrew University.

## Faculty Research and Travel Grants

**Karen Auerbach**, department of history, for research at the National Library archive in Warsaw, the Polish Academy of Sciences archive in Krakow, the special collections of the Jagiellonian University library in Krakow and the special collections at Warsaw University; **Yaron Shemer**, department of Asian and middle eastern studies, for research at the National Library in Jerusalem and to present a paper at the Association for Israel Studies conference in Israel; **Eliza Rose**, department of Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures, for research and translation projects based in Warsaw.

## Course Development/Enhancement Grant

**Hanna Sprintzik**, department of Asian and middle eastern studies, for statewide outreach for Modern Hebrew language courses.

## STUDENTS

Congratulations to recent graduates. Two graduate students completed their studies last academic year and earned the graduate certificate in Jewish studies: **Tine Rassalle** (see story on page 3) and **Miguel Vargas**, both based in the department of religious studies. Rassalle was one of the Center's TEP Fellows and Vargas held the Center's Dissertation Completion Fellowship in 2021-22. Vargas is currently working with the Save Ancient Studies Alliance on the North Texas Branch Initiative, which has the goal of generating interest in ancient studies among high school and college students in the North Texas region.



**Irene Newman**, doctoral student in American studies, was recently selected for an Impact Award, presented by the Graduate School to honor graduate students working to shape a better future for North Carolina. Newman was the

instructor of JWST 390: "Confronting Antisemitism," a one-credit course offered to undergraduates in spring 2022, and she will again lead the course in spring 2023.

## ALUMNI

**Annegret Oehme** was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Washington. She earned her Ph.D. from the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies in 2016. Her faculty advisors included Ruth von Bernuth and Jonathan M. Hess.

**Carrie Duncan** recently joined the Iacocca Institute at Lehigh University as its program director. Duncan earned her Ph.D. from Carolina in 2012, working with faculty advisor Jodi Magness. Duncan also served the Center for three years as a graduate student assistant.

**Justine Orlovsky-Schnitzler** graduated in August 2021 with her M.A. in folklore and the graduate certificate in Jewish studies, working with faculty advisor Gabrielle Berlinger. This summer, a version of her master's thesis on Yiddish music of Jewish partisans has been accepted for publication in the journal "Jewish Folklore and Ethnology," and this fall she is presenting a paper titled: "In Sea/in Raging Waters: Lilit, feminist Jewish consciousness, and the creation of a folktale" at an international conference. While at Carolina, she served as the Center's graduate student assistant.

CAROLINA  
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for JEWISH  
STUDIES



## FALL 2022 NEWS FROM THE CENTER

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**Keep Connected:** Visit [jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu) to join our listserv and find social media links.

**The Fund for Jewish Studies** provides unrestricted support that is essential for the Center to maintain its reputation for excellence while expanding its academic and public outreach programs for future generations. Please consider making a gift using the enclosed envelope or the online giving form on our website: [jewishstudies.unc.edu](http://jewishstudies.unc.edu).

## 2022–2023 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Please join us for our upcoming event series, including our 20th anniversary event in March. All events are in person unless otherwise noted. Visit our website for event details and updates.

**SEPT 19** EVANS LECTURE and INAUGURAL ALUMNI LECTURE  
Ghetto Pastoral: *Street Scene*, Jews, and  
the Transformation of American Folklore  
with Naomi Graber, Univ. of Georgia

**OCT 24** SEPHARDIC LECTURE  
bridges between east and west  
with poet Ronny Someck

**NOV 7** MARGOLIS LECTURE  
Southern Jews and the Lost Cause  
with David Weinfeld, Rowan Univ.

**NOV 14** EMERGING SCHOLARS LECTURE (REMOTE)  
Fake News and Other Dangerous Speech  
in Ancient Israel  
with Emily Branton, UNC CH

**JAN 23** EMERGING SCHOLARS LECTURE (REMOTE)  
No Fairy Tale: German Zionism and the  
Politics of Literature  
with Joshua Shelly, UNC CH/Duke

**JAN 30** KAPLAN BRAUER LECTURE  
Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture  
with Laura Jockusch, Brandeis Univ.

**FEB 20** EMERGING SCHOLARS LECTURE (REMOTE)  
A Galician Wedding: Yiddish Popular Culture and  
Regionalism in American Jewish Immigrant Life  
with Oskar Czendze, UNC CH

**MAR 2** HEILIG LECTURE  
20th Anniversary Celebration  
with Daniel Zamir, jazz performance