

# news from the center

CAROLINA CENTER *for* JEWISH STUDIES

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

## *committed donors* make public events

Through the years, events such as public lectures, concerts, film viewings, academic seminars, lunchtime discussions, and two-day workshops have enriched the student experience and enlightened and entertained the general public. The Center has hosted nearly 60 free, public events in its first six years, bringing an array of international experts to Chapel Hill.

"These events are funded entirely by private support," said Jonathan Hess, director. "We are fortunate to have so many wonderful friends who understand and value the importance of bringing prominent speakers, researchers and entertainers to our campus community."

The Center has four endowed, named lectureships:

- Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies;
- Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies;
- Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South; and
- Kaplan-Brauer Lecture on the Contribution of Judaism to Civilization.

A generous grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58 also provides important funding for the Center's public event programming.

In addition, the Uhlman Family Fund supports annual

two-day seminars that delve into special topics related to Jewish Studies.

The Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South continually draws record number of attendees each year. Funded by Alan and Gail Fields, the lectureship is named in honor of Gail's parents and honors their deep connection to the Jewish south.



*Eli N. Evans, founding chair of the Center's Advisory Board, talks with Geza Vermes at the reception that followed the lecture.*



*On September 14, about 400 students and community members attended the Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies given by Geza Vermes, who provided an overview of his 60 years of work on the Dead Sea Scrolls.*

"When the Center was established, I thought that it was not only important to offer the opportunity for the student body to be exposed to such a program but also for there to be outreach to the broader community through an offering of programs that would explore the role of the Jews through their history and culture," said Alan Fields. "The Irving and Sylvia Margolis lecture series on the Southern Jewish Experience was endowed in tribute to my in-laws, who through their values and ideals, were respected civic leaders in their Eastern North Carolina town while maintaining their identity as committed and practicing members of the Jewish community."

Recent Margolis lectures have included Eric Goldstein's discussion about Jewish Merchants and Former Slaves and Stephen Spector's lecture on Evangelical Christian Support of Israel.

This spring's Margolis Lecture will be a screening and discussion of Ben Loeterman's film, *The People v. Leo Frank* on Monday, April 19, 2010, 7:30 p.m. Loeterman, a writer and director, will show 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.

We hope to see you at an upcoming event. See the back cover for a brief list of our events and visit our Web site for more information: [ccjs.unc.edu](http://ccjs.unc.edu).

## *student profile*

Josh Thompson, '10



# Language requirement opens doors to unique experiences for medical school hopeful

## *news briefs*

### **DEVELOPMENT NEWS:**

Margaret Costley, associate director of capital gifts for The Arts and Sciences Foundation, is now the Center's primary development officer. She can be reached at (919) 843-0345 or [Margaret.Costley@unc.edu](mailto:Margaret.Costley@unc.edu).

**ADVISORY BOARD:** The Center welcomes several new members of the Advisory Board: Jonathan Fassberg '88, JoAnn Pizer-Fox, Toby Osofsky '03, Marion Robboy, and Peter W. Schneider '78, G'81.

**FACEBOOK:** The Center is now on Facebook. To become a fan, simply search "Carolina Center for Jewish Studies" or use the link found on our Web site: [ccjs.unc.edu](http://ccjs.unc.edu).



Upon entering Carolina three years ago, Josh Thompson had a big decision to make: what to do for the language requirement. He already knew Latin, but he wanted to learn something new.

"I thought Modern Hebrew would be the most interesting choice and decided to give it a try. I loved learning the language, the teacher was great, and I made lots of friends in the classes," said Thompson. So, he ended up making Modern Hebrew a minor. "From that, I became involved in other campus groups, audited another Jewish Studies course, and even traveled to Israel in 2008."

Now that the Modern Hebrew minor is completed, this semester he is enrolled in Biblical Hebrew. "I am really excited to start reading the Bible in its original language."

This year, Thompson joined the Center's advisory board as its student representative. "Jewish Studies is a huge part of my

undergraduate experience. I am thrilled to have an opportunity to give input and learn even more about the program."

Thompson, a Biology major with a second minor in Chemistry, worked during his undergraduate years as a Nursing Assistant at UNC Hospitals. He spent this past summer applying to medical schools in the southeast and plans to go into family medicine. "I want to really know my patients, not just see people for one or two visits as a specialist," Thompson explained.

"I chose to pursue Modern and Biblical Hebrew for personal reasons: to help with my travels to Israel and to allow me to read works in their original language. I've since learned that it's also a vibrant culture, giving me the opportunity to explore both history and current events. I would recommend Jewish Studies courses to any student. Just check it out, you'll be amazed."





**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

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## *from the director's desk*

# jewish studies is thriving thanks to donor support

In the current semester, undergraduate interest in Jewish Studies has surged to an all-time high. Ninety students are taking Jonathan Boyarin's "Introduction to Jewish Studies" class, the new gateway course for our Jewish Studies minor. Bennie Reynold's lecture course on the Hebrew Bible has 200 undergraduates enrolled; Jodi Magness is teaching Early Judaism to 290 students; and 150 are taking Christopher Browning's Holocaust course. And that's not all. More than 100 undergraduates are studying Biblical and Modern Hebrew, and scores of other students are taking intensive seminars on topics ranging from Jewish women in America to Israeli culture and society, Jewish legal literature, and the history of Jews in the American South.

We're also in the midst of two searches

for additional Jewish Studies faculty members, and our public events program is as vibrant as ever.

None of what we have accomplished in the past would have been possible without the generosity of our alumni and friends. As we move forward toward our goal of expanding our program to include a B.A. in Jewish Studies at Carolina, private support will mean more than ever, particularly given the challenges that institutions of higher education across the country are facing today.

Please know how much we appreciate your generosity, and let me encourage you to renew your investment in the future of Jewish Studies at Carolina today.

## *deadline looming!*

### **USE YOUR IRA TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE CENTER BEFORE DECEMBER 31**

There is still time to take advantage of the special income tax provision contained in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 that allows you to use your IRA to make charitable contributions (of any amount up to \$100,000) with no tax consequence to you. You must be 70 and ½ years old and the gift must be a direct distribution from your IRA to the approved charity. This provision only applies to IRAs and not to other types of retirement accounts, and the provision will expire on December 31, 2009. For more information on how to use this provision to make a gift to the Center, please contact: Margaret Costley at 919-843-0345 or [Margaret.Costley@unc.edu](mailto:Margaret.Costley@unc.edu).

## *in memoriam*

# Alan Heilig '53

Several donors have made the Center's public programming a reality – and without their dedication to bringing educational opportunities to the campus, an important part of the Center's mission would be impossible. One of these committed donors was Alan Heilig, '53, who, together with his sister, Debra Heilig Schwartz, established The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectures Fund to support an annual public lecture on some aspect of the historic or contemporary Jewish experience.

Alan passed away this fall, and our thoughts are with his family and friends.

At the time the gift was made, Alan said, "I have a real love for the university and always wanted to do something to promote understanding of Judaism and Jewish history. The opportunity to promote the university and Judaism at the same time was more than I could resist."

The brother and sister named the endowment

in honor of their parents, who were very active in the Kingston, N.C. community. Debra wanted her brother's name added to the lectureship title because of his involvement in the Jewish community and his love for Carolina.

Recent Heilig community events have included Zion Zohar's lecture focused on Mysticism, Magic and Rabin's Murder, Derek Penslar's presentation on Israel and the Diaspora and Shmuel Feiner's discussion of the Jewish Enlightenment.

The Center's November 16 lecture entitled *Ritual Murder in Norwich, 1144* by Miri Rubin will be this year's Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lecture in Jewish Studies. 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.

We hope to see many of you at this lecture as a tribute and thank you to Alan Heilig.

# 2009 honor roll of donors

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**THANK YOU!** The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences gratefully thanks the donors who have supported its students, faculty, and programs during the University's most recent fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The Center's Honor Roll recognizes donors who made gifts during this period to support its expendable or endowed funds and whose gifts qualify them for membership in the following giving societies:

- Cornerstone Society \$25,000 and above
- Chancellors' Circle \$10,000 and above
- Carolina Society \$5,000 to \$9,999
- 1793 Society \$2,000 to \$4,999
- Dean's Circle\* \$1,500 to \$1,999

Gifts made by young alumni qualify for the Dean's Circle when they meet the following criteria:

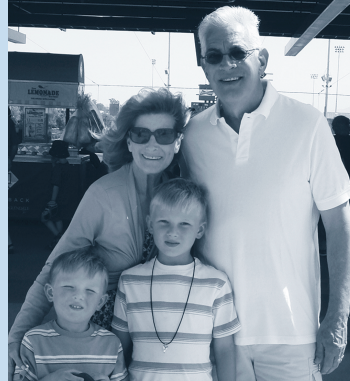
- Gifts of \$500 or more from those who graduated 6 to 10 years ago
- Gifts of \$250 or more from those who graduated within the past 5 years

The Honor Roll does not include pledge balances, bequests, or other planned gifts to the Center for Jewish Studies. This list has been prepared with great care to ensure its accuracy. To report a mistake, please contact Margaret Costley at (919) 843-0345 or [Margaret.Costley@unc.edu](mailto:Margaret.Costley@unc.edu).

Thank you, once again, for generously supporting the work of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

## donor profile

# sandra and stephen RICH '64



Sandra and Stephen Rich with their two grandsons, Jasper and Marcus.

### Traffic Light Changes Future for Couple, and Carolina

For alumnus Stephen Rich '64 and wife, Sandra, retiring to Chapel Hill was a long-term dream, an idea that blossomed before Stephen even graduated with his degree in Accounting. "We both fell in love with Chapel Hill and UNC and said we would retire here one day. None of our friends believed it would happen and as the years went by, we began to doubt it. Then, we came up for a football game in 2003 and the feeling returned. When waiting at a traffic light, we saw the perfect home! Had the traffic light not stopped us we might have missed it," said Sandra.

In the 30 years between their Chapel Hill days, Sandra taught elementary school and Stephen worked for The Coca-Cola Company. They both also worked on the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. The couple has one son, a daughter-in-law and two grandsons.

Retirement has not slowed down this couple one bit. Sandra serves on the Center's Advisory Board, as well as several other boards and committees, including the Tickled Pink Cancer Fund and Kidzu Children's Museum. Stephen chairs the Town of Chapel Hill Historic District Commission and serves on the boards for NC Hillel, Chapel Hill Museum, and North Carolina Botanical Garden. Both Sandra and Stephen serve on the Carolina Center for Public Service community advisory board and serve as chair and co-chair, respectively, for the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill.

The couple has supported the Center for many years with annual gifts, and has established an endowment supporting the Jewish Studies program and the Carolina libraries: the Stephen & Sandra

Graham Memorial. From eating at the Rat or the Dairy Bar, to browsing in Kemp's Record Store. But most notably, the memories of our first home together, on Shepard Lane."

**Maintaining Ties:** "After retiring here, we felt that we could meet lots of people if we got involved in the community and the university. We also love the weekday lectures at the Alumni Center, the concerts on campus and of course the sports and wonderful health care."

**Giving Back:** "The University has always put an emphasis on public service and we feel strongly that this is one of the key reasons it is so admired. Alumni across the state and nation give back to UNC in so many unique ways. As a student, Wilson Library was a place one could get happily lost inside, and Stephen spent many hours buried in the stacks. When we talked years later about giving to UNC, the library seemed like a perfect way for us to help the Center, so we set up a fund to support the growing number of programs in Jewish studies."

**Tomorrow's Carolina:** "The state of North Carolina has a Jewish population of well under one percent. It is inspiring to have Carolina teaching so many students, both Jews and non-Jews, about our religion, its history, its culture and many related areas of study. We note that changes are taking place, such as the lighting of a menorah on campus, and enjoy seeing this increased understanding continue to grow. We are glad to be a small part of it."

### Corporations, Foundations, and Trusts

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*winter 2009*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PUBLIC LECTURES

- Nov. 16:** "Ritual Murder in Norwich, 1144," Miri Rubin  
**Jan. 25:** "The New Age of Kabbalah," Boaz Huss  
**April 19:** "The People v. Leo Frank," Ben Loeterman

### ACADEMIC LECTURES

- Feb. 8:** "The Poetics and Politics of the Public Word," Ammiel Alcalay  
**March 22:** "Hebrew Printing and Jewish Knowledge in 18th Century Germany," Dirk Sadowski

### BOOK LAUNCHES

- Feb. 22:** *The Unconverted Self*, Jonathan Boyarin  
**March 1:** *Remembering Survival*, Christopher Browning

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23:** "Hasidic Modernity: Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Rebbe of Kotsk." Jonathan Boyarin will lead a four-part series exploring one of the leading Jewish theologians of the 20th century and his favorite Hasidic Rebbe. The seminars will be held at Coates Hall, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and are free and open to the public. Reservations are required.  
**March 4-5:** Uhlman Family Seminar: "Jewish Self-Making in the Modern World" featuring discussions led by several distinguished UNC faculty members. For event details, fees and registration information, visit our Web site.

Please visit our Web site at [ccjs.unc.edu](http://ccjs.unc.edu) for more event information.

If you'd like to receive updates about upcoming events, please join our list serve by emailing us at [ccjs@unc.edu](mailto:ccjs@unc.edu). In the email message, please provide both your email and mailing addresses.

## *a closing word* karen gil, Dean

As the new academic year gets underway, the Carolina campus is alive with renewed energy and passion for learning. This is evident across the interdisciplinary Jewish Studies curriculum, where leading scholars engage students in a range of courses on Jewish religion, history, culture, literature, and intellectual thought. The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has made remarkable progress over the last few years in promoting the curriculum, recruiting outstanding faculty and sponsoring exciting programs for the campus and the community. We are most fortunate to have friends committed to the success of the Center.



Despite the economic challenges, the College has increased Jewish Studies course offerings and faculty, thanks to private funds. We look forward to hiring an expert on the Hebrew Bible as well as an expert in medieval and early modern Jewish history, positions that are essential to the ultimate creation of a new major in Jewish Studies.

This curriculum will continue to grow and thrive with the support of our alumni and friends. I hope you will continue to be a part of the Center's success. If you have not made a gift this year, please consider doing so now, by using the enclosed envelope or by making your gift online at [ccjs.unc.edu](http://ccjs.unc.edu). If you would like to discuss different ways of making a gift, please contact Margaret Costley at 919-843-0345 or [margaret.costley@unc.edu](mailto:margaret.costley@unc.edu).

Sincerely,

Karen M. Gil  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences