



RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

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

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From the Director's desk...

With a growing Department of Jewish Studies and a stimulating community outreach program, the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life is reaching its five-year mark with a sense of accomplishment. It is difficult to imagine today that five short years ago the Center was merely a vision. These five years have been a challenging period of intense work by everyone involved in the development of the Center. The reward of seeing the results of these efforts has served as a renewing source of energy and inspiration.

The Bildner Center has successfully established the presence of Jewish Studies on the Rutgers campus and its activities have made a difference in the life of the community. The Center's reputation is rapidly growing nationally and internationally. A number of visiting scholars from other countries and universities have been affiliated with the Center, participating in the teaching program and contributing to our community outreach. The young Department recruited a new full-time faculty member to its ranks. As we enter the new year, we welcome Jeffrey Shandler (Ph.D. Columbia University) who served as a Visiting Fellow at the Center last year and is joining Rutgers as Assistant Professor of Yiddish Literature and Culture.

In the academic domain last year, the Center faced the challenge of transition from an interdisciplinary program to a full-fledged Department. In the area of community outreach, we initiated a most important and far-reaching project for both the Center and the Jewish community: the establishment of *The New Jersey Leadership Think Tank*. This program, co-sponsored by the Bildner Center and the New Jersey Jewish

Federations, represents the culmination of a year and a half of preparatory work by Karen Small, the Center's Associate Director, with the N.J. Federations' Executive Directors. Launched this March under the auspices of Rutgers President, Francis L. Lawrence, the *Think Tank* brings to Rutgers a select group of lay leaders from the thirteen Jewish Federations across the state. It provides a challenging forum to explore key issues facing the Jewish community and fosters a statewide leadership network.

Another exciting development during the past academic year

was the introduction of a new cultural program, the *Central New Jersey Jewish Film Festival*. The overwhelmingly enthusiastic response by the community to this new program has led the Bildner Center, with the support of the Karma Foundation, to plan this as an annual event, and the second Jewish film festival will take place this coming fall. In addition to the Center's active program of public lectures and symposia, *The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center* has continued to offer special workshops for schoolteachers and to develop its resource library.

We hope that the Center's success in developing the field of Jewish Studies, in attracting strong faculty to Rutgers, and in stimulating students' interest in the study of Jewish history and culture will continue. We thank those who were part of creating the vision that led to the establishment of the Center as well as those who have recognized its significance from the very beginning. We look forward to the second half of our first decade and the promise of continuing growth.

With Best Wishes for a Happy New Year,

Professor Yael Zerubavel



JEWISH STUDIES

Courses 2001-2002

Fall Semester

Jewish Society and Culture I: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages
Adam Mintz

Israeli Politics
Myron Aronoff

Israeli Culture
Tom Segev

History of the Holocaust
Paul Hanebrink

Holocaust Literature in Translation
Jeffrey Shandler

Special Topics: Yiddish Literature and Culture
Jeffrey Shandler

Jewish Immigrant Experience
Tracy Sivitz

Classical Jewish Philosophy
Leonard Levin

Special Topics: Ritual, Mysticism and the Poetics of Jewish Life
Michal Govrin

Special Topics: Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah
Hartley Lachter

Honors Seminar: Immigrant Identities & Communities
Judith Gerson

Ancient Near East
Jack Cargill

Introduction to Hebrew Style and Literature
Orly Moshenberg

Modern Israeli Literature
Edna Bryn-Noiman

Elementary Modern Hebrew
Edna Bryn-Noiman, Lily Levy, Orly Moshenberg

Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Edna Bryn-Noiman, Lily Levy

Elementary Modern Yiddish
Alisa Braun

Spring Semester

Jewish Society & Culture II: The Modern Experience
Nancy Sinkoff

Jewish Studies Seminar: Ethnography of Contemporary Jewish Life
Jeffrey Shandler

History of Zionism
Moshe Sherman

Arab-Israeli Conflict
Dina LeGall

Power and Politics in Modern Jewish History
Nancy Sinkoff

Sociology of Religious Movements
Chaim I. Waxman

American Jews and the Media
Jeffrey Shandler

Modern Jewish Philosophy
Leonard Levin

Special Topics: Jewish American Poetry
Daniel A. Harris

Special Topics: Antisemitism and the Jews
Guy Miron

Special Topics: Introduction to the Talmud
Leonard Levin

Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation
Paul Sprachman

Critical Perspectives on the Middle East
Eric Davis

Introduction to Hebrew Style and Literature
Orly Moshenberg

Elementary Modern Hebrew
Lily Levy, Orly Moshenberg

Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Edna Bryn-Noiman, Lily Levy

Advanced Modern Hebrew
Edna Bryn-Noiman

Elementary Modern Yiddish
Alisa Braun

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Yael Zerubavel, Chair, Jewish Studies
Myron Aronoff, Political Science
William Donahue, German
Maurice Elias, Psychology
Leslie Fishbein, American Studies
Ziva Galili, History
Judith Gerson, Sociology
Paul Hanebrink, History
Daniel A. Harris, English
Dina LeGall, History
Curt Leviant, Jewish Studies
Phyllis Mack, History
Alicia Ostriker, English

Barbara Reed, Journalism
Jeffrey Shandler, Jewish Studies
Nancy Sinkoff, History and Jewish Studies
Chaim I. Waxman, Sociology

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS

Orly Moshenberg, Coordinator
Alisa Braun
Edna Bryn-Noiman
Lily Levy

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Steven Friedell

PART-TIME LECTURERS

Hartley Lachter
Leonard Levin
Adam Mintz
Moshe Sherman
Tracy Sivitz

VISITING FACULTY

Michal Govrin, Fall
Tom Segev, Fall
Guy Miron, Spring

RETIRING FACULTY

Matthew Baigell, Art History
Morris Moskowitz, Jewish Studies

New Appointment in Jewish Studies

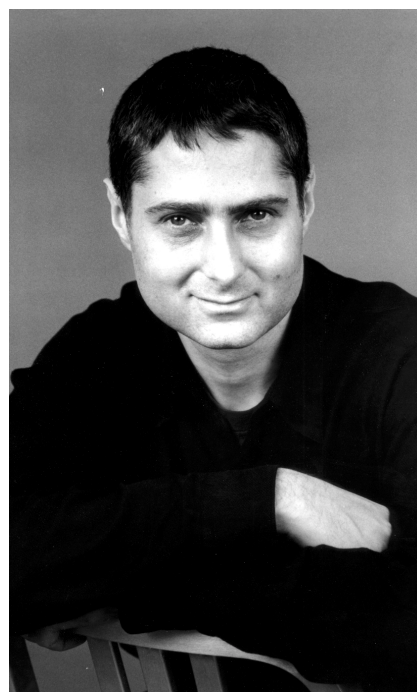
Jeffrey Shandler, the Smart Family Fellow at the Bildner Center during the 2000-2001 academic year, has been appointed Assistant Professor in Yiddish Literature and Culture. Shandler, who holds a Ph.D. in Yiddish Studies from Columbia University, has held fellowships at New York University and the University of Pennsylvania. His breadth of interests and productive career have included scholarly writing and lecturing on a wide range of topics as well as serving as a contributing writer for the Jewish newspaper the *Forward*. He has served as curator of exhibitions and media programs for the Jewish Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York and the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Shandler combines an interdisciplinary training in the study of culture with

an in-depth knowledge of the modern Jewish experience. His writing and lectures range from the study of Yiddish literature and folkways to the roles that broadcasting, film, photography and other media play in Jewish life. Shandler's book, *While America Watches: Televising the Holocaust* (Oxford University Press, 1999) is a full-length study of the presentation of the Holocaust on television in all genres of broadcasting from 1945 to the mid-1990s.

Professor Shandler's current research is an analysis of Yiddish culture since World War II. In this study he examines the development of Yiddish in the wake of the Holocaust as a post-vernacular language. The analysis of the use of Yiddish in pedagogy, poetry, translation, performance and material culture shows its growing symbolic value while its use in daily life has been diminishing. Shandler's other forthcoming projects include editing an anthology of autobiographies written by Jewish youth in Poland in the 1930s and collected by the YIVO institute, and co-writing and co-editing the catalog for a forthcoming exhibition at the Jewish Museum on American Jews and the entertainment media. (For his recent publications, see page 5).

As the Smart Family Fellow, Shandler taught courses on Yiddish language, literature and folklore at Rutgers. He delivered a public lecture entitled "The Jewish Mark Twain: Sholem Aleichem and Yiddish in America" and a faculty talk entitled "Beyond the Mother



Tongue: Learning the Meaning of Yiddish in Twentieth Century America." He also participated in two teacher-training programs offered by the Littman Holocaust Resource Center: "Anne Frank: New Perspectives" and "Visual Images of the Holocaust." Over the past year, he also lectured at the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Ben Gurion University, and Tel Aviv University and at the Annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies.

During the 2001-2002 academic year, Shandler will offer courses on Modern Yiddish Literature and Culture, Holocaust Literature in Translation, and American Jews and the Media. In addition, he will lead a seminar for Jewish Studies majors on Jewish ethnography that will include field work in local communities.

2001 Graduates

JEWISH STUDIES MAJORS

Hindy Alster	Scott Lipson
Kellita Cohen	Sharon Markowitz
Sarah Finkelstein	Shayna Sellers
Sharon Green	Lori Silberman
Marla Kotler	Ilana Tawil

JEWISH STUDIES MINORS

Lyle Beck	Maya Ravee
Aliza Birnberg	Ellen Rubin
Caren Buchalter	Rachel Sacharow
Ian Cohen	Aliza Sacknowitz
Joel Cohen	Robin Sava
Michael Dorfman	Ian Schwab
Steeve-Dav Encaoua	Elena Segal
Aaron Feldon	Kelly Serouya
Jessica Gurtman	Sara Stave
Eliezer Jacobs	Dahlia Wasserman
Noah Krug	Lea Weintraub
Marshall Lesack	Jonathan Weiss
Boaz Levy	Sheara Wilensky
Philip Levy	Jeremy Wimpfheimer
Bryan Loew	Elissa Winkelstein
Scott Loonan	Samara Zarabi
Stephanie Pell	

**For further information regarding the academic program, contact
Arlene Goldstein at (732) 932-3571 or e-mail: csjl@rci.rutgers.edu.**

FACULTY UPDATES

Myron Aronoff published “Labor During Fifty Years of Israeli Politics,” in Robert O. Freedman, ed., *Israel's First Fifty Years* (University Press of Florida, 2000); and “Radical Change in Israel: A Review Essay” in *Political Science Quarterly* (forthcoming, Fall 2001). His essays “Political Culture” in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* and “Political and Legal Anthropology,” in *Encyclopedia Britannica* are both forthcoming. At the annual meeting of the Association of Israel Studies, Washington, D.C. he chaired a panel and delivered a paper on “Contested Temporal and Spatial Perceptions of Israeli Identity.” At the American Political Science Association meeting in San Francisco, he participated in a roundtable discussion on “The Post-Zionist Critique of Arab-Israeli Issues.” (See article, page 7)

Matthew Baigell co-authored *Peeling Potatoes, Painting Pictures: Women Artists in Post-Soviet Russia, Estonia, and Latvia, the First Decade* (Rutgers University Press, 2001). His recent articles include: “The Persistence of Holocaust Imagery in American Art,” in Bernard Schwartz, ed., *The Holocaust's Ghost: Writings on Art, Politics, Law and Education* (University of Alberta Press, 2000); “Jewish American Artists and the Holocaust: The Responses of Two Generations,” in Omer Bartov and Phyllis Mack, eds., *In God's Name: Genocide and Religion in the Twentieth Century* (Berghahn Books, 2001); “Jewish Artists in New York During the 1940's,” *Absence/Presence: The Artistic Memory of the Holocaust and Genocide* (University of Minnesota Press, 2001); and “Max Weber's Jewish Paintings” *American Jewish History*, vol. 88, pp. 341-360 (September 2000). Professor Baigell gave talks at Bowdoin College; the Annual Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, Philadelphia; and The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. Professor Baigell received the Rutgers University Graduate School Teaching Award in the Humanities.

William Donahue, who was promoted to Associate Professor, is serving as the Chair of the Department of Germanic, Russian, & East European Languages and Literatures. He published *The End of Modernism: Elias Canetti's Auto-da-Fé* (University of North Carolina Press, 2001) and co-edited *History & Literature: Essays in Honor of Karl Guthke* (Tübingen: Stauffenburg, 2001). His articles include: “Illusions of Subtlety: Bernhard Schlink's *Der Vorleser* and the Moral Limits of Holocaust Fiction,” *German Life and Letters* (2001); and “Of Pretty Boys and Nasty Girls: The Holocaust in Two German Films of the '90s,” *New England Review*, vol. 21 no. 4 (2000). Donahue was a Fellow at the Rutgers Center for Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture (2000-2001) and at the Sixth Annual Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization, Northwestern University (2001). In May 2001, he was awarded The Rutgers Board of Trustees Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence.

Maurice Elias published “Jewish Identity on Campus: Research and Recommendations for the College Years,” *Journal of Jewish Education*, vol. 65, no. 3, pp. 41-48 (2000), based on collaborative work with recent Rutgers Ph.D. recipient Jeffrey Kress and undergraduate Ami Yares. Elias also presented “Perceptions of Classroom Climate in an Orthodox Day School: The Influence of Social-Emotional and Demographic Factors,” together with Dr. Kress and Rutgers student Ian Cohen at the annual conference of the Network for Research in Jewish Education, York University, Toronto.

Leslie Fishbein published an essay, “Washington Square: A Novella for all Seasons,” *Prospects: An Annual Journal of American Cultural Studies*, vol. 25, pp. 513-527 (2000). She presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Detroit, and the Organization of

American Historians Annual Meeting, Los Angeles. Fishbein lectured on such topics as “From Shtetl to Ghetto: The Culture of the Lower East Side;” “Greenwich Village in the Teens and '20's: Rebels in Bohemia;” “From Trout Stream to Bohemia: The Evolution of Greenwich Village through the Twenties;” “Beats and Other Bad Boys: The Impact of the Beats and the Rise and Fall of the East Village;” “Anzia Yezierska: The Sweatshop Cinderella and the Invented Life;” and “The Life of the Myth of Rosie the Riveter” at a variety of venues including the Brandeis University National Women, Hadassah, Jewish Women International, Jewish Family Services, and Jewish Community Centers and synagogues.

Ziva Galili continues to serve as Vice-Dean of the Graduate School, New Brunswick. Her most recent book is *Men'sheviki v Bol'shevistskoi Rossii (The Mensheviks in Bolshevik Russia)*, Volume 2: 1919-1920, co-edited with A. Nenarokov (Moscow: Rospen Publishers, 2000). She is currently working on several interrelated projects on the history of Zionist movements in Russia, including: a general study of Zionist movements in inter-war Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1939; a contribution to a collaborative volume, *Zionism and Its Countries: the Geo-Cultural Context*; and two studies of the “Zamena” immigration from the Soviet Union to Palestine (1924-1936). Part of this work was presented as “Zionist Movements in the Soviet Union, 1917-1939,” at a workshop on the “Geo-Cultural Contexts of Zionism,” Zalman Shazar Center, Jerusalem. She lectured on “Archives and Historical Memory in Post-Communist Russia” at the University of Michigan.

Judith Gerson published “In Between States: National Identity Practices Among German Jewish Immigrants,” *Political Psychology*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 179-198 (2001). She delivered a paper, “Rethinking Identity among German

Jewish Immigrants to the United States, 1933-1941," at the Jewish Studies Program, University of Washington.

Daniel A. Harris is currently completing a monograph on the poetry of the Anglo-Jewish poet Isaac Rosenberg. He has continued the mission of JEWISH VOICES: 200 YEARS OF POETRY IN ENGLISH with over forty speaking engagements during 2000-2001. Among the highlights are: courses on Shoah poetry at the National Havurah Institute; on Jewish-American immigration poetry at Congregation Beth Tikvah (Wayne, NJ); on modern liturgical poetry for the High Holy Days at Congregation Beth David (Greensboro, NC), and a course at Gratz College entitled "Against the Mainstream: The Development of Jewish Poetry in English."

Morris Moskowitz produced, wrote, directed, and appeared in the production "Shakespeare Farliebt," a Yiddish spoof of selected scenes from Shakespeare's plays, held at the Highland Park Conservative Temple. He lectured on "The Yiddish Language Today" at Temple Beth El, Somerset, NJ.

Alicia Ostriker leads a monthly midrash writing workshop at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She taught a one-week midrash writing workshop for the Institute for Contemporary Midrash at Bryn Mawr College, exploring biblical texts through the creation of new midrash. The workshop was designed for both beginning and experienced writers.

Jeffrey Shandler published "The Man in the Glass Box: Watching the Eichmann Trial on American Television," in Barbie Zelizer, ed., *Visual Culture and the Holocaust*, (Rutgers University Press, 2001); "Beyond the Mother Tongue: Learning the Meaning of Yiddish in America," *Jewish Social Studies*, vol. 6, no. 3 (2000); and he co-edited with Hasia Diner and Beth S. Wenger, *Remembering the Lower East Side: American Jewish Reflections* (Indiana University Press, 2000). (See article, page 3)

Nancy Sinkoff is working on her manuscript: "Before Nationalism: The Jewish Enlightenment in the Polish Borderlands." Her most recent article, "Strategy and Ruse in the Haskalah of Mendel Lefin of Satanów (1749-1826)," was published in David Sorkin and Shmuel Feiner, eds., *New Perspectives on the Haskalah* (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2001). She presented the Louis Schrage Memorial Lecture, "Moses Mendelssohn and the Meaning of the Commandments" at Temple Anshe Emeth, New Brunswick. She participated in an international summer institute, "Galicia: The Historic Region of Europe," sponsored by the College for New Europe of the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, Poland. Professor Sinkoff also served as on-air historian for Beyond the Pale: The Progressive Jewish Radio Hour on WBAI, New York.

Chaim I. Waxman's latest book is *Jewish Baby Boomers: A Communal Perspective* (State University of New York Press, 2001). His other publications include "Religio-Politics and Social Unity in Israel: Israel's Religious Parties," in Robert O. Freedman, ed., *Israel's First Fifty Years* (University Press of Florida, 2000), and "The Limited Impact of the Six-Day War on America's Jews," in Eli Lederhendler, ed., *The Six-Day War and World Jewry* (University Press of Maryland, 2000). He recently published review essays in several journals, including the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (August 2000); *American Jewish History* (June 2000); *Shma* (February 2001) and *Israel Studies Bulletin* (Spring 2001). Waxman chaired a session and delivered a paper at the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies Conference, Washington, D.C., and presented papers at the Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History and the Manchester University Center for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem; and the Center for Jewish Education, Tel Aviv University. He moderated the symposium, "Jew vs.

Jew," Bildner Center, Rutgers University; and served as a panelist in a session of The New Jersey Leadership Think Tank, Bildner Center.

Yael Zerubavel, Director of the Bildner Center and Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies, has two articles forthcoming: "Battle, Martyrdom and Sacrifice: Continuity and Change in the Construction of Patriotic Sacrifice in Israeli Culture" in Avner Ben-Amo and Daniel Bar-Tal, eds., *Patriotism in Israel* (in Hebrew); and "The Politics of Remembrance and the Consumption of Space: Masada in Israeli Memory," in Daniel Walkowitz and Lisa Maya Knauer, eds., *Political Transformations: Narrating the Nation in Public Space* (Duke University Press). She presented the following papers: "Heroic Symbols, Subversive Actors: Women, Sacrifice, and the Patriotic Discourse," the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association; "The Elusive Native and the Burden of Memory: The Transformation of Israeli Identity," The Gillman Conference on "Jewish Culture: America & Israel," Tel Aviv University and New York University; "Patriotic Sacrifice and the Burden of Memory in Israel," Rice University; "The Construction of Israeli Identity/ Palestinian Identity," University of Pennsylvania; a four-lecture seminar on "Memory, Identity, and the Power of Tradition in Israeli Culture," Vassar College; and "Between Ruins and Monuments: Archeology and the Construction of Collective Memory," Ben Gurion University. Zerubavel continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association for Jewish Studies, the Editorial Board of the journals *Israel Studies* and *Israel Studies Bulletin* and ended her term on the Board of Directors of the Association for Israel Studies in June 2001. Zerubavel has been selected as a Fellow for the 2001-2002 seminar on "The Performance of Culture" at Rutgers Center for Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture.

VISITING FACULTY 2001-2002



Tom Segev is an internationally known Israeli historian and journalist who has a weekly column in *Haaretz*, Israel's most prestigious daily newspaper. With a Ph.D. in history from Boston University, Segev's research interests include the Holocaust as well as Israeli history and culture. His numerous books have become best sellers and have been

published in English translation as well as other languages. His book *1949 The First Israelis* (New York City: Henry Holt and Company, 1998) offers a critical examination of Israeli society and state policies in the first year post-independence. His widely acclaimed and controversial book *The Seventh Million-The Israelis and the Holocaust* (New York City: Henry Holt and Company, 2000) demonstrates the Holocaust's decisive influence on Israel's identity, ideology and politics. It also became the basis for a two-part television documentary that was shown in several countries. Segev's work, *Soldiers of Evil* (New York City: McGraw Hill, 1987), winner of the MASUA prize for Holocaust studies, is a collective profile of the commanders of Nazi concentration camps. More recently, his book *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate* (New York City: Henry Holt and Company, 2000) won the National Jewish Book Award (2001) in the categories "History" and "Israel." The book was also selected as *The New York Times* editors' choice of the 10 best books of 2000. The editors note that his book is "probably the best overall history of the period when Britain ruled the Holy Land under the League of Nations mandate." Segev's most recent publication in Hebrew, *The New Zionists*, explores sweeping changes in contemporary Israeli society and culture as Israel moves into a "Post-Zionist" period. Segev, a frequent speaker at major universities in Israel, America, and around the world, has also taught at the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University, Hebrew College in Brookline, Massachusetts, and, most recently, the Hebrew University. He will teach a seminar on "Israeli Culture" during the fall semester at Rutgers.

Guy Miron, recent Ph.D. recipient in Jewish History from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, has numerous articles and reviews in print and wrote his dissertation on *From 'There' to 'Here' in the First Person – The Image and Representation of the Past in the Personal Memoirs of German Jews in Israel*. Since 1992, Miron has worked at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. He is the co-author of the CD-Rom "Return to Life – the Story of the Holocaust Survivors" and

Continued on page 7

MICHAEL GOVRIN, award-winning poet, author and theater director will continue her affiliation with the Bildner Center as writer-in-residence and the Aresty Visiting Fellow. A leading creator of experimental Jewish theater and literature, Professor Govrin draws upon Talmudic, kabbalistic and liturgical sources for her work.

Govrin's latest work in Hebrew, *Maase Ha-Yam (The Making of the Sea)*, is a journal of a journey, a chronicle that begins on the beach of Rio de Janeiro and leads to Jerusalem. In the course of the journey the eye encounters the landscapes along the way and the landscape of the soul and within them memories, thoughts, and musings on death and passion. The journal is written with a central column surrounded by commentaries on the described events, evoking the format of a Talmud page. The commentaries draw on various Jewish and European sources and are written in different styles and forms ranging from poetic to philosophical musings, and dictionary definitions. The book includes original drawings made from brass etchings by artist Liliane Klapish.

Govrin's recent publications also include a triologue with poet and professor David Shapiro of the Cooper Union and the renowned French philosopher Jacques Derrida. The book entitled *Body of Prayer*, contains parallel writings, poems, and fragments of novels by the three participants. Focusing on the poetics of prayer and the spiritual tradition in Judaism the authors address the question: What is prayer? Invocation, petition, self-reflection, praise, or lament? The book suggests the connections between common motifs and word relationships: life and death, the body in prayer, the body as prayer, the body of prayer.

As the Aresty Visiting Fellow, Professor Govrin presented a public lecture on "Jewish Renewal in Israeli Art: A View from Within." Her course on *Ritual, Mysticism and the Poetics of Jewish Life*, which will be offered again in the fall semester 2001, concluded with student presentations on their creative interpretations of "a moment in Jewish life: its *halachic* and poetic characteristics." She also led a workshop for student writers co-sponsored with Rutgers Hillel.

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**A detail from *Maase Ha-Yam*
(The Making of the Sea)**

א-תקנר - עלת, התנשא, הודקף
כלמי סעלת.
במז: יקמור של לבנה סקקנר ועילה
סקקל וקמא סקל.

FACULTY PROFILE

Myron Aronoff

Political science and anthropology professor Myron (Mike) Aronoff has brought a rare interdisciplinary approach to his study of Israeli political life since he began his research in Israel in 1966. Both methodologically and theoretically, Aronoff's research crosses disciplinary boundaries, with a unique focus on the connection between politics and culture. In fact, he was a proponent of "cultural studies" before it became fashionable in the academic world. His major foci include the role of ethnicity and religion in politics, the Americanization of Israeli politics, the role of electoral change in cultural change, the role of wars as catalysts for change, and the politics of collective identity and collective memory. Aronoff brings a unique approach not only to his academic research but also to his course on "Israeli Politics," which he has taught at Rutgers University since 1977.

With a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Los Angeles and in social anthropology from Manchester University, Myron Aronoff was initially trained as an Africanist. A combination of unexpected factors led him, instead, to apply his interest in theories of social and cultural pluralism to the study of Israeli politics and culture. Aronoff began his post-graduate teaching experience at Tel Aviv University where he taught a required course on "The Government and Politics of Israel," thus taking on the formidable task of lecturing to Israeli students about *their* government and in *their* language.

Professor Aronoff has published extensively on numerous elements of Israeli culture, society and politics. His books include *Frontiertown: The Politics of Community Building In Israel* (1974); *Power and Ritual in The Israel Labor Party* (first edition, 1977; revised and expanded edition, 1993); and *Israeli Visions and Divisions: Cultural Change and Political Conflict* (1991). In his most recent book, *The Spy Novels of John Le Carré: Balancing Ethics and Politics* (1999), Aronoff analyses in depth Le Carré's novel *The Little Drummer Girl*, which deals with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At the annual conference of the Association of Israel Studies, Aronoff explored the politics of collective identity in his paper on "Contested Temporal and Spatial Perceptions of Israeli Identity." This research enabled him to analyze how Israelis differ in their understanding of what it means to be "Israeli" and how this relates to their perceptions of the past, present and future, their religious views, and the meanings they attach to the borders of the state.



Professor Aronoff is currently engaged in a research project with Rutgers Political Science Professor Jan Kubik, tentatively entitled "Anthropology and Political Science: Culture, Politics, and Democratization in Israel, Central, and Eastern Europe." A comparative study of democratization in Israel, Eastern Europe, and Central Europe, the work examines processes of globalization, the role of civil society, the peace process, and conflict resolution in the different areas, and finds certain striking similarities. Aronoff and Kubik organized a year-long seminar called "Cultures of Democracy and Democratization: Israel and Eastern Europe Compared" in 1999-2000, co-sponsored by the Bildner Center and the Center for Eastern European Studies, for which prominent figures such as Professors Yaron Ezrahi and Joel Migdal and Polish leaders Lech Welesa and Konstanty Gebert came to Rutgers to address this topic in discussion with seminar members.

Professor Aronoff teaches his "Israeli Politics" course every year. While the vast majority of students are political science majors, the course also appeals to Jewish Studies majors. Aronoff enjoys the opportunity to employ innovative audiovisual aids in his class, such as "Tkumah," the documentary series created for Israel's 50th anniversary that is somewhat self-critical and helps raise issues for discussion. He also brings speakers such as Israeli politicians and Palestinian spokespeople to enrich the classroom experience.

Aronoff was among the founders of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS) and served as its Founding President in 1985. The AIS, which grew out of the need for an international, interdisciplinary professional association for scholars studying Israel, currently has over 200 members, holds an annual meeting and sponsors several publications. Aronoff has continued to serve on the AIS Board of Directors. His scholarly achievements and interests have been an important factor in establishing Israel Studies as one of the areas of concentration in the Jewish Studies program at Rutgers and in establishing Rutgers' leadership in the field.

Visiting Faculty 2001-2002

Continued from page 6

the soon to be released CD-Rom "Into that Dark Night – Nazi Germany and the Jews 1933-1939" produced by Yad Vashem. Miron is the recipient of several awards and scholarships and has taught courses at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Open University in Tel Aviv. He will teach a course on "Anti-Semitism and the Jews in Europe: From the Enlightenment to World War I" during the spring semester at Rutgers and a mini-course for teachers through the Littman Holocaust Resource Center.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From the Associate Director

The Center's community outreach brought several major new initiatives to fruition this year, affecting the lives of people throughout New Jersey. The weeklong festivities of the inaugural Central New Jersey Jewish Film Festival attracted audiences totaling over 1,750 and exposed New Jerseyans to international filmmakers and speakers. Festival enthusiasts can mark November 4–11 on their calendars for the upcoming Jewish Film Festival featuring an international array of prize-winning films. Another major new project, The New Jersey Leadership Think Tank, engages leadership from the New Jersey Jewish Federations in a forum focusing

on local and national concerns in an effort to improve statewide planning and collaboration for the Jewish community. Looking ahead at plans for the Littman Holocaust Resource Center, our offerings for teachers will take an historical approach this year, examining pre-war Germany and the Jewish culture of Poland. The Bildner Center will again offer an array of public programs addressing topics of interest to the Jewish community from both historical and contemporary perspectives. For a direct link to our program offerings and to join our email listserve, visit our website at <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>.

—Karen Small

New Jersey Leadership Think Tank

The Bildner Center initiated a two-year statewide project with the thirteen Jewish Federations of New Jersey to create the New Jersey Leadership Think Tank. Focusing on *Envisioning the New Jersey Jewish Community in 2010* the project brings together Federation lay leaders to address such issues as Jewish personalism, changes in Israel/Diaspora relations, as well as new visions of partnerships within the American Jewish community. The Think Tank utilizes the resources of Rutgers University and exposes its members to renowned international scholars and

community leaders. It provides them a rare opportunity to strengthen statewide relationships through meaningful dialogue with their colleagues across the state and to create a synergy of new service delivery approaches among the New Jersey Federations. Held at the Bildner Center, the Think Tank is coordinated by Karen Small and facilitated by Carl Sheingold, Management Professor, Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University.

The opening program, hosted by Rutgers University President Francis L. Lawrence, included a presentation on demographics by Joseph J. Seneca, University Vice President for Academic Affairs, and a distinguished panel of Jewish leaders: philanthropist Charles R. Bronfman, David Altshuler, President of The Trust for Jewish Philanthropy, and Eleanor Rubin, President of the Association of Jewish Federations of



Above: David Altshuler, President Francis Lawrence, Yael Zerubavel, Joan Bildner, Charles Bronfman, Mary Kay Lawrence, and Allen Bildner



Charles Bronfman is greeted at the Inaugural Session of the Think Tank by Joseph J. Seneca and Alvin Rockoff.

Below: Participants engage in text study with Barry Chazan.





Think Tank Participants gather outside the Bildner Center with Eleanor Rubin, President and Samuel I. Horowitz, Executive Director, New Jersey Association of Jewish Federations, Stanley H. Stone, Executive Vice-President, Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, Carl Sheingold, and Karen Small.

New Jersey. Carl Sheingold moderated the discussion on *The Jewish Agenda Facing Leadership*. The Presidents and Executive Directors of the New Jersey Jewish Federations as well as Allen and Joan Bildner and Alvin Rockoff joined the Think Tank participants for this illustrious evening.

The subsequent four workshops brought together international scholars and leaders to meet with Think Tank members. *The Impact of Changing Attitudes, Culture, and Identity on Federation Priorities* was addressed by sociologists Steven M. Cohen, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Chaim I. Waxman, Rutgers University. Max L. Kleinman, Executive Vice-President of the United Jewish Federation of MetroWest stressed the importance of creating a new vision for the Federation while maintaining its primary mission.

Barry Chazan, professor of education at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, used traditional Jewish texts about Israel to stimulate discussion on *The Changing Relationship Between Israeli and American Jews*. Stanley H. Stone, Executive Vice-President of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, offered insights into current efforts in New Jersey to strengthen relationships with Israel.

Barry Shrage, President of the

Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston spoke on *Strategic Partnerships and Alliances: The Role of Federation in Building Jewish Community*. Shrage shared his vision of strong Federation/synagogue relationships coupled with an emphasis on lifelong Jewish learning. Rabbi Charles A. Kroloff, Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Westfield, NJ and President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Stuart Alperin, Executive Vice-President of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey supported Shrage's position in their responses to his talk.

The final spring session brought to Rutgers esteemed scholars Jeffrey Solomon, President of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and Jack Wertheimer, Provost at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Their presentations on *The Changing Nature of Philanthropy and Philanthropists* provided the Federation leaders with new perspectives to consider in their community planning efforts.

The emphasis of the program will shift in the second year to address local concerns in the Federations including the shifting role of the Federations to meet the demands of the Jewish community in the 21st Century. The Think Tank will open with a one-day retreat and will include team projects addressing specific issues facing the communities.

Think Tank Participants

Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties

Ms. Rona Kaplan
Mr. Mitchell Waldman

Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey

Mr. Robert Kushner
Mr. Mark Wilf

Jewish Federation of Cumberland County

Dr. Howard Hammer
Mrs. Joanne Hammer

Jewish Federation of Greater Clifton-Passaic

Mr. Gordon Braverman
Mr. Mark S. Levenson

Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County

Dr. Barry Wasserman
Dr. David Young

Jewish Federation of Greater Monmouth County

Dr. Stuart Abraham
Ms. Elise Feldman

Jewish Federation of North Jersey

Dr. Bruce Leibowitz
Mrs. Susan Sher

Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren

Ms. Jo Ann Chase

Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

Mr. Neal Cupersmith
Mr. Richard Lipsky

Ocean County Jewish Federation

Dr. Ira Haimowitz
Ms. Annabel Lindenbaum

UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson

Ms. Dana Egert
Mr. Steven Morey Greenberg

United Jewish Federation of MetroWest

Ms. Helaine Loman
Mr. Marc A. Schwartz

United Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks

Mr. Mark Merkovitz
Ms. Lisa Smukler

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Central New Jersey Jewish Film Festival Draws Audience Of Over 1750

The Inaugural Central New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by the Bildner Center, drew an audience of over 1750 individuals from across New Jersey and beyond. The Festival presented five critically acclaimed international films. Many of the films made their state premiere during the Festival. Held from November 5 – 12 at the Regal Cinema in North Brunswick, the Festival drew a diverse audience of seniors, students, secular Jews, religious Jews, non-Jews, Israelis, Russians, and many others demonstrating its broad appeal.

This Festival was made possible with the generous support of The Karma Foundation and the dedication of a special committee, constituted for the Festival, including Professor Leslie Fishbein, Sharon Karmazin, Ruth M. Patt, Professor Nancy Sinkoff, and Coordinator Karen Small. Bildner Center Director Yael Zerubavel noted the significance of the Festival for the community: "It was very important to us to make it possible for the community to see critically acclaimed films that touch on various aspects of Jewish life and rarely reach local New Jersey theaters or video outlets. Film is a powerful medium for enhancing public awareness of social issues and cultural developments and for provoking interest in historical events."

The Festival began with a sold-out showing of the award winning 1999 Israeli film "Yana's Friends." A romantic comedy set during the Gulf War, "Yana's Friends" explores the complex and difficult challenges facing the vibrant Russian immigrant community in Israel where one in every five citizens is Russian. In his exploration of this group's experiences, director Arik Kaplun skillfully handles many issues that are universal to the immigrant experience everywhere.

The opening night 1998 Bulgarian film "After the End of the World," directed by Ivan Nitchev, offered a view of the richly multicultural Balkan society of the late 1940s, when Jews, ethnic Bulgarians, Turks, Armenians, Greeks and Gypsies coexisted and interacted peacefully. Following the screening, Professor Zerubavel moderated the discussion of this intriguing film, and provided a historical background on Bulgaria at that time. The Festival offered a special opening night reception, featuring the live music of the Klezmer/Balkan band Paradox Trio.

The Festival presented "The Giraffe," an award-winning 1999 German film directed by Dani Levy. Set in contemporary New York City, "The Giraffe" is the story of the youthful David Fish and Lena Katz who discover that their family histories are linked by a horrific crime dating back to Nazi Germany. The two are then overwhelmed by the past, and by their histories,



and their lives and identities are forever changed. Immediately following the screening, Professor Atina Grossman of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art offered a critique of the film and the issues it raises. She then opened the floor to discussion.

The Festival presented the cutting-edge, award winning 1999 German film "Aimee & Jaguar," directed by Max Färberböck. This film received an overwhelming response from the community and also attracted an influx of Rutgers students, whose transportation to the festival was arranged by the Bildner Center and the Rutgers University Office of Student Life. Based on the extraordinary true story told in Erica Fischer's best selling 1994 book *Aimee & Jaguar*, the film focuses on a love affair that develops between two women in 1943 Germany, as bombs fall on Berlin and the Gestapo purges Jews from the capital. Lilly Wust, married with four children, represents Nazi motherhood. Felice Schragenheim is a Jew and member of the underground who is ultimately captured by the Nazis. The film recounts Lilly Wust's memories of their relationship at that time. Lead actress Juliane Köhler (Lilly) shared her experi-

Continued on page 14

Jew vs. Jew Symposium

On February 28th, over 450 community members, students, and faculty attended a panel discussion sponsored by the Bildner Center on how major historical trends have shaped current Jewish community life in America and may influence its future. A distinguished panel of scholars addressed the provocative ideas raised by Professor Samuel G. Freedman in his latest book *Jew vs. Jew: The Struggle for the Soul of American Jewry*, winner of this year's National Jewish Book Award for non-fiction. Author and Columbia University Journalism professor Samuel Freedman, who opened the evening's program, was joined by Professor Elisheva Carlebach of Queens College; Dr. Jonathan Woocher, President of the Jewish Education Service of North America; and, Rutgers Sociology and Jewish Studies Professor, Chaim I. Waxman, who served as the program moderator.

Born and raised in Highland Park, New Jersey, Professor Freedman first noted the warm feelings evoked by his return to the area and his strong connection to the community, and acknowledged the influence of Professor



Yael Zerubavel, Samuel G. Freedman, and David Freedman

Waxman's recent book *Jewish Baby Boomers: A Communal Perspective* on his own work. Freedman addressed the fragmentation that he believes currently characterizes Jewish life in America, which has accelerated and become more acute over the past 50 years. He noted both a widening gap between religious Jewish life and non-religious Jewish life and growing rifts and disputes in the religious Jewish sphere. He asserted that the growing chasm presents a serious threat to a continued strong and vibrant American Jewish community.

Offering a rich historical background and perspective on the struggle between traditionalists and assimilationists, Professor Carlebach noted that "the profound collective memory of this type of conflict has shaped Jewish consciousness for a very long time." Such conflict, in her view, is not necessarily a sign of pathology or civil war. Rather, it may be seen as a productive tension between thesis and antithesis that leads to a

creative synthesis: "Jews of every denomination and persuasion care deeply about the perpetuation of some form of Jewishness...The contentiousness is a sign that Jews are confident enough about their place in American society that they don't have to sweep all their disagreements out of sight."

Dr. Woocher asserted that the emphasis on conflicts serves to obscure the complex dynamic of change in which a "modern ethno-religious community is in the process of redefining itself as a postmodern ethno-religious community." Most Jews, he maintained, do not view the conflicts as central to current American Jewish life. As Jews continue their assimilation into American culture, they have by no means disappeared as a community. Rather, they are creating a new and different postmodern Jewish identity that can be characterized by "the personalization of Jewish identity" and "the fluidity of Jewish identity." Woocher noted that for this generation, Jewish identity is largely defined by the individual, and that this is considered a basic right of every Jewish American citizen.

The presentations were followed by a dynamic interchange among audience and panelists and the discussion continued informally at a dessert reception.

West German Literature and the Holocaust

Ernestine Schlant Bradley delivered the Fourth Annual Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein and Edward J. Bloustein Memorial Lecture on the topic of her latest book, *The Language of Silence: West German Literature and the Holocaust* (New York: Routledge, 1999). She discussed the contention of her book that "in its approach to the Holocaust, the West German literature of four decades has been a literature of absence and silence contoured by language...the strategies employed in the attempts to circumvent, repress, or deny knowledge of it are as much an indication of that knowledge as the often groping and inept efforts to face up to the crimes of the Nazi regime." The lecture, co-sponsored by the Bildner Center and the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, drew such a large audience of community members, faculty, and students that it was broadcast to the overflow crowd in a separate room.

A prominent professor of German and Comparative Litera-

ture, Schlant Bradley has taught at Montclair State University since 1971 and held visiting professorships at Yale and Columbia Universities.



Joan Bildner, Ernestine Schlant Bradley, Yael Zerubavel, and James Hughes (Dean, Bloustein School)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

■ WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

*History, Memory and
Personal Testimony*
December 7, 2000

- Documented Oral Histories as Teaching Tools, Professor Yael Zerubavel
- Personal Memoir – The Challenge of Writing One's History, Inge Auerbacher, Survivor and author of "The Yellow Star" (her memoir)
- The Challenge of Using Testimonies in the Classroom, William C. Donahue, Rutgers University
- A Teacher's Perspective, James C. DeAngelo, St. Peter's Prep, Jersey City, NJ

*Anne Frank:
New Perspectives*
February 9, 2001

- The Diary and Its Background, and Anne Frank on Stage and Screen, Alex Sagan, Harvard University
- Virtual Tour of the Anne Frank House, and Anne Frank Imagined, Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University

■ FOUR WEEK MINI-COURSE

*Visual Images of
the Holocaust*
March 2001

Four key areas in visual representation of the Holocaust were discussed in this short course for teachers: vintage images, television, contemporary arts, and museums. Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University

NJ Teacher Benefits from HRC

The Littman Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) was invited to participate in the Holocaust Centers of Excellence Program sponsored by The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. Karen Small and Perri Geller-Clark, a secondary English and Humanities teacher at Moorestown High School in Moorestown, New Jersey, attended the summer teacher seminar "Teaching the Holocaust: History, Perspectives and Choices." An avid participant in Rutgers' HRC teacher workshops, Geller-Clark has a long-standing interest in Holocaust studies: her formal experience with Holocaust education began in 1989 when she attended the Jewish

Labor Committee course at the Ghetto Fighter's House and Yad Vashem in Israel. She believes that "while students should be inspired by the rescuers and resistance, they should also not be sheltered from the realities of the Holocaust experience... the impossibility of choice in the ghettos and camps, and they should read literature and non-fiction that make them think and feel." Geller-Clark was recently selected to be a Mandel Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Perri Geller-Clark

Bildner Center Program Highlights 2000-2001



Yael Zerubavel, Sylvia Matlofsky, and Sharon Karmazin with Aaron Lansky, Founding President of the National Yiddish Book Center, at his talk "Outwitting History: Yiddish Culture Today," the Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program sponsored by The Karma Foundation.

Right: Michal Govrin (the Aresty Visiting Fellow), with Lorraine and Jerome Aresty prior to her talk on "Jewish Renewal in Israeli Art – A View from Within."



DEVELOPMENT

Our thanks to all the Center's generous supporters over the past year.

Campaign Leadership

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Joan Bildner
Alvin Rockoff

Campaign Vice-chairs

Bruce Freeman
Herbert Klein
Sima Jelin Lichtman
Harold Perl *
Norman Reitman
Adelaide Zagoren

* *deceased*

Major Gifts to the Center

July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001

Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Franklin Hannoeh, Jr.
The Karma Foundation
The late Janice Levin
The Nicholas Martini Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Meyer III
Dr. Norman Reitman and the late Syril Reitman
Ruth Feller Rosenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Seiden
The Honorable Baruch S. Seidman
Robert Steinberg
Wilf Family Foundation
Bert and Rita Wolf

In Memoriam

The Bildner Center lost three dear friends and benefactors this year: Janice Levin, Harold Perl and Syril Reitman. Their generous spirits will always be remembered with fondness and tenderness.

Janice Levin was a most generous supporter of the Bildner Center, Rutgers University, and the community. Among her many philanthropic contributions was the establishment of The Philip and Janice Levin Visiting Professor in Jewish Studies. This gift will enrich the academic program for years to come and enhance the Center's community outreach as visiting fellows deliver public lectures during their affiliation with Rutgers.

Harold Perl and his wife Betty have given in innumerable ways to the New Jersey Community, to Rutgers University, and to the Center. By establishing the Harold and Betty Perl Endowed Scholarship, Harold Perl will continue to make a significant difference in the lives of students who choose to specialize in Jewish Studies in the years to come.

The Center is deeply indebted to **Syril Reitman** and her husband Dr. Norman Reitman who have given so generously to the Center. The establishment of an endowment fund for visiting scholars in Jewish Studies will continue to bring outstanding scholars to Rutgers, adding to the curriculum of Jewish Studies and improving the New Jersey community's access to exceptional public educational programming far into the future. The Reitman Family Student Award will continue to provide annual scholarships that deeply affect the lives of Jewish Studies students.

Taub Foundation Enhances Course Curriculum

Thanks to a generous grant from the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation to establish a curriculum enhancement fund, the Jewish Studies Department is able to enrich its courses in numerous vital ways, including class trips, additional teaching resources, and guest speakers. Last year, students enrolled in "History of the Holocaust," in the fall and spring terms, and "German Jewish Literature from the Enlightenment to the Present," made three separate trips to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. These visits benefited the students with a hands-on experience and introduced fresh perspectives on their course materials.

Students in Professor Zerubavel's "Cultural Memory" seminar and Professor Shandler's "Yiddish Literature and Culture" course joined together for a dynamic tour of New York's Lower East Side. They were able to explore the famous neighborhood of the vibrant Jewish immigrant community, visit some of its notable landmarks, and observe its transformation.



STUDENT NEWS

Ami Yares

Ami Yares, a Jewish Studies and music major and the recipient of this year's Reitman Family Student Award, was recently presented with a unique opportunity. David Rabeeya, an Iraqi Jewish professor and Hebrew poet, asked him to undertake a recording project including the writing, arranging, recording, and performing of music to accompany his poems. One of the goals of the project is to capture the emotion of Rabeeya's poetry, much of which relates to the poet's experiences immigrating to Israel. Thus, Ami has been inspired to learn as much as possible about Iraqi Jewish history and music.

Ami initially became aware of the difficulties that Jews from Arab lands experienced in trying to adapt to modern Israeli culture in Professor Yael Zerubavel's course on "Israeli Culture." Professor Zerubavel's "Jewish Memory" course piqued Ami's interest in the way music is involved in the formation of

collective or cultural memory and the role it plays in the development of identity. Ami decided, therefore, to undertake a research paper on the history of the Iraqi Jewish community and the role of music in the life of Iraqi Jews. Ami has also taken up the study of Middle Eastern music, training himself in Middle Eastern style percussion, with a focus on the *dumbaq*, an hourglass shaped drum, and learning about the *oud*, a Middle Eastern fretless lute that is similar to a guitar.

Ami has most appreciated the flexibility that the Jewish Studies Department offers him to focus on his area of interest as well as the warm, personal relationships among professors and students.

Ami's extracurricular activities and work experiences reflect his love for music and Jewish life as well as his interest in international justice and freedom. He is a guitarist in a rock band, which provided entertainment for a campus *Yom HaAtzmaut* (Israel Independence Day) celebration.



Ami Yares with Dr. Norman Reitman

Through Rutgers Hillel, Ami was involved in organizing both the annual "Day without Hate" and, more recently, an interfaith Seder.

After finishing college, Ami plans to pursue the two-year Teach for America program. Ultimately, he would like to combine the performance and study of music, with its communicative capacity to improve interpersonal and inter-communal relationships.

Students Studying in Israel in 2000-2001

Hebrew University

Ayelet Margolin, DC '02

Rutgers Program, University of Haifa

Adam Barker, UC, '03
(Fall 2000)

Daphne Gasthalter, NCAS, '03
(Spring 2001)

Tanya Knizhnik, DC, '03
(Spring 2001)

Lauren Shapiro, RC, '02
(Spring 2001)

Keren Sofer, RC, '02
(Spring 2001)

Elizaveta Tertychnaya, RC, '03
(Fall 2000)

Central New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

Continued from page 10

ences making the film, remarking that meeting the real Lilly Wust, who currently lives in Berlin, and participating in this film offered her a new perspective on human relationships and events during the Holocaust unlike any she had ever witnessed in films on the subject during her formal education in Germany.

The Festival culminated with a double feature: "After the End of the World" was followed by the sold-out screening of "Solomon & Gaenor," an Academy Award Nominee for Best Foreign Language Film in 2000. Set in 1911 during the period of the Tredegar riots, in which Jewish owned shops in the coal-mining valleys of Wales were looted, "Solomon & Gaenor" tells the story of a passionate love affair between an Orthodox Jewish boy and a Welsh girl, and the prejudice and fear that it engenders in the couple's families and respective communities. British writer and director Paul Morrison offered his personal reflections about "Solomon & Gaenor" at the screening. In addition to addressing issues raised in the film, such as interfaith relationships, he shed light on the history of the Jewish community in the Welsh Valleys, which were dotted with synagogues during the period of 1870 – 1950.

The community's overwhelmingly enthusiastic response to the Jewish Film Festival has demonstrated the great interest in continuing this initiative. Thus, the Bildner Center will sponsor the Second Annual Central New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, from November 4 – 11, 2001.

Marla Kotler

Marla Kotler's interest in exploring Jewish spirituality and the correlation between Judaic thought and environmental awareness developed in high school and fully blossomed in college when she decided to major in Jewish Studies. Marla has combined her interests in Jewish Studies and environmental awareness in her academic and extracurricular pursuits and her career goals.

The recipient of the Bernice and Milton I. Luxemburg Student Award and the Sandra and Stephen M. Greenberg Student Award, Marla has taken 26 Jewish Studies courses at Rutgers, more than were required to earn her B.A. degree, because of sheer love of the subject matter. Marla believes it is vital to integrate Jewish values into all aspects of her life, including her academic experience and choice of future profession.

According to Marla, the Jewish Studies program opened for her a new world of thought. Reading Jewish existentialist and transcendentalist thinkers, in particular Joshua Heschel's "God in Search of Man," led her to think about how one might incorporate environmental issues into a Jewish framework. Marla's research on Jewish environmental ethics enabled her to



explore the ways in which thinkers such as Heschel, Martin Buber and Rabbi Kook might view our society's current environmental decline, focusing on the

Jewish principles of social justice, *tikkun olam*, and *bal tash'chit* (do not destroy).

In addition to teaching at a Hebrew school, Marla has been involved with the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG), the Sierra Club, and the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment. Last year, Marla founded a Jewish environmental student organization at Rutgers, which offered field trips and Jewish holiday events.

Marla has accepted a position as a programming director at the Jewish Center in Princeton, where she will be able to design and implement educational programs to teach about various aspects of Judaism. She hopes, ultimately, to become a college professor of Jewish Studies and history and reports being particularly influenced by Professor Leonard Levin, Professor Chaim I. Waxman, and Professor Yael Zerubavel. She notes that these professors have served as role models for her, representing the kind of professor that she aspires to become: one who develops mentoring relationships with her students.



Student award recipients with Yael Zerubavel at the Jewish Studies Awards ceremony held at the Zimmerli Museum, May 1, 2001

Student Awards

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

Kellita R. Cohen '01

The Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Undergraduate Scholarship

Sara E. Elias '02

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

Sarah A. Finkelstein '01

The Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Endowed Student Support Fund

Noa S. Gelnik '02

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

Sharon H. Green '02

The Betty and Julius Gillman Memorial Student Support Fund

Joshua Haviv '01

The Leonard and Adele Blumberg Student Award

Adina Kordova '02

The Bernice and Milton I. Luxemburg Student Award Fund and The Sandra and Stephen M. Greenberg Student Award

Marla S. Kotler '01

The Gertrude and Jacob Henschel Memorial Student Support Fund

Stephanie A. Pell '01

The Norma U. and David M. Levitt Student Award

Maya Ravee '01

The Ruth Feller Rosenberg Endowed Student Award Fund in Memory of

Alexander and Daniel Feller

Aliza I. Sacknovitz '01

The Harold and Betty Perl Endowed Scholarship

Ilana Tawil '01

The Louis Fishman Memorial Student Support Fund

Elizaveta Tertychnaya '03

The Leonard and Adele Blumberg Student Award

Leora R. Trub '03

The Reitman Family Student Award

Ami S. Yares '03

Henry Rutgers Scholars Theses

Jeremy Wimpfheimer, *The Most Benevolent Alliance: Understanding America's Foreign Policy to Israel*

Elissa Winkelstein, *Eating Disorders in the Orthodox Jewish Community: An Ecological Inquiry*

Upcoming Programs 2001-2002

Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate

The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff
Annual Lecture
Tom Segev
September 12; 7:30PM

Shifting Ethnicity: Contemporary German Jews

The Raoul Wallenberg Annual
Public Lecture
Michael Bodemann
October 25; 7:30PM

The Central New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

November 4 – 11

History of Jews in Poland

Workshop for Teachers
Fall Semester

Nazi Regime and German Jewry 1933-1939

Mini-course for Teachers
Guy Miron
March

The State of Israel vs. Adolf Eichmann

Hanna Yablonka
Spring Semester

For further information
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Cover and back page artwork: Part of the mosaic pavement at the 6th-century Bet Alpha synagogue: The signs of the Zodiac and the four seasons (cover page); the Binding of Isaac showing Abraham, Isaac, Eliezer, Ishmael, the hand from heaven and the ram (back page).



THE ALLEN AND JOAN BILDNER Center for the Study of Jewish Life

Director: **Professor Yael Zerubavel** • Associate Director: **Karen Small**
Assistant to the Director: **Arlene Goldstein** • Department Secretary: **Simone Fisch**

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