

FROM THE DIRECTOR: *Addressing Major Global Issues*

Hate speeches and attacks against people of different faiths and backgrounds are reported daily—be it in Buenos Aires, Paris, San Bernardino, and recently even in Greensboro, NC. Antisemitism is part of this violence and the associated rhetoric often recycles antijewish and antisemitic ideas with an old backstory. Current discussions and tensions at American universities as well as events in Europe, South America, and elsewhere have spurred faculty and the board of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies to envision a conference to reconsider antisemitism in the past and the present.

The conference will gather scholars and journalists from four continents to present current scholarship and views on antisemitism. It will be the first major conference organized by the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. We designed it in such a way that students and experts, graduate students and K-12 teachers, as well as faculty and the general public, will have many opportunities to discuss topics and to learn from each other. Our undergraduate students will not only attend lectures, but many of them will also participate in poster presentations, which show results of courses taught in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016, among them Flora Cassen's "Antisemitism: History, Causes, Consequences" and Jonathan Hess' "Germans, Jews, and the History of Antisemitism." Our graduate students are also involved in the conference organization on all levels. For example, graduate students will introduce the speakers at the conference and will chair the panel discussions. The presentations of the scholars will leave ample time to discuss their talks. We will also bring in a group of journalists to talk about current events. We hope to give our

continued on page 3

Reconsidering Antisemitism: PAST AND PRESENT

There is an undeniable resurgence of antisemitism in many parts of the world (including North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa). Recent events showcasing intolerance are alarming and generate tremendous concern for the future. As a result, there are a growing number of academic researchers who are seeking to understand this phenomenon from a scholarly perspective. Their work investigates the history of antisemitism from Biblical times to today, and covers everything from antiquity and the middle ages, to the Holocaust and current events.

To further our shared understanding, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is organizing a comprehensive, three-day scholarly conference on antisemitism for April 10–12, 2016 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The conference will include two evening lectures and a series of five in-depth panel discussions. One panel will feature a roundtable with journalists who cover antisemitism while other panel topics focus on the origins of anti-Judaism; the struggle over the memory of the Holocaust; medieval to modern antisemitism in Europe and the Middle East; and mainstream and extreme conceptions of Jews in Europe and America. The conference will also include a poster session for students to highlight undergraduate research.

Conference participants will include 15 leading scholars from throughout the United States as well as France, Germany and Israel. **Stuart Eizenstat, '64** (right), who has held senior U.S. government positions in three presidential administrations, will give the opening talk on



April 10 and **James Carroll** (right), author of eleven novels and eight works of non-fiction, will give the keynote lecture on April 11.



"The goal of this conference is to bring together a diverse group of scholars of antisemitism for in-depth discussions with students, educators, members of the media, and the community at large,"

said Ruth von Bernuth, director of the Center. "Students will gain an understanding that goes far beyond what can be attained during classroom instruction. Community members will have the opportunity to stop and really consider what is going on in the world today. And members of the media and other professionals will gain insight into topics that can be difficult to address without any sense of history or scale."

The full conference schedule can be found inside this

newsletter. The conference is free and open to the public. Advanced registration is required for the panel sessions due to limited seating. Visit jewishstudies.unc.edu for updated event information and online registration, which will open in late January. All events will be held at the UNC William and Ida Friday Conference Center.

Private support has made this conference possible; please see the list of generous supporters and cosponsors on page three.

"This conference won't solve the problem of antisemitism, but it is our belief that improved understanding, and open discussion, are the means to addressing the problem," added von Bernuth. "This conference will be of tremendous benefit to the community of North Carolina, the students at UNC, and of course, the scholars working in this field of study."

RECONSIDERING
ANTISEMITISM
PAST AND PRESENT

The Carolina
Center for
Jewish Studies
is taking a leadership role
in bringing together interna-
tional scholars, students, and
the general public to explore
antisemitism's dark past and
concerning present.



UNC
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Sunday, April 10

- 3 p.m. WELCOME
- **Ruth von Bernuth**, Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
- 3–5 p.m. PANEL 1: THE ORIGINS OF ANTI-JUDAISM
- *Chairs:* Tine Rassalle and Bradley Erickson
 - *Panelist:* **Bart Ehrman**, Department of Religious Studies, UNC: "From the Jewish Jesus to the Anti-Jewish Church"
 - *Panelist:* **Sara Lipton**, Stony Brook University (SUNY): "What's in a Nose? On the Origins, Evolution, and Implications of the Anti-Semitic Caricature"
- 5–5:30 p.m. RECEPTION in the Atrium for all guests
- 5:30–7 p.m. OPENING LECTURE
- *Opening Remarks:* **Kevin Guskiewicz**, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
 - *Speaker Introduction:* **Karen Auerbach**, Stuart E. Eizenstat Fellow, Department of History, UNC
 - *Lecturer:* **Stuart Eizenstat**: "21st Century Challenges to the Jewish World: the Return of Antisemitism Seventy Years after the Holocaust"

Monday, April 11

- 9 a.m.–12 p.m. PANEL 2: FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN ANTIJUDAISM AND ANTISEMITISM IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
- *Chairs:* Lea Greenberg, Scott Krause, Claire Scott
 - *Panelist:* **Oded Zinger**, Duke University: "Is There 'a Legacy of Islamic Antisemitism'?"
 - *Panelist:* **Magda Teter**, Fordham University: "The Theological Jew and the Historical Jew in Jewish-Christian Relations"
 - *Panelist:* **Hans Joachim Hahn**, Aachen University: "On the Origins of Antisemitism: Aspects of an Ongoing Debate"
- 1:30–4:30 p.m. PANEL 3: THE STRUGGLE OVER THE MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST
- *Chairs:* Robin Buller, Max Lazar and Daniela Weiner
 - *Panelist:* **Antony Polonsky**, Chief Historian of POLIN, Museum of History of Polish Jews: "Coming to Terms with the 'Dark Past': Confronting the Holocaust in Poland and Lithuania"
 - *Panelist:* **Alon Confino**, University of Virginia/Ben Gurion University of the Negev: "How Did the Nazis Interpret Anew the Jewish Past and How Do Some Jews Today Interpret Anew the Holocaust Past?"
 - *Panelist:* **Nicolas Berg**, Simon-Dubnow Institute: "The Völkisch Goethe in the Early 20th Century: Antisemitic Scholarship from Adolf Bartels to Wolfgang Martini"

EVENT LOCATION: UNC William and Ida Friday Conference Center

REGISTRATION: The conference is free and open to the public. Due to limited seating, advanced, online registration is required for the five panel sessions. We plan to open registration in late January at jewishstudies.unc.edu. No registration is required for the evening opening and keynote lectures, however seating is not reserved and is available on a first come basis. An overflow room may be provided for these two evening lectures. All registration must be done online, no phone calls please. For questions, please email us at: jewishstudies@unc.edu. ONLINE REGISTRATION: jewishstudies.unc.edu

Event schedule is subject to change; please visit jewishstudies.unc.edu for updates.

RECONSIDERING ANTISEMITISM PAST AND PRESENT

APRIL 10–12, 2016 • UNC-CHAPEL HILL
CAROLINA CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

- 5:30–7 p.m. POSTER SESSION and discussion with undergraduate students in the Atrium
- 6:45–7:30 p.m. RECEPTION in the Atrium for all guests
- 7:30–9 p.m. KEYNOTE LECTURE
- *Speaker Introduction:* **Yaakov Ariel**, Associate Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
 - *Lecturer:* **James Carroll**: "Jesus, 'the Jews,' and the Abuse of Memory: Get Back to Work"

Tuesday, April 12

- 9 a.m.–12 p.m. PANEL 4: FROM MAINSTREAM TO EXTREME: CONCEPTIONS OF JEWS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA
- *Chairs:* Travis Alexander, Alejandro Moreiras Vilarós and Joseph Block
 - *Panelist:* **Yaakov Ariel**, Department of Religious Studies, UNC: "Neither Antisemitism nor Philosemitism: Mainstream American Christian Attitudes Towards Judaism and Jews"
 - *Panelist:* **Jean-Yves Camus**, Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques: "The French Extreme-Right, Israel and the Jews: Is the Old Hatred Still Alive?"
 - *Panelist:* **Jeff Kaplan**, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh: "The Fusion of the Future: Terror Meets the Radical Right"
- 1:30–4 p.m. PANEL 5: ANTISEMITISM TODAY: ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH JOURNALISTS
- *Chair:* Karen Auerbach
 - *Panelist:* **Sam Freedman**, *New York Times*
 - *Panelist:* **Yair Rosenberg**, *Tablet Magazine*
 - *Panelist:* **Konstanty Gebert**, Columnist for *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Poland
- 4–4:30 p.m. FINAL REMARKS
- *Chair:* **Ruth von Bernuth**
 - *Panelist:* **Antony Polonsky**, Chief Historian of POLIN, Museum of History of Polish Jews
 - *Panelist:* **Jonathan Hess**, Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Distinguished Professor, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, UNC
 - *Panelist:* **Flora Cassen**, JMA and Sonja van der Horst Fellow in Jewish History and Culture, Department of History, UNC

FROM THE DIRECTOR *continued*

own campus community an opportunity to learn about the latest developments in scholarship on antisemitism and to start a communication, which will reach beyond the three packed days of the conference program.



Let me conclude with a special thank you to our donors for their support of the conference. Without their generous help we would not be able to provide the space and bring in this

group of experts. I would also like to thank all faculty members, graduate students, and the administration of the College of Arts and Sciences for their help with the conference planning. I hope that many of you will be able to attend the conference.

Ruth von Bernuth

Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

Associate Professor, Department
of Germanic and Slavic
Languages and Literatures

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Kevin Guskiewicz
Dean, College of Arts
and Sciences

*I recognize the Center's
importance as a place for
students, faculty and the
greater community to explore
Jewish history, culture,
identity and thought.*

CONFERENCE DONORS AND COSPONSORS

The Antisemitism Conference is made possible by private support. The Center is grateful for the following **generous donors** and their shared commitment to the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies* If you'd like to learn more about making a gift to support this important conference, please contact the Arts and Sciences Foundation at (919) 962-0108. Or, use the enclosed gift envelope and simply note "Antisemitism Conference" on your check.

Peter '80 and Heather '80 Boneparth
Jonathan '88 and Edith Fassberg
Alan '60, '65 and Gail Fields
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Marion Meyer-Robboy and Stanley Robboy
Heather Rodin
Adele and David Roth
Eric '80 and Lori Sklut
Ugo Te Goetzl
L. Heath '77 and Jane Tuttle
Susan '79 and Robert Wittenstein
Lori Wittlin '95 and Bradley Lewis

The Center is also grateful for a **challenge grant** from The Leon Levine Foundation, which will provide a \$10,000 grant once we've raised \$53,000 from other donors. With your help, we can reach this goal!

The Center also appreciates our **co-sponsors** for the conference, who are lending assistance with planning, outreach, and/or financial support*:

UNC College of Arts and Sciences
UNC School of Media and Journalism
UNC Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies
UNC Center for Slavic, East Euro and Eurasian Studies
UNC Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures
UNC Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations
Duke Center for Jewish Studies

*These lead gifts were received before December 10, 2015. Likewise, the list of co-sponsors was compiled on December 10, 2015. For updated lists of donors and co-sponsors, please visit jewishstudies.unc.edu.

Message From the Dean

Dear Friends,

I'd like to introduce myself to you as the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. It is an honor and a privilege to assume this position and follow in the footsteps of my mentor, Karen Gil.

I am no stranger to Carolina, having been a member of the College faculty for more than 20 years as a neuroscientist specializing in concussion research in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science. I served on Dean Gil's leadership team as senior associate dean for natural sciences for two years before being appointed her successor on Jan. 1.

Although I am a scientist by training, I am a staunch advocate of the well-rounded education that studying the humanities and liberal arts provides to Carolina students. I've emphasized the value that comes from interdisciplinary efforts and of approaching "grand challenges" from multiple perspectives. The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies—with faculty in departments ranging

from religious studies to English and comparative literature, to history, to music and more—is interdisciplinary by definition. I think this is one way Carolina can distinguish itself in the future.

Since its creation just over a decade ago, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has grown immensely, and I recognize its importance as a place for students, faculty and the greater community to explore Jewish history, culture, identity and thought.

The upcoming conference, *Reconsidering Antisemitism: Past and Present*, is an example of how the center has come into its own as a national convener of thought leaders and a showcase for important research and new voices. I look forward to participating in the event, and I hope to see you there as well.

On behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences, I want to express my gratitude for your support of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. It would not be where it is today without you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 27 A Historian in the Ghetto

FEB. 1 How Tevye Learned to Fiddle

FEB. 15 Excavations of Huqoq in
Israel's Galilee

MAR. 7 Family Papers: A Sephardi
Journey

APR. 9 Uhlman Family Seminar

The UNC Program for the Humanities will hold the annual Uhlman Family Seminar for the general public and K-12 educators on "Facing Antisemitism Through the Ages." The seminar will feature speakers from the antisemitism conference and will study antisemitic material from the medieval period to the contemporary world. In early 2016, details for the Uhlman Seminar will be posted at jewishstudies.unc.edu. Pre-registration required.

*For event details or to sign up to
receive email updates on our events,
please visit: jewishstudies.unc.edu*

*Conference at
UNC Chapel Hill
to explore the
dark past and
concerning
present of
antisemitism*

This April, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies is hosting a three-day international conference titled, "Reconsidering Antisemitism: Past and Present," a topic which is unfortunately timely in the U.S. and around the world. This conference will address the modern day, worldwide issue of antisemitism while also providing a historical and academic evaluation of what antisemitism is and was. "Reconsidering Antisemitism" will bring together a diverse group of scholars of antisemitism for in-depth discussions with students, educators, members of the media, and the community at large. The conference will offer two public keynote evening lectures, a series of five



RECONSIDERING ANTISEMITISM PAST AND PRESENT

APRIL 10-12, 2016 • UNC-CHAPEL HILL
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panel discussions, and a research poster session with UNC students. More information about the conference can be found inside this newsletter and on our web site: jewishstudies.unc.edu.

The conference is free and open to the public. Due to limited seating, advanced, online registration is required for the five panel sessions. We plan to open registration in late January at jewishstudies.unc.edu. No registration is required for the opening and keynote lectures, however seating is not reserved and is available on a first come basis. An overflow room may be provided for these two larger lectures. All events will be held at the UNC William and Ida Friday Conference Center.

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