



# CSJL

Fall  
1998

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life

Newsletter • No. 2



Professor Yael Zerubavel

## From The Director's Desk

Two years ago, the Center for the Study of Jewish Life was established by Rutgers University. Inspired by the administration's vision, faculty interest, and community support, the university gave the new center a broad mandate: to develop an interdisciplinary academic program, foster research in Jewish Studies, and offer educational programs as part of its community outreach.

At the end of the first two years, the Center has successfully established the foundations for its future development. During the 1997-1998 academic year, 1,200 students were enrolled in Jewish Studies courses. The B.A. degree in Jewish Studies received final approval in Spring 1998, after a year-long review. Following its approval, the first group of undergraduate students declared Jewish Studies as their major or minor. New courses continue to be developed by faculty, and many departments and interdisciplinary programs have cross-listed their courses with Jewish Studies. Thirteen new courses were approved during 1996-1997. Courses offered for the first time this year include: "Talmud and Jewish Law," "Jewish Women and Spirituality," and "Blacks and Jews in America." We hope that 1998, the first year for the new major, will be a stimulating and challenging year for our students as well as a promising beginning for the new program.

This year the Jewish Studies faculty has grown with the appointment of Dr. Nancy Sinkoff as Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies. During the fall 1998 semester Professor Sinkoff will be a fellow at the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She will assume her

teaching responsibilities at Rutgers in Spring 1999. The Center also welcomes two visiting professors: Dr. Hanna Yablonka from Ben-Gurion University, who was awarded the Raoul Wallenberg Professorship in Human Rights from the History Department; and Dr. Gregg Stern, a postdoctoral fellow from Harvard University.

During the 1997-1998 academic year, the Center offered a number of programs for the academic community and the public. Two large international conferences, "Modern Orthodox Judaism: Visions and Challenges" and the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS), were organized and hosted by the Center. An important turning point for the Center's outreach mission took place in 1998 with the appointment of Karen Small as its Associate Director. Karen will further develop the Center's public programs.

Following a lengthy period of renovations the Center has moved back into its home at 12 College Avenue, in time for the new academic year. The newly renovated home will allow us to host seminars and meetings on location. As the Center's ten-million-dollar campaign reached beyond the halfway point, we wish to thank our campaign committee, co-chaired by Joan Bildner and Alvin Rockoff, who have generously given their time, energy, and support to the Center. In recognition of the Bildners' major founding gift and their continued involvement in the Center, it is now being officially named "The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life."

We look forward to 1998-1999 as a year of growth and development for the Center and the Jewish Studies Program at Rutgers.

*At the end of the first two years, the Center has successfully established the foundations for its future development.*

## ACADEMICS

### Jewish Studies Majors

Tahlia Abel, Douglass College, 2000; Erica M. Gross, Douglass College, 2000; Rachael D. Mallach, Rutgers College, 2000; Jodi H. Mednick, Rutgers College, 2000; Dara R. Papier, Rutgers College, 2000; Sarah A. Riggs, Rutgers College, 1999; Jill M. Sava, Rutgers College, 1999; Laura B. Simon, Rutgers College, 1999; Avinoam Slivko, Livingston College, 2001; Steven L. Springer, Rutgers College, 2000; Jill H. Tanzman, Rutgers College, 2000.

### Jewish Studies Minors

Ryan C. Feldman, Rutgers College, 1999; Rachel B. Goldman, Rutgers College, 1999; Jodi-Anne Kaspin, Rutgers College, 2000; Jonathan M. Light, Rutgers College, 2000; Bryan J. Loew, Rutgers College, 2001; Jesse N. Schaffzin, Rutgers College, 1999; Dinah M. Yaeger, Rutgers College, 2000.

# Jewish Studies Major Approved

The Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University has established a new broad-based interdisciplinary program in Jewish Studies. The major, which offers a comprehensive examination of all aspects of the Jewish experience, was formally approved at Rutgers University in February 1998 as the first Bachelor of Arts Degree in Jewish Studies in New Jersey. Students are required to select one of four areas of concentration: 1) Jewish History and Society; 2) Jewish Culture; 3) Religion and Thought; or 4) Israel Studies. In addition to the new Jewish Studies major, students may select to major at the Department of Hebraic Studies, which focuses on Hebrew language and literature. All Jewish Studies courses are cross-listed in other departments, including Comparative Literature, English, German, Hebraic Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Women's Studies.

In the 1997-1998 academic year 1,200 students enrolled in Jewish Studies courses. At the end of Spring 1998, eleven students declared their major as Jewish Studies, and seven students declared Jewish Studies as their minor.

### Honors Program in Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies majors who by the end of their junior year have achieved a 3.0 overall and a 3.4 average in their Jewish Studies courses and have completed the core courses and Jewish Studies seminar will qualify for the Jewish Studies Honors program. The honors program offers such students the opportunity to pursue a research project in depth for the entire senior year under the supervision of a faculty adviser. Approval of the honors project is required for admission to the honors program. Honor students enroll in the Jewish Studies honors courses, and upon the completion of their honors project pass an oral examination given by the Program.

### New Courses in Jewish Studies

**Talmud and Jewish Law:** This course examines selections of original materials from the Talmud, Codes, and responsa literature concerning several topics, including the law of torts, legal ethics, and criminal law. It focuses on the methods that rabbis used in the post-Talmudic period to broaden their jurisdiction to deal with practical social problems. For purposes of comparison, this course presents selections from American cases and secondary literature. Moreover, in those instances in which Jewish law differs substantially from American law, this course explores possible reasons for these differences and the implications for society.

**Studies in Literature and Spirituality: Jewish Women and Spirituality:** This course considers the images, roles, and creativity of women within Judaism, with special attention to issues of spirituality. Through study of Jewish tradition, it explores the relation of women to God, to prayer and liturgy, and to the quest for social justice. This course also examines the historical relationship between formal religion and daily life, change in the modern period, and the contribution of Jewish women to these areas.

### Special Topics Courses

**Holocaust Survivors in America and Israel:** This course examines the history of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Israel and America over the last fifty years. It looks at a demographic sketch of the survivor group, the attitudes of Americans and Israelis toward Holocaust survivors, the impact of survivors in shaping Holocaust memory, images of survivors in literature and the arts, and the issue of the "second generation." Students will have the opportunity to meet with Holocaust survivors and view taped testimonies.

**Blacks and Jews in America:** This course will introduce students to the historical literature on Blacks and Jews in American history. It will explore Africans and Jews in the slave trade, immigration and migration experiences, World War II and the Holocaust, the civil rights movement, as well as issues of racism and anti-Semitism.

# Faculty Updates: 1997-1998

Myron Aronoff's recent publications include *The Spy Novels of John le Carré: Balancing Ethics and Politics* (forthcoming); with Yael Aronoff, "Domestic Determinants of Israeli Foreign Policy: The Peace Process from the Declaration of Principles to the Oslo II Interim Agreement," edited by Robert O. Freedman, in *The Middle East and the Peace Process* (University of Florida Press, 1998); with Pierre Atlas, "The Peace Process and Competing Challenges to the Dominant Zionist Discourse," edited by Ilan Peleg, in *The Middle East Peace Process: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (SUNY Press, 1998). He chaired a session at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, July 26-August 1, 1998, at the College of William and Mary. In addition, Aronoff organized and moderated a panel sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies at the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Boston, September 2-6, 1998.

Matthew Baigell published *Jewish American Art and the Holocaust* (Rutgers University Press, 1997). He also wrote the following article that is in press, "Jewish American Art: Messianism and Identity," *Tikkun*. Professor Baigell presented a paper on "Themes in Jewish American Holocaust Art" at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting.

Omer Bartov's most recent publication is the Hebrew translation of *Hitler's Army: Soldiers, Nazis, and War in the Third Reich* (Tel Aviv: Dvir, 1998). Other recent articles include: "Defining Enemies, Making Victims: Germans, Jews, and the Holocaust," *The American Historical Review* 103/3 (June 1998): 771-816; "The Lessons of the Holocaust," *Dimensions* 12/1 (1998): 13-20; "Martyrs' Vengeance: Memory, Trauma, and Fear of War in France, 1918-1940," in *The French Defeat of 1940: Reassessments*, ed. Joel Blatt (Providence and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 1998), pp. 54-84; "The Proof of Ignominy: Vichy France's Past and Present," *Contemporary European History* 7/1 (1998): 107-131;

## Jewish Studies Courses, 1998-1999

### Fall Semester

Jewish Society and Culture I: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages  
Gregg Stern

Special Topics: The Bible and Its Interpretations from Ancient to Modern Times  
Anna Urowitz-Freudenstein

Classical Jewish Philosophy  
Seymour Feldman

Elementary Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy, Akiva Roth, Orly Moshenberg, Yemima Besner

Elementary Modern Yiddish  
Morris Moskowitz

Intermediate Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy, Yaron Siach-Bar

Intermediate Modern Yiddish  
Morris Moskowitz

Introduction to Hebrew Style and Literature  
Orly Moshenberg

Hebrew Tales and Poetry (in Hebrew)  
Curt Leviant

Modern Jewish Literature  
Curt Leviant

Holocaust Literature in Translation  
Curt Leviant

Hasidic Tales  
Moshe Moskowitz

History of the Holocaust  
Omer Bartov

History of Zionism  
Hanna Yablonka

Jewish Immigrant Experience  
Yael Zerubavel

Jewish Women and Spirituality  
Alicia Ostriker (English Dept.)/Phyllis Mack (History Dept.)

### Spring Semester

Jewish Society and Culture II  
Nancy Sinkoff

The Talmud and Jewish Law  
Steve Freidell

Elementary Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy, Orly Moshenberg

Israeli Politics  
Myron Aronoff

Elementary Modern Yiddish  
Morris Moskowitz

Intermediate Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy

Introduction to Hebrew Style and Literature  
Orly Moshenberg

Hebrew Tales and Poetry (in Hebrew)  
Curt Leviant

Jewish Cinema and Fiction  
Curt Leviant

Cycles of Jewish Life Through Literature  
Curt Leviant

Special Topics:  
Yiddish Literature in Translation  
Morris Moskowitz

Anglo-Jewish Poetry, 1830-1997  
Daniel Harris

The American Jewish Experience in Literature  
Leslie Fishbein

History of the Holocaust  
Jan Lambertz

Arab-Israeli Conflict  
Dina Le Gall

History of East European Jewry  
Nancy Sinkoff

Modern Jewish Philosophy  
Avi Bernstein-Nahar

Special Topics: The Dreyfus Affair  
Uri Eisenzweig

Special Topics: Holocaust Survivors in America and Israel  
Hanna Yablonka

Special Topics: Blacks and Jews in America  
Debra Schultz/Deborah White (History Dept.)

Special Topics: Kabbalah, Science, and Magic  
Gregg Stern

## FACULTY

## Faculty Updates from page 3

"Antisemitism, the Holocaust, and Reinterpretations of National Socialism," in *The Holocaust and History: The Known, the Unknown, the Disputed, and the Reexamined*, ed. M. Berenbaum and A. J. Peck (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1998), pp. 75-98; "Chambers of Horror: Holocaust Museums in Israel and the United States," *Israel Studies* 2/2 (Fall 1997): 66-87; "German Soldiers and the Holocaust: Historiography, Research, and Implications," in *Passing into History: Nazism and the Holocaust beyond Memory*, in Honor of Saul Friedlaender on His Sixty-Fifth Birthday, special issue of *History & Memory* 9/1-2 (Fall 1997): 162-188; "'Seit die Juden weg sind...': Germany, History, and Representations of Absence," in *A User's Guide to German Cultural Studies*, ed. S. Denham, I. Kacandes, J. Petropoulos (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1997), pp. 209-226; "Spielberg's Oskar: Hollywood Tries Evil," in *Spielberg's Holocaust: Critical Perspectives on Schindler's List*, ed. Y. Loshitzky (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1997), pp. 41-60; "Trauma and Absence: France and Germany, 1914-45," in *Time to Kill: The Soldier's Experience of War in the West 1939-1945*, ed. P. Addison and A. Calder (London: Pimlico Press, 1997), pp. 347-358; "A View from Below: Survival, Cohesion, and Brutality on the Eastern Front," in *From Peace to War: Germany, Soviet Russia, and the World, 1939-1941*, ed. B. Wegner (Providence and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 1997), pp. 325-340.

Professor Bartov also presented papers at the following conferences: German Studies Association 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., September 25-28, 1997; "Internationales Forschungszentrum kulturwissenschaften," Vienna, Austria, March 19-21, 1998; Cologne Conference: "Internationales Fernsehfest Koeln, Adolf Grimme Institut," June 15, 1998.

William Donahue published "Eigentlich bist du eine Frau. Du bestehst aus Sensationen: Misogyny as Cultural Critique," in Elias Canetti's *Die Blendung*, in *Deutsche Vierteljahresschrift fuer Geistesgeschichte und Literatur*, no. 4, December 1997. He served on a panel entitled "Jewish Culture in Germany Today" at the Northeast Modern Language Association annual conference, Baltimore, MD, April 1998. His paper topic was "Judaism as Living Faith in the Work of Barbara Honigmann." Professor Donahue is currently working on a Canetti manuscript with the working title *The End of Modernism: Elias Canetti's*

*Auto-da-Fe*, and has prepared two entries on Canetti for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of German Literature*.

Maurice Elias co-published *Emotionally Intelligent Parenting to Raise a Self-Disciplined, Responsible, and Socially Skilled Child* (New York: Harmony/Random House, December 1998); "It Takes a Kehilla to Make a Mensch: Building Jewish Identity as Part of Overall Identity," *Jewish Education News*, 19(2): 20-24; and *Promoting Social and Emotional Learning: Guidelines for Educators* (Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development). Professor Elias' research projects include: *Using Computer Technology to Promote Positive Competencies and Prevent Negative Outcomes in Young Children* and *Jewish Adolescent Identity Project*. He was also the recipient of the 1998 American Psychological Association Society for Community Research and Action award for Mentoring Ethnic Minority Students.

Seymour Feldman published "Philosophy in the Time of Crisis: A House Divided," in *Crisis and Creativity* (Columbia University Press, 1997); "Prophecy and Perception in Isaac Abravanel," in *Perspectives on Jewish Thought and Mysticism* (1998); and "Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise," which is the introduction to a new edition of *Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise*, 1998.

Leslie Fishbein presented a lecture entitled "The Tender Trap: Love, Sex, and the Quest for Jewish Identity in Literature and Film" at the History Department, Rice University, Houston, Texas, February 27, 1998. Her article "Anzia Yezierska: The Sweatshop Cinderella and the Invented Life" was published in *Studies in American Jewish Literature*, vol 17, 1998:137-141.

On November 4, 1998, Fishbein will present a discussion of the film *America and the Holocaust: Deceit and Indifference*, at the Monroe Township Public Library in New Jersey.

Ziva Galili spent the year in Israel researching Zionist movements active in the Soviet Union during the 1920s. She recently published the last volume in a four-volume documentary history entitled *Mensheviki v 1917 godu* (The Mensheviks in 1917) as the result of a collaborative Russian-American project, which she directed. She also co-organized an international colloquium on "Russia in the First World War" in St. Petersburg in June 1998. Professor Galili spent the past year in Israel doing initial research for a project on immigration from Russia to Palestine in the mid-1920s.

Judith Gerson participated in an interdisciplinary panel on theorizing identity at the annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychologists in Toronto, based on her research on German Jewish immigrants arriving in the U.S. between 1933 and 1945. She also presented a paper entitled "Jewish Identities/Jewish Consciousness: German Jewish Immigrants as Other" at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in August in San Francisco on a panel co-sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry.

Daniel Harris, Professor of English and founder of "JEWISH VOICES: 200 YEARS OF POETRY IN ENGLISH," has recently completed an article on the Anglo-Jewish poet, novelist, theologian, and historian Grace Aguilar, accepted for publication in *Victorian Literature and Culture*.

Phyllis Mack was a fellow during the 1997-1998 academic year at the Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, working on a book on religion and identity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. She also published articles on 18<sup>th</sup> century Quaker and Methodist women.

Morris Moskowitz participated and entertained at several Yiddish conferences, including roles as a Special Kibbitzer at the National Yiddish Book Center summer festival in Amherst, MA, and at the International Conference of Yiddish Clubs at UCLA. He also performed with the Klezcamp Klezmer Chorale in Petaluma, CA. Professor Moskowitz delivered a guest sermon at the Highland Park Conservative Temple on the theme: "Ver Hot Ayngeshlungn Koyrakh?"

Alicia Ostriker gave a keynote talk on "The Book of Ruth and the Love of the Land" at the annual conference on Religion, Literature and the Arts in Sydney, Australia, in May 1997. Her review of Norma Rosen's *Biblical Women Unbound* appeared in *Living Text* 3, Summer 1998, published by the Institute for Contemporary Midrash. Her poem sequence "Jephtah's Daughter: A Lament" will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Bridges*.

Barbara Reed published "Rosa Sonneschein and the American Jewess" in *Journalism History*. Professor Reed was honored by the Mass Communication and Society Division and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication at their annual national meeting "in recognition of

outstanding contributions to the division, AEJMC, and the field of mass communication."

Chaim I. Waxman edited *Jews in America: A Contemporary Reader with Roberta Rosenberg Farber*, (Brandeis University Press/University Press of New England, forthcoming Spring 1999). His other recent publications include "The Haredization of American Orthodox Jewry," *Jerusalem Letter/Viewpoints*, No. 376, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, 15 February 1998, and "American Aliyah: Religious, Cultural and Social Characteristics," (Hebrew) edited by Dvora Hachohen, in *Ingathering of Exiles: Aliyah to the Land of Israel, Myth and Reality* (Hebrew) (Jerusalem: Mercas Zalman Shazar, 1998).

Yael Zerubavel published "Travels in Time and Space: Legendary Literature as a Vehicle for Shaping Collective Memory" in *Te'oria u-Vikoret*, vol. 10 (Summer 1997): 69-80 (Hebrew); "Unsettling Present, Uncertain Future," in *Israel at 50, 1948-1998: A Symposium* (The American Jewish Committee, 1998) pp. 88-93; "A Window Onto a 'Vanished World': Sephardic Salvage Fiction and the Rhetoric of Commemoration," in *From Iberia to Diaspora: Studies in Sephardic History and Culture*, ed. by Yedida and Norman Stillman (Leiden: Brill, 1998) pp. 362-376; and "The National Hero as a Collective Monument: Tradition and the Politics of Commemoration," in *Heros Nationaux/National Heroes*, proceedings of a conference sponsored by La Mission du Patrimoine Ethnologique, Ministre de la Culture, Paris, France, 1998 (forthcoming). During 1997-1998 she presented papers in the following conferences: "Modernity and Population Management in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," Stanford University, 1997; "The Centenary of Political Zionism," sponsored by Harvard University, Brandeis University, and the Zalman Shazar Center, Jerusalem, 1997; World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, 1997; "Crisis Narrative in the Twentieth Century," Rutgers University, 1997; "Questions of Tradition," sponsored by the *Journal of the History of Ideas*, and Rutgers University, 1997; "National Identity of New States" sponsored by The Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies, Tel Aviv, 1998.

Professor Zerubavel serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for Jewish Studies and is the Vice President of the Association for Israel Studies. In 1997-1998 she also served as the Chair of the AIS Program Committee.

## FACULTY

### Jewish Studies Faculty

Myron Aronoff,  
Political Science

Omer Bartov, History

Michael Curtis,  
Political Science

William Donahue,  
German

Uri Eisenzweig, French &  
Comparative Literature

Maurice Elias,  
Psychology

Leslie Fishbein, American  
Studies

Ziva Galili, History

Judith Gerson, Sociology

Daniel A. Harris, English

Dina LeGall, History

Curt Leviant, Hebraic  
Studies

Phyllis Mack, History

Orly Moshenberg,  
Hebraic Studies

Morris Moskowitz,  
Hebraic Studies

Alicia Ostriker, English

Barbara Reed, Journalism

Nancy Sinkoff, History

Chaim I. Waxman,  
Sociology

Yael Zerubavel, History

# Faculty News

## FACULTY

### Retired

**Seymour Feldman**, Professor of Philosophy, has taught at Rutgers since 1963. He served as Chair of the Department of Philosophy from 1971-1981 and as Associate Dean for Humanities from 1985-1990. Although officially retired, he is teaching "Classical Jewish Philosophy" this fall.

**Ruth Birnbaum** has retired after teaching Hebrew language and literature at Rutgers University for six years.

### Moving On

**Moshe Sherman** has been appointed Associate Professor at the Touro Graduate School of Jewish Studies. In addition to his teaching responsibilities he will assume administrative responsibilities as the Associate Chair for Graduate Jewish Studies.

## New Appointment in Jewish Studies and History

**Nancy Sinkoff** has been appointed Assistant Professor in History at Rutgers University. Previously, Sinkoff has lectured on Jewish History at Rutgers University and at New York University as a Dorot Junior Fellow. She is a recent graduate of Columbia University, where she received a Ph.D. in Modern Jewish History. Sinkoff's most recent work is "Strategy and Ruse in the Haskalah of Mendel Lefin of Satanow (1749-1826)," *New Perspectives on the Haskalah*, edited by Shmuel Feiner and David Sorkin (forthcoming). In May, Dr. Sinkoff gave a paper on the language polemic in the East European Jewish Enlightenment at the conference "Ashkenaz: Theory and Nation," in Krakow, Poland, co-sponsored by the Ohio State University and the Jagiellonian University. Sinkoff was awarded a fellowship at the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania for Fall 1998 and will begin her teaching responsibilities at Rutgers in January 1998.

## Visiting Faculty for 1998-1999

**Hanna Yablonka** is currently the Raoul Wallenberg Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Rutgers University. She also lectures on Jewish History at Ben-Gurion University and is the chair of its new program in Israel Studies. Yablonka's most recent work, *Survivors of the Holocaust: Israel after the War*, published by Macmillan Press and New York University Press, will be out in English in Fall 1998. The Hebrew version was published by Yad Ben Zvi and Ben Gurion University Press 1994 and won the Ish Shalom book award in 1996. Yablonka is the scientific consultant for Yad Vashem's exhibit commemorating Israel's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The exhibit *The Holocaust Survivors in Israel* opens October 1, 1998, with an interna-

tional gathering of Holocaust survivors. Yablonka will teach "History of Zionism" and "Holocaust Survivors in America and Israel" while at Rutgers.

**Gregg Stern** recently received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. A past Fulbright Junior researcher and Ray D. Wolfe Fellow, Stern has lectured at Harvard, the University of Toronto, and the Hebrew University. Stern is currently working on a book-length manuscript entitled *Philosophy and Controversy in Medieval Southern France: A Jewish Struggle for Cultural Identity*. Having received a postdoctoral fellowship at Rutgers, Stern will teach two courses this year.

**Anna Urowitz-Freudenstein** is a recent graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she received a Ph.D. in Midrash. Her most recent publication is "Pseudepigraphic Support of Pseudepigraphical Sources: The Case of Pirke de Rabbi Eliezer," a chapter in *Tracing the Threads: Studies in the Vitality of Jewish Pseudepigrapha*, edited by John C. Reeves (Atlanta: Scholars Press), pp. 35-54. Urowitz-Freudenstein served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she taught graduate and undergraduate courses.

## Affiliated Faculty

**Steve Friedell**, Professor of Law at Rutgers University in Camden, specializes in Jewish Tort Law. He has written numerous articles on Jewish and Maritime Law. His publications include Volume I of *Benedict on Admiralty* on Jurisdiction, "Jewish Tort Law Remedies Not Based on Torah Law—An Approach Based on the Ran and Rivash," edited by D. Elazar & A. Enker (forthcoming) and "The 'Different Voice' in Jewish Law: Some Parallels to a Feminist Jurisprudence," 67 *Indiana L. J.* 915 (1992).

**Robert R. Steiglitz** is currently Associate Professor of Hebraic Studies at Rutgers Newark. Formally the curator of the National Maritime Museum in Haifa, he has been excavating at ancient harbor sites on the Mediterranean coast of Israel since 1982. Several Rutgers students have participated in the excavation at Tel Tanninim in Israel under his direction. Recent publications include *Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel* (1993) and "Ptolemy IX Soter II Lathyrus on Cyprus and the Coast of the Levant," in *Res Maritima: Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean from Prehistory to Late Antiquity*, edited by S. Swina et al. (1997).

## Faculty Profile

# Daniel A. Harris

There's far more to Jewish-American poetry than the familiar lines by Emma Lazarus that appear on the Statue of Liberty, says Daniel A. Harris, Professor of English, and faculty member in Rutgers' Jewish Studies Program.

"People think that Jewish-American poetry begins with Lazarus, but in fact it extends back to 1800," says Harris. And while many people assume that Jewish poets wrote primarily in Yiddish or Hebrew, there's a substantial body of poetry, much of it by women, written in English.

Through his program JEWISH VOICES: 200 YEARS OF POETRY IN ENGLISH, Harris is introducing this rich cultural heritage to a variety of Jewish audiences in synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, Hillels and other Jewish organizations. He also teaches courses on Jewish poetry through the English Department and the Jewish Studies program. Harris founded his educational outreach program to focus on the rich, scarcely known poetry of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by Jewish diaspora poets writing in English as their first language. The workshops concentrate on such topics as assimilation and tradition, familial relations, Holocaust poetry, the Victorian revival of midrash, and images of Palestine and Israel.

Harris tailors his workshops to the needs of each synagogue or organization. A typical workshop might highlight themes of immigration and prejudice as envisaged by Jewish poets, or Jewish women poets such as Penina Moise and Adrienne Rich.

Harris, who completed his undergraduate and Ph.D. degrees at Yale, has been teaching at Rutgers since 1979. He was awarded the Warren I. Susman Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1993, and chaired the Teaching Development Committee in the English Department for two years. Through the English Department and the Jewish Studies Program, he teaches "The Jewish Experience in Poetry" to both undergraduate and graduate students. Harris will offer a new course, "Anglo-Jewish Poetry, 1830-1998" in Spring 1999.

Harris' books—*Yeats: Coole Park and Ballylee* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974), *Inspirations Unbidden: The 'Terrible Sonnets' of Gerard Manley Hopkins* (University of California Press, 1982), and *Tennyson and Personification: The Rhetoric of "Titonus"* (University of Michigan Research Press, 1986) reflect his earlier interest in modernism and Victorianism. "As I fought my way through Christian typology," says Harris, "I came to realize that Hebrew texts belong to me as a Jew. This recognition resulted in a major shift in my research and teaching concerns during this last decade to Jewish poetry, from 1800 to the present," as in his forthcoming article on the Anglo-Jewish poet Grace Aguilar.

"JEWISH VOICES" is a natural extension of Harris' concern to enrich the lives of Jews by making them aware of the depth of Jewish heritage. His dedication to outreach fits in well

with the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life's vision of public education. His mini course, "Origins: The Beginnings of Jewish Poetry in English, 1830-1918" beginning November 30 at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple, New Brunswick (continuing December 7 and 14), is co-sponsored with the Center and Rutgers' Division of Continuing Education.

(Excerpted in part from *Rutgers Focus*)

## PROFILES



*"People think that Jewish-American poetry begins with Lazarus, but in fact it extends back to 1800," says Harris.*

## CONFERENCES & PROGRAMS

### Scholars Discuss Modern Orthodox Judaism

American society is widely perceived as a "postmodern," highly sophisticated, rational, and secular society. Yet, during the early 1990s, largely as the result of extreme religio-political developments abroad as well as in the United States, the phenomenon of religious fundamentalism was widely analyzed, and was often presented as a reaction and opposition to modernity (see, for example, many of the essays in *The Fundamentalism Project* series, edited by Martin Marty and R. Scott Appleby for the University of Chicago Press). Indeed, there emerged the understanding that modernity and postmodernity give rise to two parallel though antithetical phenomena, religious traditionalism and religious liberalism, and that these are the bases for a series of "culture wars" that are believed to be prevalent in American society.

Modern Orthodox Judaism has also received increasing public attention in recent years. Much of the public interest almost certainly derives from its being viewed by many as an enigma. The very term "Modern Orthodox" is taken to be an oxymoron, because the notions of modernity and orthodoxy are assumed to be antithetical. Yet there is an increasing presence of Orthodox Jews in the modern arena who appear comfortable with both their Orthodoxy and their modernity. The phenomenon has captured the attention of a growing number of scholars.

Accordingly, on two consecutive Sundays last fall, the Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University hosted a conference entitled "Modern Orthodox Judaism: Visions and Challenges." Three Rutgers faculty members served as the Planning Committee for the conference: Dr. Yael Zerubavel, Director of the Center; Dr. Moshe Sherman, who was a member of the Hebraic Studies faculty; and Dr. Chaim I. Waxman, Professor of Sociology. The conference brought together renowned scholars from the United States, Canada, and Israel, including historians, sociologists, educators, and professionals in law, medicine, and psychology, to analyze the emergence of Modern Orthodox Judaism and to address an array of topics facing Modern Orthodox Jews, as well as larger issues confronting the world Jewish community. Included among the vital topics of the program were: the history and development of Modern Orthodoxy in Europe, Israel, and the U.S.; challenges of Orthodox Jewish education; the influence of social structures on the development of Modern Orthodoxy; tensions between the leadership and community; generational issues confronting Modern Orthodox Jews; interdenominational Jewish relations, and tensions within various Orthodox groups; and social and religious issues pertaining to women.

The conference was widely attended by both the academic community and the lay public, and received considerable media coverage. A book based on ideas presented at the conference is currently in the works.

### Symposia and Lectures (1997-1998)

Symposium: "Politics, Law, and the Jewish Community in Greater Newark"

September 21, 1997  
Held at Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Campus in Whippany, NJ  
Co-sponsored with Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest, United Jewish Federation of MetroWest, and the Rutgers History Department

Symposium: "Crisis Narrative in the Twentieth Century"

October 20, 1997  
Co-sponsored with Comparative Literature and the Rutgers University Graduate Student Association  
Keynote Speaker: Hana Wirth-Nesher, Tel Aviv University

"Language, the Psychoanalytic Paradigm, and Jewish Experience, The Case of Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep* (1934)"

September 25, 1997  
Leslie Fishbein, Associate Professor of American Studies  
Co-sponsored with Hillel

"Israel and the Arab World"

November 12, 1997  
Daniel Kutner, Consul for Academic Affairs in the U.S., Consulate General of Israel  
Co-sponsored with RAZI (Rutgers Association for Zionism in Israel) and Hillel

"Ellis Island to Ebbets Field: Sport and the American Jewish Experience"

November 17, 1997  
Peter Levine, The Raoul Wallenberg

Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Rutgers and Professor of History, Director of American Studies, Michigan State University  
Co-sponsored with the Department of History

"Religious Pluralism in Israel: The Recent Controversy Over the Conversion Law"

February 23, 1998  
Charles Liebman, Yehuda Avner  
Professor of Politics and Religion and Director of the Argov Center for the Study of Israel and the Jewish People, Bar-Ilan University

"The Image of the 'Other': Jews and Arabs in Israeli Theater"

March 25, 1998  
Michael Handelzalts, Literary Editor and Theater Critic for *Ha'Aretz* newspaper

"The Future of African-American and Jewish Relations": The Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein and Edward J. Bloustein Inaugural Memorial Lecture

April 7, 1998  
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Director, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research, Harvard University  
Co-sponsored with the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

"The Image as Witness: Documentary Footage & American Holocaust Memory Culture" Commemorating Yom Hashoah

April 22, 1998  
Jeffrey Shandler, Dorot Teaching Fellow, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University

## Rutgers Hosts International Conference

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies was hosted by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of

Jewish Life, June 14-16, 1998. The three-day international conference was attended by members of the AIS and Rutgers faculty and students. The Israeli Consul General in New York, Ambassador Shmuel Sisso, greeted the conference participants following introductions by Joan Bildner and Dean Richard Foley, who welcomed the scholars.

The keynote address, "Netanyahu's Grand Coalition and the Rise of Israel's Soft Right," was delivered by Hebrew University's Ehud Sprinzak, currently a Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace. A wide range of presentations were given throughout the conference on topics ranging from "The Israeli-Arab Conflict," "Political Economy," "Law, Religion and Politics," and "Public Policy" to "Post-Zionism," "The Peace Process," "Political Movements," and "Collective Memory." A session on "Politics, Society and War" was dedicated to the memory of the late political sociologist Yonathan Shapiro.

Several innovative programs were included this year, broadening the scope of the conference. For the first time an AIS conference included a session devoted to "Israel-Diaspora Relations." The panel included David Twersky, Editor-in-Chief of

the *New Jersey Jewish News*; Steven Bayme, Director of the American Jewish Committee's Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations; and Rina Bar Tal, the Deputy Mayor of Ra'anana; and was moderated by David Gordis, Director of the Susan and David Wilstein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies. A

special session on recent scholarly publications on Israel featured the works of Boston University Law Professor and AIS President Pnina Lahav, and Hebrew University Professor Dan Rabinowitz. Both of these panels were received enthusiastically by the participants.

An evening workshop/performance on Israeli Mediterranean music focused attention on the relations between Israeli culture and politics, featuring Israeli singer Avi Hu Medina and Dr. Amy Horowitz, Curator of the Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies at the Smithsonian Institution. On the second evening, a chapter from *Tkuma*, a documentary series about Israel's history, was screened with an introduction and comments by the chapter's writer/producer Ronit Weiss Berkowitz, stimulating a lively discussion among the participants.

Marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel, the 1998 annual meeting of the AIS was more elaborate and wide-

ranging in its program. AIS leadership and members expressed their appreciation for Rutgers and the staff of CSJL for taking the lead in organizing the program and hosting the meeting.



Political Science Professor Mike Aronoff introduces keynote speaker Ehud Sprinzak of Hebrew University.



Joan Bildner and Professor Yael Zarubavel, Director of CSJL welcome Ambassador Shmuel Sisso.



Daniel Kutner, Israeli Consul for Academic Affairs, and Richard Foley, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and of the Graduate School, speak with Allen Bildner at the AIS reception.



### New Associate Director

Karen Small was appointed Associate Director of the Center at the end of the fall semester. In the new position, Karen will be responsible for the Center's community outreach programming, for initiating a Jewish communal leadership training program, and for developing a Holocaust resource center, which will house a resource library and offer teacher training, lectures, and workshops.

Karen comes to the Center with thirteen years of experience working in the Jewish community. She holds a bachelor's degree in English literature and Hebrew studies from Indiana University and a master's in social work from the Wurzeiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. She is the former Program Director of the Kaiserman Branch of the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Philadelphia and was a Planning Associate at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. She also served as both Teen and Youth Services Director at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center in Newton, Massachusetts.

## PROFILES

### Study Abroad in Israel

Rutgers students have the opportunity to enrich their academic program by studying abroad. In 1997-1998 the following students studied in Israel: Danielle Abrahams and Leeat Zwick at Ben-Gurion University; Dina Blikshhteyn, Maira Cicio, Jenna Hirsch, Naomi Kramer, Fatima Osman, and Ilana Weiss at Haifa University; Shoshana Kordova, Samuel Kustanowitz, Lisa Mandel, and Sharon Zaks at Hebrew University; and Michal Milow at Tel Aviv University.

## Student News Undergraduate Profiles



### Dara Papier

A New Jersey native, Dara describes herself as a "liberal arts type" whose primary passion is "learning how to serve the Jewish community through the study of communication and writing." Dara opted to major in both

Jewish Studies and Communication shortly after enrolling at Rutgers University. She explains, "I have always been interested in the religion and history of the Jewish people and the development of Israel. The Jewish Studies major encompassed everything I really wanted to learn about so I signed up." When asked about the highlights of her Jewish Studies course work, Dara reports that "I have taken several classes, and my favorite has been 'Women in Judaism.' It emphasized historical perceptions of women within Judaism, coupled with an overview of Jewish law—two topics which really interest me."

Dara's enthusiasm for the Jewish community and Jewish education is not only evident in her academic interests but forms a cornerstone of both her life activities and career aspirations. A long-standing member of United Synagogue Youth, she continues her involvement in Jewish social groups through active participation in Rutgers Hillel. Furthermore, she is a valuable asset to the Jewish Federation of MetroWest, where she has served as an intern in the Communication department and a volunteer in the Division of Jewish Family Services.

A third-year student at Rutgers, Dara will be studying abroad in Israel at Hebrew University for the spring semester. Ultimately, she plans to pursue a career in social work in order to utilize both her knowledge of Jewish history and her communication skills to best enhance Jewish social and communal services.



### Michael Schwab

Michael Schwab has a deep fascination with Conservative Judaism. It is evident through his work with Jewish youth groups, his ten summers at Camp Ramah, and his plan to pursue Rabbinic

studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His commitment to conservative Judaism makes all the more compelling Michael's senior thesis which is a critical examination of the Conservative Movement in America.

A history major, Michael was interested in Professor Yael Zerubavel's work before her arrival at Rutgers and the establishment of the Center for the Study of Jewish Life. During his junior year Michael wrote a paper on memory and the Bar Kochba revolt, using Professor Zerubavel's *Recovered Roots* as one of his sources. He then went to study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for the second semester. Upon his return to Rutgers he met Professor Zerubavel, who had come to head the new Center.

As a Henry Rutgers honors student, Michael elected to write a senior thesis under Zerubavel's direction on "Collective Memory, Identity, and Education: A Study of the Conservative Movement in America." The thesis explores the role of memory transmission in shaping the identity of Conservative Judaism over this century. Based on his analysis of educational texts, secondary sources, and interviews with students in local conservative schools, Michael reached the conclusion that the Conservative movement's reverence to a scientific approach to the study of the past and tendency to deconstruct Jewish myths, heroes, and legends, undermined its ability to create its own uniform and distinct collective memory. His findings indicate that the most meaningful symbols for students of the Conservative movement are the Holocaust and the national mythology of the State of Israel. While these symbols help strengthen their identity as Jews, they do not provide a strong basis for identification as Conservative Jews.

## First Student to Become a Jewish Studies Major

As a sophomore with an increasing interest in Jewish history and religion, Craig Storm heard about the Jewish Studies Program when it was still in its initial stages. "I met with Professor Zerubavel in the Spring of 1997," he relates, "and got immediately on track for the Jewish Studies major. What attracted me most was its emphasis on the study of Jewish cultural issues, history, and Israeli society."

Craig was among the first group of students who participated in the advanced seminar designed for Jewish Studies majors last spring. When asked about his greatest academic achievement at Rutgers, Craig discusses his thesis in this seminar, in which he explored the portrayal of the Holocaust in popular films and their roles in shaping the collective memory of WWII. "It was a very challenging project," he admits, "yet wonderful when done."

Craig was among the first to celebrate when the major was officially approved in February 1998. He became the first student to receive his B.A. degree in the newly approved Jewish Studies Program at Rutgers. "I am extremely proud and excited," he said in a recent interview, "that I was there at the very beginning."

## From Our Graduate Students

**Pierre M. Atlas** is a doctoral candidate in political science at Rutgers University. His dissertation, in progress, is entitled *The Struggle for the Center in Political Culture: A Cognitive-Institutionalist Examination of the Origins of the Israeli Mainstream and Fringe, 1905-1949*. Atlas recently published "The Peace Process and Competing Challenges to the Dominant Zionist Discourse," co-authored with Rutgers professor Myron J. Aronoff and edited by Ilan Peleg, in *The Middle East Peace Process: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (SUNY Press 1998).

**John A. Dizgun**, a second-year graduate student in History at Rutgers University, focuses on Jewish immigration to Argentina. A Canadian Foreign Government Fellow, Dizgun is currently writing an article on Colombian Jewry entitled "Intergenerational Immigrant Identity: The Presence of Jewish Intellectuals in Colombia," after spending six months living in Bogotá. He will be teaching a course on the "Latin-American Jewish Experience" this spring at Rutgers.

## Honors Theses on Jewish Topics

### Henry Rutgers Honors Theses:

**Amy Cohen**, advised by Professor Yael Zerubavel: *Religious Zionism: From Jewish Nationalism to Political Messianism (1880-1974)*

**Michael Cohen**, advised by Professor Maurice Elias: *Syrian-Jewish New Immigrants' Plight Adjusting to American Life*

**Lauren Grabelle**, advised by Professor Harriet Davidson: *Beyond Feminist Critique: How Jewish Women Use Poetry to Reconcile Their Dual Identity*

**Michael Schwab**, advised by Professor Yael Zerubavel: *Collective Memory, Identity, and Education: A Study of the Conservative Movement in America*

### Mabel Smith Douglass Honors Thesis

**Perri Gottlieb**, advised by Professor Chaim I. Waxman: *What It Costs to Be Jewish, Catholic, and Mormon: A Study of Religious Traditionalism and Economic Status*

## Jewish Studies Faculty Meetings with Students

"See, Touch, and Experience the Lower East Side"  
October, 1997

**Leslie Fishbein**, Professor of American Studies, Rutgers University  
Co-sponsored with Hillel

"Jewish Baby Boomers"  
November, 1997  
**Chaim I. Waxman**, Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University  
Co-sponsored with Hillel

"Coming Here"  
Jewish American Poetry about Immigration  
April, 1998  
**Daniel Harris**, Professor of English, Rutgers University  
Co-sponsored with Hillel

## A Cutting-Edge Center

During the past year two computer projects have been implemented in the Center. The new website provides information about the Center's activities, about Jewish life on campus and links to other websites and research resources relating to Jewish Studies and Israel Studies.

A Computer Lab was also developed that allows students and faculty to conduct research using computerized databases, both on disk (such as the Bar Ilan Responsa) and on remote computers (e.g., library databases in Israel).

Dan Sarel, who managed both projects, indicates that close to 3,000 people visited the website since its inception in September 1997, and many of the visitors wrote that they found the website useful. The Lab has also attracted faculty and students, who discovered the benefits of computerized databases in their work.

To find out more about activities and computer services in the Center for the Study of Jewish Life, visit our website at <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

## Upcoming Events

**"Remembering the Holocaust in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Memoirs, Oral History and Video Archives,"** Conference and Teachers Workshop  
November 1-2

**Jews on Love, Sex, and Marriage,** lecture series  
Co-sponsored with Hillel,  
October 20 and 27,  
November 3 and 10

**"The Biography of Ancient Israel: Nation and Narration in the Bible,"**  
Ilana Pardes  
November 18

**"Origins: The Beginnings of Jewish Poetry in English, 1830-1918,"**  
Daniel Harris  
November 30,  
December 7 and 14 at  
Anshe Emeth  
Memorial Temple,  
Rutgers Division of  
Continuing Education  
Course

**Blacks and Jews in America,** 3-part  
Lecture series  
March 22, April 5, 15

**Dedication of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life** at  
12 College Avenue  
May 2

**"The Nature of Community in Judaism,"** Conference  
Co-sponsored with the  
Jewish Education  
Association of  
MetroWest,  
October 1999

**"Cultures of Democracy and Democratization: Israel and Eastern Europe Compared,"**  
Co-sponsored with  
Center for Russian,  
Central and Eastern  
European Studies  
Year-long Seminar,  
Fall 1999-Spring 2000

## Cultures of Democracy and Democratization: Israel and Eastern Europe Compared

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life and the Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies at Rutgers invite applications from visiting scholars, faculty, and advanced graduate students for a year-long seminar during the 1999-2000 academic year.

The seminar will examine the cultural prerequisites for democracy in diverse political settings and the conditions under which democracy can be consolidated and sustained in places such as Israel and the more recent democracies currently being constructed in post-socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

For further information and application forms, visit our website at:

<http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>  
or contact Julie Moscinski at CRCEES  
(mosci@rci.rutgers.edu), tel.: (732) 932-8551.

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