

CAROLINA CENTER for JEWISH STUDIES

Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
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Spring 2017

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Please see the spring 2017 schedule of events inside this newsletter. 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.

STUDENT PROFILE / *Averyl Edwards, '17*

"*Tikkun olam* (repairing the world) has always been a guiding principle for me," says Averyl "Avivi" Edwards, '17. "It's important to talk about inequality not just because we are Jews and we know what it's like, but also because we're commanded to take action to improve the lives of those around us."

Edwards is currently wrapping up her double major in Religious Studies/Jewish Studies and Women's and Gender Studies and she sees her majors as two sides of the same coin—as part of her unwavering determination to fight injustice in the world.

Enrolling in a Modern Hebrew course for the language requirement paved the way for her to take her first Jewish Studies content class the following semester—"Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism," taught by Professor Andrea Cooper—and this course in turn led her to the two majors.

"I know it sounds cliché," Edwards admits, "but I didn't choose Gender Studies and Jewish Studies—they chose me. In no other fields have I been so intellectually stimulated, or found my passions overflow from the classroom and permeate every other aspect of my life. These are

the only topics I could read about forever and never get bored."

Her passion for these topics has culminated in her senior honors thesis project that explores modern scholarship on Genesis 1:27, "male and female created He them."

Edwards is putting her academic interests into action around campus. She holds leadership positions at UNC Hillel, including serving on the Hillel Student Board and as director of the a cappella group, Sababa, while also spearheading numerous events on gender equality. This year,



Edwards is also serving as the undergraduate student representative on the Center's Advisory Board and is working on behalf of the Center as an intern. Her responsibilities focus on helping promote the Jewish Studies academic programs, course offerings and extracurricular events by creating outreach materials and holding face-to-face meetings with students to generate awareness and interest.

"The internship is providing unique opportunities for me to use what I've learned in the classroom," said Edwards. "For example, one day I was visiting a higher level Modern Hebrew class to promote Jewish Studies course offerings, and Professor Shemer asked me at the last minute to give my spiel in Hebrew! It was perhaps a little choppy but I definitely got my message across and I think the other students appreciated it."

As the wick of her career at Carolina burns ever shorter, Edwards is hopeful for the future as she navigates entrance into the work force and eventually graduate school. But first, shortly following graduation in May, she plans on returning to Israel to participate in the excavation at Huqoq.

CAROLINA CENTER for JEWISH STUDIES

JEWISH FOOD IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The campus community and general public are invited to participate in the Jewish Food in the Global South symposium, which will explore historical trends and current practices surrounding Jewish food and its evolving expressions. This symposium will feature dynamic

FOOD for ALL
LOCAL & GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

presentations by Jewish foodways and cultural scholars, culinary critics, and James Beard award-winning chefs. Distinctively, this two-day symposium brings together hands-on cooking demonstrations and food tastings, film screenings and scholarly conversations. This event is made possible by private support from Jimmy and Susan Pittleman and is presented by the Center, department of American Studies, Center for Global Initiatives / Global Research Institute, College of Arts and Sciences, Center for the Study of the American South, and the FOOD FOR ALL pan-university academic theme.

Pre-registration is required; some events have a small fee. Event and registration details can be found online at: jewishstudies.unc.edu.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

- 11 a.m. / Southern Season **Jewish Foods Cooking Class** with author/journalist Joan Nathan
- 4 p.m. / Varsity Theater **Jewish Food Film Festival** "Streit's: Matzo and the American Dream" and "Deli-Man"

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

- 9:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. / UNC FedEx Global Education Center **Symposium** with four panel sessions and **Keynote Lecture**

Spring 2017 News from the center

Jewish History through Music



Murry Sidlin, conductor

This semester, you're invited to join us as the Center and the UNC campus host performers and speakers who will reflect on Jewish history and culture in very powerful ways.

In January, in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Center welcomes singer-songwriter Psoy Korolenko and historian Anna Shternshis, who will give a lecture/concert featuring Yiddish songs of the World War II era. These previously unknown Yiddish songs were confiscated and hidden by the Soviet government in 1949, and have only recently come to light. The event, at 7 p.m. on January 30, is free and open to the public, no tickets or reservations required.

Two weeks later, Jeffrey Shandler will give a community lecture showcasing videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors who share their personal stories through a song or poem in the Yiddish language. This event is February 13 at 7 p.m. and it also is free and open to the public. Also in February is a film screening for the *Defiant*

Requiem program at UNC. This feature-length documentary film highlights intellectual and artistic courage in the Theresienstadt (Terezin) Concentration Camp during World War II. The

screening begins at 7:30 p.m. on February 23 at Hill Hall.

In March and April, the Center is co-sponsoring the Music Department's three-day academic conference, "Performing Commemoration: Musical Reenactment and the Politics of Trauma," in which international scholars will gather in Chapel Hill to discuss musical commemoration as a performed mode of remembrance. The conference will include presentations on several Jewish studies topics as well as global

contexts from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, and North and South America. In addition to academic panels and a keynote lecture by Vanessa Agnew, there will be two concerts featuring musical responses to the Holocaust and other traumatic events in modern history. Friday, March 31 will feature a performance of Viktor Ullmann's *The Love and Death of Cornet Christoph*

[Continued on next page]



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CAROLINA'S
**HUMAN
HEART**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK *Carolina's Human Heart*

"Zog nit keyn mol az du geyst dem letstn veg" (Never say that you are going on your final road) is one of the best-known Partisan songs. Written by Hirsh Glik in the Vilna ghetto in 1943, it became widely known in the ghetto, among Partisans and in the camps. Nowadays, the song is included in many observances around the world to commemorate the Holocaust. There are, however, many more important songs and pieces of music and thus the Center's spring events will focus on the topic of music and the Holocaust. It will include the performance of newly discovered Yiddish songs

from Kiev archives as well as the premiere of a piece composed by Stefan Litwin. The Center will also co-sponsor a conference on "Performing Commemoration: Musical Reenactment and the Politics of Trauma," and, at the end of the semester, the "Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin" will be

performed at Memorial Hall. Hundreds of students and faculty across campus are currently involved in preparing for the events, and these activities demonstrate how the study of music became a welcomed expansion of Jewish studies at UNC and the Center.

The performance of the *Defiant Requiem* is also part of the new series for the humanities—"Carolina's Human Heart"—launched by the College of Arts and Sciences for the academic year 2016–17. This series will also feature our symposium on Jewish food in the global South. The symposium will highlight the manifold traditions which helped to form Jewish cuisine of the past and of today and it is made possible with the generous support of Jimmy and Susan Pittleman.

Looking at these and our other events, the spring semester promises to be a "full plate" and, as always, I thank you for your support which makes it possible for us to "bring this to the table."

Jewish History Through Music, Continued from page 1

Rilke, his final composition as a prisoner at Theresienstadt; on Sunday, April 2 will be a concert featuring the works of UNC composers Stefan Litwin and Allen Anderson. The detailed schedule for the academic symposium on March 31–April 2 will be posted online in early 2017. The entire conference will be free and open to the public, no tickets or reservations required.

The culminating artistic event is April 20th, when the UNC campus will host the signature concert of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin*, which tells the story of the courageous Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezin) during World War II who performed Verdi's *Requiem* while experiencing the depths of human degradation. With only a single smuggled score, they performed the celebrated oratorio sixteen times. Conductor Rafael Schächter told the choir, "We will sing to the Nazis what we cannot say to them." The concert features the UNC Symphony, Carolina Choir, Chamber Singers and the Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, soloists, actors, and guest conductor Murry Sidlin. *The Defiant Requiem* at UNC is the product of significant interdepartmental collaboration, involving faculty members in the department of Music, the

department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. The performance will be held at Memorial Hall and the cost is \$10 general admission, \$5 for students and UNC faculty/staff. Tickets for the April 20 performance will be available in early 2017 and information will be posted on jewishstudies.unc.edu.

Additional information on all our spring 2017 events can be found inside this newsletter and online: jewishstudies.unc.edu.



CAROLINA
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EVENTS
Spring 2017

[COMMUNITY LECTURE]

Last Yiddish Heroes: Lost and Found Songs of Soviet Jews During World War II

January 30, 7:00 p.m. / Gerrard Hall

Holocaust Remembrance Day event: Singer-songwriter **PSOY KOROLENKO** and historian **ANNA SHTERNSHIS** (University of Toronto) bring to life "lost" Yiddish songs of the World War II in this all-new concert and lecture program. These previously unknown Yiddish songs were confiscated and hidden by the Soviet government in 1949, and have only recently come to light. The lecture/concert features the performance and incredible stories behind these treasures. Photo: D. Rosenberg.



[COMMUNITY LECTURE]

"And Now I Have Read in Jewish Something": Yiddish Performances by Holocaust Survivors

Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies

February 13, 7:00 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education



JEFFREY SHANDLER (Rutgers University), will explore the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive—the largest collection of videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors—which includes hundreds of interviews conducted entirely or partially in Yiddish. In dozens of these videos, survivors sing a song or recite a poem in the language, in the course of recounting their life histories. These recitals of poetry and song reveal survivors' commitment to demonstrating the creative power of Yiddish in the midst of recalling widespread destruction.

Film Screening: *The Defiant Requiem*

February 23, 7:30 p.m. / Hill Hall

This feature-length documentary film highlights the most dramatic example of intellectual and artistic courage in the Theresienstadt (Terezin) Concentration Camp during World War II: the remarkable story of Rafael Schächter, a brilliant, young Czech conductor who was arrested and sent to Terezin in 1941.

Jewish Food in the Global South: A Symposium*

Supported by Jimmy and Susan Pittleman

March 4 and 5 / Various locations

This two-day symposium will explore the historical trends and current cultural practices surrounding "Jewish" food in and of the American South and includes a cooking class at Southern Season, a Jewish food film festival at the Varsity Theater and a symposium with four panel discussions and a keynote lecture. The symposium is presented by UNC's Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, department of American Studies, Center for Global Initiatives / Global Research Institute, College of Arts and Sciences, Center for the Study of the American South, and the FOOD FOR ALL pan-university academic theme. Pre-registration is required for the cooking class and the symposium on Sunday. Visit jewishstudies.unc.edu for details.



To receive email updates about our event schedule, please subscribe to our listserve by emailing us at jewishstudies@unc.edu. Updates are also posted on our web site at jewishstudies.unc.edu and our social media sites.

The Center is dependent on private gifts to support its academic and community programs. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift. To learn more about our programs, and how you can become involved, please visit: jewishstudies.unc.edu.

*Some workshops, concerts and conferences may require advance registration and/or tickets. Please visit our web site for more information. Otherwise, the academic and community lectures are free and open to the public, no tickets or reservations are required, and seating is not reserved.

[ACADEMIC LECTURE]

Consuming Temples: German Jews and Consumer Culture on Both Sides of the Atlantic

Kaplan-Brauer Lecture on the Contribution of Judaism to Civilization

March 20, 5:30 p.m. / Dey Hall, Toy Lounge



PAUL LERNER (University of Southern California) will discuss the intertwined histories of German Jews and consumer culture, focusing on department stores in pre-Nazi Germany and advertising, malls, and amusement parks in post-war America, showing how Jewish immigrants from Germany and Austria shaped American consumer culture in the 20th century. Concentrating on several key figures, this lecture will follow the paths of architects, designers, and publicists who helped create modern American urban and commercial culture.

Performing Commemoration: Musical Reenactment and the Politics of Trauma

March 31–April 2 / Location TBA

Hosted by the UNC department of Music, this is a three-day conference will include presentations on several Jewish studies topics as well as global contexts from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, and North and South America. In addition to academic panels and a keynote lecture, there will be two concerts: March 31 will feature a performance of Viktor Ullmann's *The Love and Death of Cornet Christoph Rilke*, his final composition as a prisoner at Theresienstadt and Sunday, April 2 will offer a concert featuring the works of UNC composers Stefan Litwin and Allen Anderson. The detailed schedule for the academic symposium on March 31–April 2 will be posted online in early 2017. The entire conference will be free and open to the public, no tickets or reservations required.

[COMMUNITY LECTURE]

On the Study of Jews of Color

April 17, 7:00 p.m. / William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education



LEWIS GORDON (University of Connecticut) will discuss how stories of the Jewish people are told in a way that ignores what Jews have been for most of their history: people of color. This talk will explore the circumstances that have led to such historical amnesia, and concludes with reflections on why it is important to recognize and celebrate the tapestry of Jewish diversity and the life-affirming possibilities it offers.

*Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin**

April 20, 7:30 p.m. / Memorial Hall

The UNC campus will host the signature concert of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin*, which tells the story of the courageous Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezin) during World War II who performed Verdi's *Requiem* while experiencing the depths of human degradation. The concert features the UNC Symphony, Carolina Choir, Chamber Singers and the Men's and Women's Glee Clubs, soloists, actors, and guest conductor Murry Sidlin. "The Defiant Requiem at UNC" is the product of interdepartmental collaboration by the department of Music, the department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. The series of events include the main performance of the *Defiant Requiem* as well as two additional concerts, academic lectures, classroom teaching, an academic symposium and a film screening. A full schedule of events will be available online; visit jewishstudies.unc.edu for more information. Tickets for the main performance on April 20 are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and UNC faculty/staff; ticket sale information will be available online in early 2017.

[UHLMAN FAMILY SEMINAR]

Jewish Song, Comedy, and Storytelling in the Old and New Worlds*

May 6, 9:15 a.m.–5:30 p.m. / Location TBA

The Uhlman Family Seminar will focus on Jewish culture as revealed through entertainment: music, film, folklore, humor, and the storytelling components present in all of these arts. Please check our web site for speakers/topics. This seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values and is made possible by the Uhlman Family Fund. Pre-registration is required.

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