

News from the center

CAROLINA CENTER *for* JEWISH STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL • SUMMER 2009 • CCJS.UNC.EDU

introduction to JEWISH STUDIES

Undergraduates pursuing a minor in Jewish Studies are now benefitting from a new core course, "Introduction to Jewish Studies," being offered this fall for the first time. Taught by Professor Jonathan Boyarin, the Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Thought in the Department of Religious Studies, the course begins with an overview of Biblical Israel, up to and including the Rabbinic period. Students will consider how these formative periods shaped patterns of Jewish learning, worship and daily practice that continue today, and the ways that they have been transformed and even abandoned. The second part of the course will explore various subfields of Jewish studies. As part of this component, core faculty from the Center for Jewish Studies will be invited to present guest lectures, with the dual purpose of familiarizing students with the resources of the minor in Jewish studies, and exemplifying the various specialties within the field.

The new course is part of a revised Jewish Studies minor available to students starting this fall. The minor requires the core course and four other courses from at least two different academic departments. For more information on the Jewish Studies minor, visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu.

New Faculty Member creates courses for carolina students

Carolina students will have several new courses to choose from this academic



year, led by the newest member of the Jewish Studies program, **Evyatar Marienberg**, the inaugural Sara and E.J. Evans Fellow in Jewish History and Culture. Marienberg, who joined UNC's

Department of Religious Studies, is a historian of religions with a particular focus on the study of the beliefs and practices of lay Jews and Christians from various periods.

This fall, he is teaching "Jewish Legal Literature" and "Introduction to Contemporary Catholicism" as well as an advanced independent study. In the spring, he'll teach "Introduction to Rabbinic Literature" and "Medieval Jewish Bible Interpretation."

Marienberg's main fields of interest are Rabbinics, Social History of Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe, and Contemporary Catholicism. Most recently, he was assistant professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at The Jewish Theological Seminary and also was a Starr Fellow at Harvard in spring 2008.

"I am thrilled to be here, to be someplace where I can pursue my interests in both Rabbinics and Contemporary Catholicism. All my previous positions required me to focus on one or the other," said Marienberg.

Born in Israel, Marienberg studied for several years at Yeshivat Ha-Kibbutz ha-Dati of Ein-Tzurim. Later, during a five-year stay in Paris, he studied Catholic theology at the Institut Catholique de Paris and religious studies at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes en Sorbonne. He was then appointed a visiting fellow at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University and then became an assistant professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University in Montreal. Before heading to the Jewish Theological Seminary, Marienberg spent four years at Paideia Institute in Stockholm and Tel Aviv University, as well as a year as a Carey postdoctoral fellow at the Erasmus Institute at the University of Notre Dame.

"I am happy to be at such a beautiful campus, with outstanding students and faculty colleagues. I hope to give students here some new learning opportunities and help this impressive program continue to grow," added Marienberg. "I am also very thankful to the donors for establishing this faculty chair and giving me the opportunity to come to Carolina."

The endowed chair is named in honor of E.J. Evans, '28, who was owner of the Evans United Department Stores and mayor of Durham for 12 years (1951-1963), and his wife, Sara, who was a leader in the Jewish community. Their son, Eli, is founding chair of the Center's Advisory Board.



Dr. Jonathan M. Hess

Director, Carolina Center for Jewish Studies

Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin
Distinguished Term Professor of Jewish
History and Culture

Professor, Department of Germanic
Languages and Literatures

jmhess@email.unc.edu
(919) 962-4866

from the director's desk

New Board Leadership to Help Guide the Center's Future

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has had an exciting last few months. In May, just after we finished moving into our new quarters in Coates Hall, on Franklin Street, Eli N. Evans, '58, the founding chair of the Center's advisory board, received an honorary degree at commencement. Seeing the "poet laureate" of the Jewish South honored in this fashion was inspiring for all of us. We're delighted that Eli will be continuing to serve on our board, supporting our new board chair, Hal Levinson, '78, and our new vice chair Eric Sklut, '80.

Our faculty continues to grow, and we're pleased to be able to introduce you to our new professor, Evyatar Marienberg, the first Sara and E.J. Evans Fellow in Jewish History and Culture. We now have 13 faculty members teaching Jewish Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and our course offerings are richer than ever before. This fall, Carolina undergraduates are taking lecture courses on ancient Judaism, the Hebrew Bible and the Holocaust as well as

seminars on Jewish-American women's history, Israeli culture and society, Jewish legal literature, and the Jewish experience in the American South. We've also created a new course, "Introduction to Jewish Studies," and we continue to offer a three-year sequence in Modern Hebrew and a two-year sequence in Biblical Hebrew to a diverse group of students.

Of course, the economic downturn has posed unique challenges for institutions of higher education throughout the U.S. Today, private support means more than ever. Throughout the last six years, private donations have enabled us to hire new faculty, increase our course offerings so that we reach more students and maintain a vibrant public events program. Gifts of all sizes make a tremendous difference in our ability to sustain the momentum we've developed over the last six years. Please consider renewing your support today, and please know how much we appreciate the generosity of our friends and alumni!



Guests of the *Inside Jewish Studies at Carolina* event, held last April, enjoyed presentations from faculty members and gained first-hand experience of what it's like to be a student at Carolina.

news briefs

ELI N. EVANS, '58, writer and philanthropist, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Commencement this May. A native of Durham, Evans is the author of several books including *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South* and *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner*. As part of the celebration, an exhibit of his papers was on display at Wilson Library this summer. Evans recently stepped down as chair of the Center's advisory board but will remain involved as Founding Chair. Hal Levinson, '78, was elected chair, and Eric Sklut, '80, was named vice chair, effective July 1.

STEVE WERLIN, doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies, led an online course on Early Judaism as part of the 2009 Summer Session. Students and instructor interacted in weekly



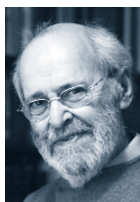
virtual discussions, supplemented with online presentations and textbook reading. Course topics ranged from the Dead Sea Scrolls, to religious practices, to early Jewish art.

2009–2010 Public Events

CAROLINA CENTER *for* JEWISH STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL • CCJS.UNC.EDU

community events



Sixty Years of Wrestling with the Dead Sea Scrolls

Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies

Monday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

GEZA VERMES, Emeritus Professor of Jewish Studies at Oxford University and a pioneer of Scrolls research, will discuss the Dead Sea Scrolls and evaluate their contribution to the study of ancient Judaism and early Christianity.



Ritual Murder in Norwich, 1144

The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies

Monday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

Seminar: 12:00 p.m., Coates Hall*

MIRI RUBIN, professor of Medieval History at Queen Mary, University of London, will explore the origins of ritual murder accusations against Jews in the Middle Ages.



The New Age of Kabbalah: The Revival of Jewish Mysticism in the Late 20th Century

Monday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

Seminar: 12:00 p.m., Coates Hall*

BOAZ HUSS, associate professor at Ben-Gurion University, will examine some of the major features of contemporary Kabbalah, and the context of the revival of Jewish Mysticism in today's culture.

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.



Film Screening: *The People v. Leo Frank*

Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South

Monday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

BEN LOETERMAN, writer and director, will screen his new film which recounts the 1913 legal case of a Jewish pencil factory manager in Atlanta who was convicted of murdering one of his employees.

the Uhlman family seminar

This two-day seminar is planned for Spring 2010. Please check our Web site for event topics, speakers, dates and registration fees. The seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values and is made possible by a grant from the Uhlman Family Fund.

academic lectures

'And we were together': Solomon's Window on Two Biblical Worldviews

Tuesday, September 1

Lecture: 5:00 p.m., Hyde Hall

DIANA LIPTON, Kings College, London

Jewishness and the Remaking of Ethnic Identities, 1975–2009

Kaplan-Brauer Lecture on the Contribution of Judaism to Civilization

Monday, October 19

Seminar: 12:00 p.m., Coates Hall*

Lecture: 5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

JONATHAN FREEDMAN, University of Michigan

My Histories: The Poetics and Politics of the Public Word

Monday, February 8

Seminar: 12:00 p.m., Coates Hall*

Lecture: 5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

AMMIEL ALCALAY, CUNY

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.

Book Launch: *The Unconverted Self*

Monday, February 22

12:00 p.m., Coates Hall*

JONATHAN BOYARIN, Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Thought, UNC Chapel Hill

Book Launch: *Remembering Survival*

Monday, March 1

12:00 p.m., Coates Hall*

CHRISTOPHER BROWNING, Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor of History, UNC Chapel Hill

Hebrew Printing and Jewish Knowledge in 18th Century Germany

Monday, March 22

Seminar: 12:00 p.m., Coates Hall*

Lecture: 5:30 p.m., Hyde Hall

DIRK SADOWSKI, Dubnow Institut, University of Leipzig, Germany

This lecture is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.



*Reservations are required for the lunchtime seminars and book discussions. Please call or email for details and to R.S.V.P.



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All lectures and seminars are free and open to the public, with the exception of the Uhlman Family Seminar. For event updates, please subscribe to our listserv by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu or visit our Web site at ccjs.unc.edu.

Web ccjs.unc.edu Phone (919) 962-1509 Email ccjs@unc.edu

Carolina Center for Jewish Studies
Coates Hall, Campus Box 3152
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3152

summer 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2009

Community Lectures

Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Geza Vermes: Sixty Years
of Wrestling with the Dead
Sea Scrolls

Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Miri Rubin: Ritual Murder
in Norwich, 1144

Academic Lectures

Sept. 1, 5:00 p.m.
Diana Lipton: 'And we
were together': Solomon's
Window on Two Biblical
Worldviews

Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m.
Jonathan Freedman:
Jewishness and the Remaking
of Ethnic Identities

Please visit our Web site at
ccjs.unc.edu for more event
information. If you'd like
to receive updates about
upcoming events, please join
our listserv by emailing us
at ccjs@unc.edu. In the email
message, please provide both
your email and mailing
addresses.

a closing word

Friends Make the Difference in Hard Times

Since the day my friend and colleague Chancellor Holden Thorp announced my appointment as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I have been both excited and humbled. I am enthralled by the extraordinary academic work taking place across the College's 45 departments and curricula. Our faculty's commitment to excellent teaching and scholarship is unsurpassed and our students are as curious and passionate as ever.



At the same time, I am mindful of the difficulties all of us face in the current economic climate. State budget cuts and declines in endowment values present challenges unlike any the University has experienced since Frank Porter Graham walked our storied campus.

Fortunately, the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has vital private funding. In the previous fiscal year, more than 390 donors made gifts totaling over \$630,000 to support amazing academic opportunities and public programs. Moreover, in a year when the College had to suspend 30 faculty searches, we also successfully recruited

Professor Evyatar Marienberg, a distinguished scholar of the rabbinical tradition. This would not have been possible without the Sara and E.J. Evans Distinguished Professorship of Jewish History and Culture, an endowment created through a generous gift from the Arie & Ida Crown Memorial in Chicago. Professor Marienberg arrived on campus this summer and joined 12 other faculty affiliated with the Center.

Private support from alumni and friends like you makes all the difference for the Center, especially in these hard times. Gifts at all levels will ensure the Center's continued excellence. My colleagues and I remain grateful to you for your support.

If you have not yet made a gift this year, I invite you to do so, using the enclosed envelope or visiting us online at ccjs.unc.edu. If you have questions about the different ways of making a gift, please contact Margaret Costley at 919-843-0345.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Gil
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences