

Legacy Plan, Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program

The **Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program** serves College of Charleston students and others with an interest in Judaism through offerings emphasizing academics, student life, and community outreach, in order that they may gain a greater understanding of themselves and of their community.

Since the Program's founding in 1984, Jewish Studies has placed a premium on service to our student body – regardless of whether they are themselves Jewish or have enrolled in Jewish Studies courses – as well as the Charleston community at large. This unique umbrella model distinguishes the Program from other academic departments at the College of Charleston, as well as other Jewish Studies Programs nationally. Jewish Studies has created an inclusive communal space for any student or community member regardless of age, race, religion or background, with a non-denominational, low-barrier entry. Finally, Jewish Studies serves as a state- and region-wide hub for Jewish life, scholarship and history through our constituent organizations, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture, and the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library.

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program stands proudly on the Jewish values of **הַנּוּרָה – Jewish Education, יְהוּדִיּוּת - Identity, and קְהִלָּה – Community**. Our core values are impactful in unique ways to each of the Program's three constituent communities.

- College of Charleston **students enrolled in Jewish Studies academic courses** are often exposed to Jewish religion, history, culture and language for the first time via our various course offerings. This is particularly true given the majority of students in our courses are not themselves Jewish.
- A student's involvement in Hillel is the greatest predictor of future leadership in the Jewish community. **Participants within the Jewish Student Union/Hillel** are granted a safe space to develop their Jewish identities (or gain exposure to a Jewish setting if they are not Jewish), and to join a vibrant Jewish community centered on low-barrier social-, religious-, and community service-themed programming. JSU/Hillel events offer a Jewish space for anyone to come together, regardless of religious background.
- **Members of the Charleston Jewish community** – and the broader Lowcountry – of all ages who choose to participate in Jewish Studies' various community programs develop or expand upon an appreciation for Jewish content and education, and join a community of peers who they may otherwise not interact with. Events such as the annual *Chanukah in the Square* or *A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto* gather the entire Jewish community, and our non-Jewish neighbors in a public space, opening eyes and starting conversations related to what it means to be a part of our Jewish community.

Our students, JSU/Hillel participants, and community members recognize the value of bringing Charleston's various Jewish organizations together under one roof, with a resultant shared sense of pride in our own Jewish identities, and that of our community. **Our legacy donors are people just like you**, who recognize the importance of providing meaningful and enriching Jewish experiences under as big of a tent as possible.

By making a legacy gift, you will help ensure that Jewish Studies will be able to provide transformative Jewish experiences for generations of students and community members to come. **Please join us in ensuring that the future of our Jewish community is a bright one.**