

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT UNC ASHEVILLE

A vibrant Jewish academic and cultural voice!



Asheville's Jewish community has long supported the University, as illustrated by the six buildings and one track that bear the names of Jewish benefactors.

Pictured above, left to right: Louis Lipinsky, Coleman Zageir, Samuel Robinson, Morris Karpen, Sprinza Weizenblatt, Ernest Mills (all have buildings on campus bearing their names) and Karl Straus (the UNC Asheville track is named in his honor).

A Dream Come True

The Center for Jewish Studies (CJS) at UNC Asheville was created to serve both the university and the Asheville community. Drawing on the resources of both, its offerings bring the members of the university and the larger community together intellectually, artistically, and spiritually. The CJS works in four areas:

- (1) it hosts academic and cultural programming for the campus and community;
- (2) it coordinates course offerings that include Jewish studies content;
- (3) it supports the Jewish Life in Western North Carolina archive;
- (4) it provides support and advice for UNC Asheville Hillel.

"A unique creative force in the ongoing adventure of Jewish life."

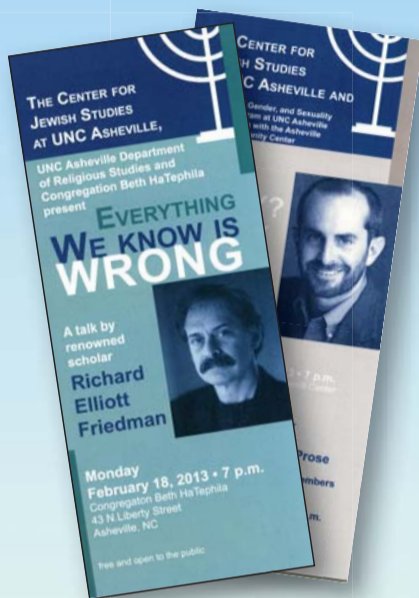
Earl Schrier, member of the Advisory Board of the Jewish Studies Center at UNC Asheville, 1983.

Hillel

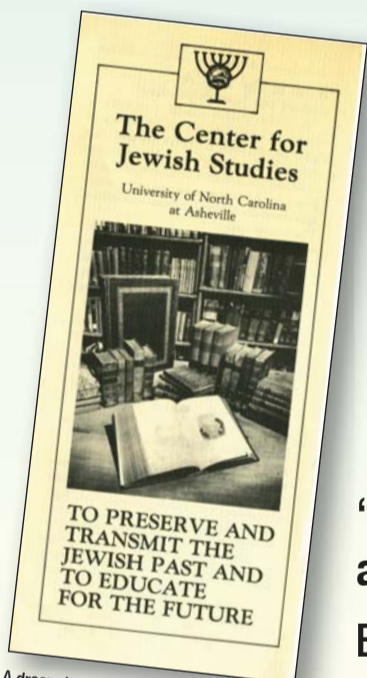
In addition to providing financial support and guidance to UNC Asheville Hillel interns, the CJS offers grants to UNC Asheville undergraduates to support original undergraduate research in topics having to do with Jewish history, culture and thought. The CJS also provides financial support for students working on the Jewish Life in Western North Carolina Collection.

BECOME A PART OF CJS

ATTEND Programs
REGISTER for a course
VIEW OR VISIT D. Hiden Ramsey Library Special Collections.



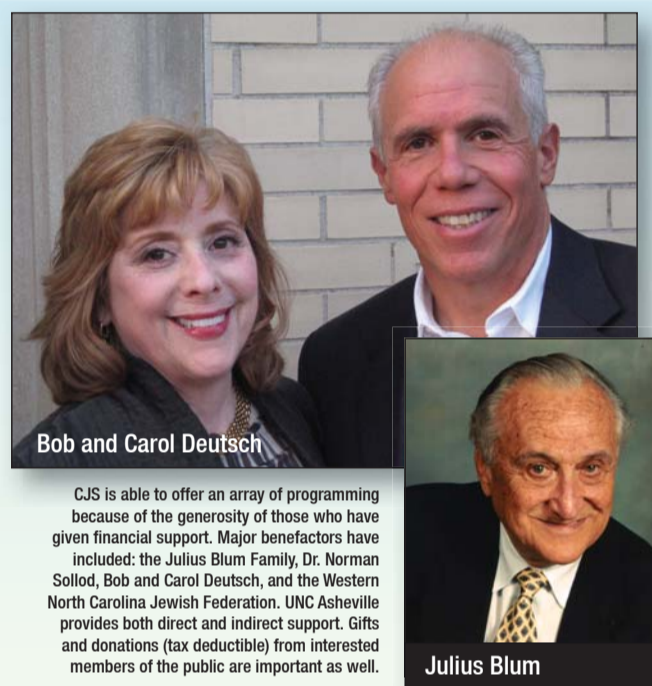
The CJS promotes ongoing formal and informal education in many areas of Jewish life present and past. Some of the most talented, influential Jewish scholars and artists have offered informative, provocative, and inspiring presentations on campus. Guest speakers often meet with students in classes and less formal settings. Speakers have included Amos Oz, Eli Evans, Eric and Carol Meyers, Danny Maseng, Richard Elliott Friedman and Aviva Cantor to name a few.



A dream became a reality on August 22, 1983, when the Board of Trustees of UNC Asheville voted to establish the Jewish Studies Center at UNC Asheville. Prior to this "dream come true," a very successful two-day seminar titled "The Holocaust: Teaching the Impossible" had been jointly sponsored by the University, and the Asheville Jewish Community Relations Council with some financial support from Federated Jewish Charities. Since that time, the CJS has sponsored other seminars. It also hosted the Southern Jewish Historical Society meeting in 2012. Currently, the CJS also coordinates academic course offerings in Jewish Studies.



CJS is a member of One Jewish Asheville, a unity among Jewish institutions and organizations and at the same time support the uniqueness of every Jewish person and organization in the Asheville area. Onejewishasheville.org



Bob and Carol Deutsch

CJS is able to offer an array of programming because of the generosity of those who have given financial support. Major benefactors have included: the Julius Blum Family, Dr. Norman Sollod, Bob and Carol Deutsch, and the Western North Carolina Jewish Federation. UNC Asheville provides both direct and indirect support. Gifts and donations (tax deductible) from interested members of the public are important as well.

Julius Blum



CJS has supported the development of rich, valuable archival materials on Jewish life in Western North Carolina—a resource that benefits both UNC Asheville undergraduates and scholars from far-flung places. Housed in Special Collections at the D. Hiden Ramsey Library, the archives are also accessible online through the library's website, http://toto.lib.unca.edu/collections/jewish_life_wnc.htm. The library is also the repository of a sizeable collection of books of Jewish interest. The interpretive panel above is part of The Family Store, A History of Jewish Businesses in Downtown Asheville From 1880-1990, an exhibit which can be found in the Jewish Life in Western North Carolina Collection.



Along with the Fine Arts Theater and the Asheville Art Museum, CJS founded the Asheville Jewish Film Festival, an annual festival featuring some of the best in contemporary Jewish films. Before the film festival was established in 2008, the CJS hosted many film screenings and directors' talks, including *Shalom Y'all, My Knees Were Jumping: Remembering the Kindertransports, From Swastika to Jim Crow*, and *Partisans of Vilna*.



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