


winter 2017 newsletter

An aerial photograph of the Rollins College campus in Winter Park, Florida. The image shows a large, light-colored building with a prominent steeple, surrounded by green lawns, trees, and winding paths. In the background, a body of water (Lake Wales) is visible under a clear blue sky.

JEWISH STUDIES at ROLLINS

December 14th, 2017

Dear friends of the Jewish Studies Program,

Returning to the classroom after last semester's leave to complete two books has been enjoyable and rewarding. I am delighted to share that my book, *The Body in Religion: Crosscultural Perspectives* was just published by Bloomsbury Academic. My second book, *Dharma and Halacha: Comparative Studies in Hindu and Jewish Philosophy and Religion* is scheduled for publication in spring, 2018. My research and writing of both books continued through last summer while I was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

This fall we welcomed to campus Emily Block as the Associate Director of Jewish Student Life at Rollins College. Her position was created with the support of Katrina Jenkins, Dean of Religious Life at Rollins and the Central Florida Hillel. We are delighted with Emily's leadership role and vision for Jewish life on campus (for excerpts of her conversation with Jacob Rodriguez 18' see inside newsletter).

We are also pleased to include in our newsletter Rachel Wasserman's statement on her semester abroad at Tel Aviv University. Her enthusiasm about her experiences in Israel, beginning with an Ulpan in August and concluding at the end of December is quite palpable. I am certain that once back on campus in January, she will be singing the praises of the amazing Rollins-Tel Aviv University semester abroad program to other students.



Looking forward to spring semester, we will be busy preparing for an Interfaith Dialogue which will take place in the evening of February 15th in the Galloway Room. This event is part of a larger initiative on campus to engage and prepare our students for leadership in social change. We will be working with students, faculty, and administrators across campus to generate interest in discussing questions and issues related to our religious identities in a pluralistic community. On March 7th, we will be hosting Professor Laura Levitt of Temple University for a talk on the current state of women in Judaism. As always, we are delighted to see you at our various events on campus, including our Shabbat dinners and holiday celebrations.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Hanukkah!

Yudit Kornberg Greenberg, PhD

George and Harriet Cornell Endowed Professor of Religion
Director, Jewish Studies Program
Director, Center for India & South Asia
Fulbright-Nerhu Scholar, 2015



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Service learning and internships in such local institutions as the Hebrew Day School, Sunday School, The Holocaust Education and Resource Center; The Jewish Community Center; Jewish Family service, and Kinneret, a Jewish home for the aged. Students seeking advice about this interdisciplinary program may contact Dr. Yudit K. Greenberg, Director.

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TR, 2 – 3:15 p.m. | T French

REL300 Religion & The Body
TR, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Y Greenberg

REL490 Senior Seminar in Religion
W, 4 – 6:30 p.m. | T French

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STUDENT REFLECTION: RACHEL WASSERMAN



My time at Tel Aviv University has been nothing short of amazing. This semester was my first time in Israel, and it definitely will not be the last. Everyone told me that I would fall in love with Israel, and they did not disappoint. I have eaten more hummus and falafel than ever in my life, and am currently enjoying the donuts at every bakery in Tel Aviv! After Ulpan in August, I spent many afternoons on the beach and in the sea. I have had the opportunity to travel to all ends of the country, spending my days in Jerusalem, Tiberius, Tzfat, Rosh Hanikra, Ein Geidi, Ein Bokek, and Eilat. I was fortunate to have my mom visit during the High Holy Days, where we attended services together at the Tel Aviv International Synagogue. Over Thanksgiving, my mom and sister visited, and I loved showing them around the city I call home. I have been able to study Judaism and understand what Judaism means to me. This semester has encouraged my spiritual growth through education and experience.

While I am still working on my Hebrew, I can hold basic conversations, order food, talk to cab drivers, and yell at busses to wait for me. I am amazed as I reflect on the little things that were a struggle when I first came to Israel in August, because they have become part of my daily routine.

Israel feels like home, and I am sad that in about a month, I will be on my way back to the United States. However, I know that it is not goodbye, but “להתראות”! I am so thankful for everyone who helped me get to where I am and encouraged me to study abroad in Tel Aviv, because this semester has changed my life for the better.

Rachel Wasserman '19

Jewish Studies, Philosophy, and Communication Studies

WELCOME EMILY BLOCK TO ROLLINS!

From Jacob Rodriguez' conversation with Emily Block, the Associate Director of Jewish Student Life at Rollins College. "My vision for Jewish life at Rollins is an open and welcoming pluralistic community where students have ownership over their Judaism, are integrated members of the local and global Jewish community and incorporate the values of Judaism into their lives. My strategy for Jewish life on campus is based on three E's: Engage, Educate, Empower." For me, there is no greater feeling than when a student connects with Judaism. I often think of Judaism as a chain that extends back thousands of years and we are all individual links. It is very humbling to work in a community where I can help connect these links, provide students with the opportunity to explore their identity and strengthen their connection to their heritage."



(Left) Dr. Greenberg and Emily Block attending Latkes on the Lawn event (during the Fall semester) • (Above) With Holly Mandelkern, poet and Holocaust educator, after her poetry reading from her recent book on the Rollins College campus. Thanks to Katrina Jenkins, Dean of Religious Life for organizing this event.

JEWISH STUDIES PLEDGE CARD

Name _____ Class _____

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_____ Full gift enclosed
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_____ My or
_____ My Spouse's employer will match all or
some of this gift.
_____ Completed form(s) __ enclosed __ will be sent.
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- _____ Please use by gift where it is most needed.
_____ Please designate my gift for:
_____ Student scholarship for study in Israel
_____ Academic program support
_____ Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence
_____ Faculty/Staff Collaborative Research
_____ Judaica Library Collection

Family & Friends Giving Circle

- **Friend** \$100 - 499
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- **Patron** \$1,000 - 4,999
- **Sponsor** \$5,000 - 9,999
- **Benefactor** \$10,000+

**I/We would like to join with a leadership gift
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