October 10, 2011

President P. George Benson
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424

Dear President Benson,

I am applying for a sabbatical leave for the full 2012-13 academic year. I will be using the leave to work full time on my second book-length project, entitled “The Jewish Club: Europe’s First Jewish Parliamentary Faction.” (My first book, Diaspora Nationalism and Jewish Identity in Habsburg Galicia, appears this winter with Cambridge University Press.) This is a project that I have already started this year, with generous funding from the Leo Baeck Institute Career Development Fellowship as well as some summer support from the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. This year’s award includes funding for research trips to Vienna and Jerusalem, which I will undertake during the early summer. I plan to spend the sabbatical leave completing my research as well as a substantial draft of the manuscript. The Leo Baeck award is a two-year fellowship, which pays up to $20,000 per year. I intend to use the second year of funding as supplementary pay to enable me to afford this sabbatical.

I have also received the full support of Jewish Studies. In fact, the Jewish Studies program has been awarded a full-time replacement for 2012-13 by the Schusterman Foundation. A visiting scholar in Israel Studies will be teaching full time at the College, including courses in Israel Studies as well as other courses in Jewish Studies, during my proposed absence.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Shanes
Assistant Professor
Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program
96 Wentworth Street, Room 216
Charleston, SC 29424

Phone: 843.953.3929
Fax: 843.953.7624
E-mail: shanesj@cofc.edu
The Jewish Club: Europe's First Jewish Parliamentary Faction

In 1907, as a result of Austria's first parliamentary elections based on universal male suffrage, voters in Galicia - the largest of the Habsburg Empire's provinces - and Bukowina elected four Jewish nationalist delegates to the Reichsrat. As promised during the campaign, the four refused to join any of the existing national factions (known as "clubs") and instead constituted a "Jewish Club," Europe's first parliamentary faction in which Jews served qua Jews, as a party devoted to Jewish national interests. I propose during my sabbatical year to complete my research and produce a rough manuscript for a book-length project on this party, which will fill a critical lacuna in the existing scholarship. It is a natural continuation of my first book (Diaspora Nationalism and Jewish Identity in Habsburg Galicia), which is due to be published by Cambridge University Press this winter.

Although short lived - electoral chicanery cost the party all but one of its seats in the subsequent 1911 elections - this brief experiment anticipated a wide array of Jewish national parties in interwar Europe. The election forced Jewish nationalists for the first time to move beyond rhetoric and engage in practical political decision-making. It dramatically raised a variety of questions that had heretofore remained mostly theoretical. What was the meaning and future of Jewish national life in the Diaspora, which Zionism had traditionally regarded as a dead end? Which nationalist goals warranted expending the most political capital, and where was compromise possible? With which parties - and with which nations - should Jews ally themselves, and what does this suggest about the nature of interethnic relations and German-Jewish identity in a heterogeneous imperial context? And how should Jews maintain party unity, which proved difficult even in such a small faction as this? This research project will explore these questions with a detailed examination of the history and activity of this party, from its election in 1907 through its ousting four years later.

Despite its importance, scholarship on the Jewish Club is surprisingly threadbare. Scholars of both Habsburg and modern Jewish history frequently reference its existence. Yet not a single one has analyzed the history of this group in any depth whatsoever. For example, Adolf Gaisbauer's magisterial Davidstern und Doppeladler (Vienna, 1988), one of the most comprehensive works on Cisleithanian Zionism, barely discussed the Jewish Club, despite a large subsection on Diaspora nationalism. On the Habsburg Studies side, Harald Binder's comprehensive analysis of Galician delegates to the Viennese parliament, Galizien in Wien: Parteien, Wahlen, Fraktionen und Abgeordnete im Übergang zur Massenpolitik (Vienna, 2005), devotes just a handful of its 741 pages to the club.

I am in a unique position to fill this niche. My first book ends with the story of the election that brought the Jewish Club to parliament. I am intimately familiar with all of the key players and the context of nationalist politics both in Vienna and Galicia. I am likewise aware of the core materials in
German, Yiddish, Hebrew and Polish that are necessary for the project, starting with the minutes of all parliamentary sessions (available in the United States) as well as a number of key newspapers, many of which have been scanned and are available online. (This group includes the paper which virtually became the party organ, the *Jüdische Zeitung*.) The newspapers establish the context of their activities, but also served as the voice of the club members to their supporters, their opponents and to each other. In many ways, when read properly, they are more revealing sources than the constructed narratives presented in memoirs decades later.

This project has direct relevance to several fields. First and foremost, it will make a critical contribution to the history of Habsburg Jewry. What did it mean for a Jew to operate in German in the Viennese *Reichsrat* while representing Galician (and Bukowinan) Jews and defending Jewish national rights throughout the Empire? Equally, how did the club’s close working relationship with the Ukrainian delegates affect their political and cultural identity as Habsburg citizens?

Understanding the nature and types of modern Jewish identities across national boundaries currently occupies a central place in scholarly agendas. The experience of the club also speaks to the history of Jewish nationalism. Recent scholarship has increasingly emphasized the extent to which Jewish nationalists – even self-described “Zionists” – were far more interested in nationalizing (or ethnicizing) Jewish identity and securing Jewish national rights in the Diaspora than they were in establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. The Jewish Club is perhaps the most dramatic example of this phenomenon. Finally, its relevance is hardly limited to Jewish Studies. Study of the club will fill an important gap in Habsburg historiography while revisiting the larger question of how Jewish nationalism emerged and developed in its Central European context. It challenges the dominant Zionist narrative by demonstrating that Jewish nationalism was part and parcel of the rising nationalist movements in Europe. As such, it will be of broad interest in Jewish Studies, Habsburg Studies, and the history of nationalism. My final book-length work will include chapters on the biographical background of the major players, multiple chapters on their politics and activities during their parliamentary service, as well as an examination of the party’s collapse in 1911 and its legacy. (One member died in 1910, but the others remained key players in interwar Zionist politics.)

My initial funding this year is enabling me to position myself to take excellent advantage of sabbatical leave next year. Funding from the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, and most especially from the Leo Baeck Institute Career Development Fellowship, means that I will begin my sabbatical with a critical mass of research either completed or else photocopied, organized and ready for analysis. This award includes funding for research trips to Vienna and Jerusalem.
which I intend to undertake in the early summer. I expect to have a completed manuscript ready for submission to publishers by the end of my sabbatical leave.

Thank you.
JOSHUA SHANES

216 Jewish Studies Building, College of Charleston
96 Wentworth Street
Charleston, SC 29424
Phone: (843) 953-3929
Email: shanesj@cofc.edu

EDUCATION

1994-2002 University of Wisconsin, Madison

1993-4, 2000-2 Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Visiting graduate student

1989-93 University of Illinois, Urbana

TEACHING

2006-present College of Charleston, Charleston, SC
Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program

2003-2005 University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Visiting Professor, Department of History

2002-2007 Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL
Instructor

1999, 2005-6 University of Illinois, Urbana, IL
Visiting Professor, Department of History

COURSES TAUGHT

FYSM 142: Understanding Israel (Freshman Seminar)
FYSM 142: Jewish Spirituality (Freshman Seminar)
JWST 200: Introduction to Judaism (Introductory Survey)
JWST 210: Jewish History I: Origins to 1700 (Introductory Survey)
JWST 215: Jewish History II: 1700-present (Introductory Survey)
HIST 102: Modern Europe (Introductory Survey)
HONS 130: Western Civilization II (Honors College Seminar)
JWST 325: Jewish Mysticism (Advanced Research Seminar)
JWST 335: Modern Jewish Politics (Advanced Research Seminar)
JWST 306: Zionism (Advanced Reading Seminar)
East European Jewish Experience (Advanced Reading Seminar)
PUBLICATIONS

Books
- *The Jewish Club: Europe’s First Jewish Parliamentary Faction* (in preparation)

Journal Articles
- “An Unlikely Alliance: The 1907 Ukrainian-Jewish Electoral Coalition” (co-authored with Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern), *Nations and Nationalism* 15.3 (July, 2009): 483-505
- “Yiddish and Jewish Diaspora Nationalism,” *Monatshefte* 90, no.2 (Summer, 1998): 178-88

Chapters in books

Book Reviews


**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

• Leo Baeck Institute, Career Development Fellowship, 2011-2012
• Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Summer Institute Fellow, 2011
• School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs Faculty Research and Development Grant, 2009, 2010, 2011
• American Academy for Jewish Research, Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies, University of Michigan Frankel Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies, 2007
• Visiting Scholar, Northwestern University, 2003-4, 2005-6
• Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2004-5
• Fellow, International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry, 2004
• Martin Gruss Fellow, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2003
• National Foundation for Jewish Culture Doctoral Fellowship, 2001-2
• George L. Mosse Graduate Exchange Program, University of Wisconsin, 2000-2002
• Fulbright Fellowship for dissertation research in Vienna, Austria, 1999-2000
• Schrag Award for German-Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin, 1999
• American Academy for Jewish Research Graduate Seminar, 1999
• Jacob Javits Fellowship, 1994-8
• Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Yiddish language study, 1998
• Robert and Beverly Natelson Scholarship, University of Wisconsin, 1997
• Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship, 1993-4
• Phi Beta Kappa, 1993

**SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

• "Religious Zionist Options at the Fin-de-Siècle" to be presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 2011

• "Der Emes’r Yid: Orthodox Politics and Journalism in Fin-de-Siècle Galicia" presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles, December 2009

• Organized Panel, “Constructed Identities: Jewish Responses to Habsburg Multinationalism” for Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 2005


• “The Nationalization of Orthodoxy in Eastern Europe: The Case of Galicia” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2004

• “Laibel Taubes: Orthodox Populism and Jewish Nationalism before the First World War,” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2003


• “The Yiddish Populist Press in Galicia,” presented at “The Jewish Press – Research in Progress,” an international interdisciplinary conference hosted by German Studies at the Queen’s University of Belfast, May 2003


• “Neither German nor Pole: Jewish Nationalist Politics in Galicia before Herzl,” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York, April 2001

• “National Regeneration in the Ghetto: The Jewish *Turnbewegung* in Galicia,” presented at “Joining the Club: Jews, Sports and the Rites of Citizenship,” an international conference hosted by the Jewish Studies Program at Arizona State University, Phoenix, February 2001

• “Yiddish and Jewish Diaspora Nationalism,” presented at “Yiddish Studies: Celebrating a Millennium of Jewish Culture,” an international conference hosted by the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 1996
SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- "Zionism: Ancient Dream or Modern Revolution," to be presented at Ohio State University, March 7, 2012


- "The Case for Israel," Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 14, 2005

- "Zionism in Israel" Oakland Community College, Skokie, IL, May 5, 2005

- "The Nationalization of Jewish Identity: The Case of Galicia," Indiana University, Bloomington, March 11, 2004

- "Culture, Politics and Jewish Nationalism in Late Habsburg Galicia," Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA), University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 12, 2003

PROFESSIONAL


LANGUAGES: Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Polish (basic reading)
REFERENCES

1. Professor David Sorkin, University of Wisconsin. dsorkin@gmail.com
   4117 Mosse Humanities Building
   University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dept of History
   455 N. Park St.
   Madison, WI 53706

2. Professor Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern. yps@northwestern.edu
   Harris Hall #317
   1881 Sheridan Road
   Evanston, IL 60208

3. Professor Marsha Rozenblit, University of Maryland. mrozenbl@umd.edu
   0142 Holzapfel Hall
   University of Maryland
   College Park, Maryland 20742

4. Professor Alison Frank, Harvard University. afrank@fas.harvard.edu
   Center for European Studies
   Room 404
   27 Kirkland Street
   Cambridge, MA 02138