



RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

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

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER • NUMBER 8 • FALL 2004

From the Director's Desk...

As the new academic year unfolds, Jewish Studies at Rutgers is facing an exciting landmark in its development. This year, we welcome to our faculty Professor Gary A. Rendsburg who comes to Rutgers from Cornell University as the inaugural Blanch and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History. A biblical scholar of international reputation, Professor Rendsburg adds the important fields of biblical literature and ancient Jewish history to the Jewish Studies curriculum. The university will be marking the investiture of the new Chair in an official ceremony and we thank the Laurie Foundation for its generous gift. Professor Nancy Sinkoff, the first Assistant Professor recruited for Jewish Studies and History six years ago and a remarkable force in developing the Department's curriculum, was promoted last spring to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. During this last academic year, new books were published by Professor Azzan Yadin, Nancy Sinkoff, and Chaim Waxman. Other news about our faculty's new publications and professional activities are featured inside.

This fall, Professor Rendsburg is also beginning his term as the new Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies. Having devoted eight years to serving as the Founding Director of the Bildner Center and to building the Department as its first Chair, I welcome my sabbatical leave and the opportunity to focus on my research and writing. I will resume my responsibilities as the Center's Director next year. This new division of administrative responsibilities will enable us to meet the growing needs of faculty and students as well as the Center's increasing range of activities. During my leave, Professor Jeffrey Shandler is serving as the Center's Acting Director and is working closely with Karen Small, the Center's indefatigable Associate Director, on developing its outreach programs. Top amongst the Center's goals this year is the planning of a new "Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education" for NJ educators that will be launched during Fall 2005.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to spend four months at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew

University in Jerusalem as part of a research group on shifting Jewish identities and the dynamics of Jewish belonging. The fellowship provided a stimulating intellectual environment to pursue my research and meet with Israeli colleagues and graduate students. It also made it possible to experience the extraordinary vitality of Israeli cultural and academic life, which is all too often overshadowed by political and security issues.

As the number of our alumni grows, we are pleased to include some alumni news in each newsletter. It is important for us to hear from current and former students. Please keep us posted!

As always, we thank our friends and supporters who are helping Jewish Studies and make it possible for us to continue its development. We appreciate your interest, commitment and generosity and invite you to come to campus to meet our faculty and students and attend the various programs of the Bildner Center.

— Professor Yael Zerubavel



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Jewish refugee children wave at the Statue of Liberty as the SS President Harding steams into New York Harbor, June 3, 1939.

See Center programs on 350 years of Jewish life in America on page 6.

New Books by Rutgers' Jewish Studies Faculty

Out of the *Shtetl*: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands

Brown Judaic Studies, Summer 2004

Nancy Sinkoff

Nancy Sinkoff's new book explores the cultural and intellectual history of Polish Jewry's encounter with the Western European Enlightenment and with the Haskalah, the Jewish Enlightenment, which began in Berlin in the eighteenth century. She examines this encounter through the intellectual biographies of Mendel Lefin of Satanów (1749–1826) and his disciple Joseph Perl (1773–1839), two *maskilim* (enlightened Jews) who influenced the development of the Haskalah in both Austrian Galicia and Russia in the nineteenth century.

Out of the "Shtetl" examines the ways in which the rich intellectual and religious heritage of Polish Jewry informed their

encounter with the Enlightenment. Lefin's and Perl's efforts to transform Eastern European Jews and "make them modern" were responsive to the general cultural trends of the Enlightenment; at the same time, they were explicitly fashioned for the particular Jewish, Polish, and Austrian Galician contexts in which they lived. Sinkoff stresses the significance of the partitions of Poland at the end of the eighteenth century, which reshaped all of European Jewry by thrusting Poland's large Jewish population into a new encounter with the absolutist European state. By articulating a response to the most influential intellectual currents of the day and reshaping them for the Polish Jewish community that they hoped to transform, Lefin and Perl formulated a specifically Eastern European conception of the modern Jew.

Scripture as Logos: Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Midrash

University of Pennsylvania Press

June 2004

Azzan Yadin

The study of midrash—the biblical exegesis, parables, and anecdotes of the rabbis—has enjoyed a renaissance in recent years. Most recent scholarship, however, has focused on the aggadic, or narrative, midrash, while halakhic, or legal, midrash—the exegesis of biblical law—has received relatively little attention. In *Scripture as Logos*, **Azzan Yadin** addresses this long-standing need, examining the legal midrashim of the tannaitic period (70–200 C.E.).

The book provides textual analysis of

the rabbinic texts, focusing on the midrashim of Rabbi Ishmael (one of the sages from the time of the Mishnah). Contrary to the dominant view today, these midrashic texts seek to minimize the role of the rabbinic reader by presenting the Torah as an actively self-interpretive text.

Yadin's book locates this interpretive approach within the religious landscape of the literature of the Second Temple era and the early years following the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. The result is a series of surprising connections between these rabbinic texts and other religious texts of the time, all of which lead to a rethinking of the origins of rabbinic midrash and, moreover, of the rabbis as a whole.

Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns

Brandeis University Press/University Press of New England, December 2003

Uzi Rebhun and Chaim I. Waxman, eds.

This collection of twenty original essays provides an array of perspectives on Jews and Jewish life in Israel from 1948 to the present, systematically exploring the

challenges and contradictions of Israel as a modern, heterogeneous society. In addition to a social history of Jews in Israel over the last century and a survey of major demographic trends among Israelis in the 1990s, the essays cover such topics as absorption of new immigrants; the significance of gender in an evolving society; the influence of major religious

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Gary A. Rendsburg, Chair,
Jewish Studies; History

Myron J. Aronoff, Political Science
and Anthropology

William Donahue, German

Maurice Elias, Psychology

Leslie Fishbein, American Studies

Ziva Galili, History

Judith Gerson, Sociology

Paul Hanebrink, History

Dina LeGall, History

Phyllis Mack, History

Alicia Ostriker, English

Barbara Reed, Journalism

Jeffrey Shandler, Jewish Studies

Nancy Sinkoff, Jewish Studies
and History

Chaim I. Waxman, Sociology

Azzan Yadin, Jewish Studies

Yael Zerubavel, Jewish Studies
and History

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Hebrew Language Coordinator

Edna Bryn-Noiman

Pearl Gluck

Lily Levy

PART-TIME LECTURERS

Philip Hollander

Mark Kligman

Leonard Levin

Alyssa Quint

Moshe Sherman

VISITING FACULTY

Na'ama Sheffi, fall

political parties; and non-Orthodox religious beliefs and movements. A number of additional challenges facing Israeli Jewry in the twenty-first century are emphasized including the tension between the desire to maintain the unique character of the Jewish state and the values of a modern democratic society.

The Inaugural Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History

In the fall of 2004, Professor **Gary A. Rendsburg** became the first professor to hold the new Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History. Established by a major gift from the **Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation**, the Laurie Chair is the first named professorship in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers. Professor Rendsburg, who is also the new chair of the Department of Jewish Studies, is an acclaimed scholar of the Hebrew Bible.

His passion for understanding a biblical passage motivates his wide-ranging scholarship, which includes delving into the history, law, and religions of the ancient Near East as well as researching ancient Aramaic translations of the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls. “The text remains central, and a desire to explicate the text remains the driving force in my scholarship,” he says. “I will venture into whatever cognate field and employ whatever line of study is necessary to gain a greater understanding of the text.”

“The Bible is the meeting ground of a variety of disciplines,” says Rendsburg, a specialist in Hebrew language and literature. “No one can master all of them, but you need to know a bit about each and become an expert in several. There’s nothing like the thrill of tracking down a rare word in the Bible—it’s like detective work.”

“The biblical world is like a jigsaw puzzle,” he explains. “We have a handful of



the puzzle pieces, but we don’t know how large the puzzle is—is it 500 or 1,000 pieces?—and we don’t have the picture on the box. We have to try to piece together the pieces that we have—even if it’s just a handful.”

A prolific biblical scholar, Rendsburg is the author of five books: *The Redaction of Genesis*, *Diglossia in Ancient Hebrew*, *Linguistic Evidence for the Northern Origin of Selected Psalms*, *The Bible and the Ancient Near East* (co-authored with Cyrus H. Gordon), and *Israelian Hebrew in the Book of Kings*. He has co-edited another five books and written more than 100 articles.

Rendsburg’s early research focused on Hebrew linguistics—in particular, the topic of diglossia in ancient Hebrew—as well as distinctions between standard biblical Hebrew and late biblical Hebrew. His article “Late Biblical Hebrew and the Date of ‘P’” (1980) is still regularly cited today and is considered a major contribution to the field.

In 1986–1987, when Rendsburg received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to write a historical grammar of biblical Hebrew, his research led him to discover evidence of a regional dialect of ancient Hebrew associated with the northern part of the country, which he subsequently termed “Israelian Hebrew.” He published several acclaimed works on this topic, including two of his aforemen-

tioned books.

Rendsburg’s scholarship is positioned at the junction of language and literature. He particularly enjoys demonstrating the use of literary devices in the Bible, as in the case of his two current major projects: a monograph on the “Song of Songs” (co-authored with Scott Noegel of the University of Washington), and a study of the use of alliteration as a compositional device in biblical Hebrew texts, both poetry and prose.

Rendsburg has always had a love for language. He grew up in Iselin in a home where both English and German were spoken. He attended the University of North Carolina, where he majored in journalism and English, and then studied at the Institute of Hebrew Culture and Education of New York University, where he earned his doctoral degree. In 1986, he joined the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University, and five years ago he was appointed the Paul and Berthe Hendrix Memorial Professor of Jewish Studies. He has visited Israel many times, including two terms as a visiting research professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Following his eighteen-year tenure at Cornell University, Rendsburg explains that he feels like a “local boy returning home.” His parents, Julius and Irene Rendsburg, still live in Edison, and he feels very comfortable in the New Brunswick area. Nonetheless, his reasons for coming to Rutgers are as much professional as personal.

“I’m eager to be part of a young, dynamic program,” Rendsburg says. “Moreover, in the last five to ten years Rutgers has worked hard to enhance its standing as a top-tier, major state research university with an international reputation.”

As the new chair of the Department of Jewish Studies, Rendsburg looks forward to working closely with Professor **Yael Zerubavel**, who will continue as director of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life.

Special thanks to the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation for its most generous support, which made this endowed chair possible.

FACULTY SEMINARS 2003-2004

Oren Soffer, Aresty Visiting Fellow, Bildner Center, fall 2003: “From the Traditional Model of Discourse to the Modern Model: The Case of the Early Hebrew Press”

Adiel Schremer, Bar-Ilan University: “‘The Fool Says in His Heart There Is No God’: Heresy in Early Rabbinic Literature”

Eliezer Don-Yehiya, Bar-Ilan University and Visiting Scholar, Bildner Center, spring 2004: “Changes in Israeli Civil Religion”

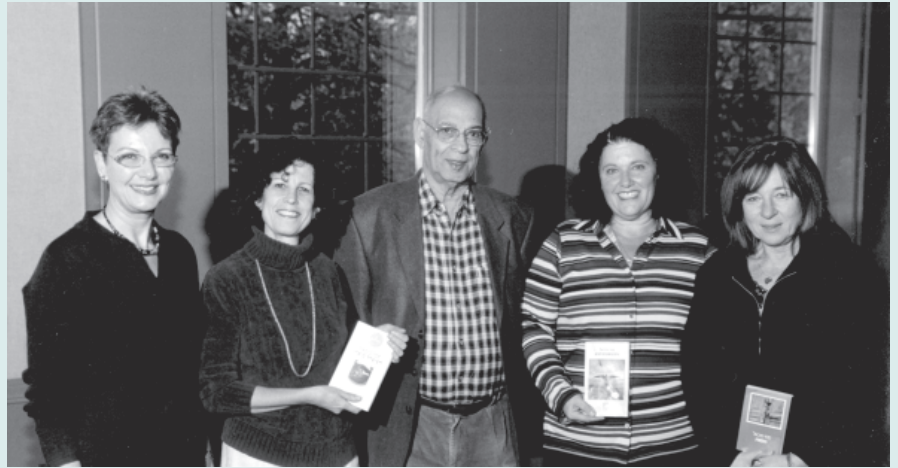
Ghil’ad Zuckermann, Churchill College, University of Cambridge: “The Genetics of Israeli Language, Between Revival and Survival: Yiddish, Hebrew, and Israeli”

Israeli Authors Forum Attracts Hebrew-Speaking Audience

Sami Michael

The Bildner Center's first public program in Hebrew featured internationally acclaimed Israeli author **Sami Michael**, who spoke in November 2003 to an audience of about eighty Hebrew speakers that included community members and Rutgers students, faculty, and staff. Born in Iraq in 1926, Michael is one of Israel's leading writers today. He has published eleven novels, including *Refuge* and *Victoria*. His book *A Trumpet in the Wadi* was published in English translation in August 2003.

At the program, Michael described his own immigration to Israel and the experience of living with Arab neighbors in Haifa after fleeing anti-Semitic violence in Iraq during the 1940s. He argued that Arabs and Jews can live peacefully with



Hebrew Language Coordinator Orly Moshenberg, Yael Zerubavel, Sami Michael, and Hebrew instructors Edna Bryn-Noiman and Lily Levy

each other, as they did in the past in Iraq. The portrayal of Jews and Arabs in his novels reflects this perspective on coexistence.

Participants continued an informal discussion with Michael at a reception, where they enjoyed traditional Israeli foods. Following the afternoon Hebrew discussion, Michael attended the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival's closing

night screening of *A Trumpet in the Wadi*. He carried on a lively question-and-answer session with the sold-out crowd after the film (see page 7).

Savyon Liebrecht

The Israeli Consulate in New York co-sponsored a visit to Rutgers by author **Savyon Liebrecht** in the spring semester. Liebrecht is the author of novels, stories, television scripts, and plays. In 1987, she received the Alterman Award for her first short-story collection *Apples from the Desert* (1986), and she has twice been awarded Israel's Prime Minister's Prize for Literature. Her work has been translated widely. Prior to her talk, students and instructors from the Hebrew literature courses in the Department of Jewish Studies, as well as invited guests, joined Liebrecht for an informal dinner. This gathering provided an exceptional opportunity for students who were reading Liebrecht's stories in their courses to talk with her in an intimate setting. During the program, which was followed by a question-and-answer session, Liebrecht read from her works and spoke about the process of writing. She described the relationship between her inner world and the world that she creates in her stories.



Hana Wirth-Nesher, Tel Aviv University, (with Yael Zerubavel) at her public lecture "Images of Israel in American Jewish Literature" supported by the Sagner Family Foundation.

Shlomo Avineri Delivers Rockoff Annual Lecture

More than 500 people attended the Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture, "Israel between War and Peace," presented by renowned Israeli statesman and distinguished professor **Shlomo Avineri**. A professor of political science and director of the Institute for European Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Avineri is the author of numerous publications on Middle Eastern politics, political theory, and international affairs. He served as director-general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1975 to 1977 and is a recipient of the Israel Prize, the country's highest civilian decoration.

Professor Avineri provided a historical overview of the peace process, along with a political analysis of the implications of the present situation and possible solutions for breaking the deadlock. Much of Avineri's talk is summarized in an article he published in the new *Rutgers Student Journal of Israel Affairs*, which is adapted below. Launched in spring 2004, the journal is a student-led initiative under the guidance of Rutgers faculty and Hillel professionals.

In 2000 at Camp David, the Palestinians rejected the most far-reaching offer ever made to them: Prime Minister Barak, with President Clinton's support, offered to accept a Palestinian state, hand over between 92 and 95% of the occupied territories, dismantle dozens of settlements, redive Jerusalem and share sovereignty on the Temple Mount. The Palestinian rejection—coupled with a demand for the return of 1947–48 refugees, and followed by the resumption of terrorism by suicide bombers—convinced many Israelis that the time is not yet ripe for a historic reconciliation with the Palestinians. With the present



Alvin and Ruth Rockoff, Shlomo Avineri

situation untenable, the idea of a unilateral disengagement was raised on the Israeli Left.

This had a double aim: to end most of the occupation and to give Israeli citizens a modicum of defense, especially against suicide bombers. Obviously, creating an effective border would entail dismantling a significant number of settlements.

For this reason the right-wing government of Ariel Sharon opposed the erection of a security fence: it rightly understood that this would put an end to the dream of a Greater Israel and create a de facto border.

Sharon was elected twice on a platform of "Peace and Security." His government brought none. Eventually Sharon was pushed reluctantly toward the only viable option: create a defensive barrier between Israel and the territories.

As originally envisaged by the Left, the route of the fence should be as close as possible to the 1967 line; the present government has tried to extend this. But international public opinion, as well as public pressure in Israel, has already made the government change the route several times. On the other hand, Sharon has followed the internal logic of unilateral disengagement: to the consternation of his own party, he publicly announced that Israel will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and dismantle all the Jewish settlements there.

The defensive fence is a nonsolution, and it creates hardships on both sides. But if it will bring de-escalation and some measure of stability, it will achieve what has been achieved in regions like Bosnia, Kosovo, and Cyprus: that absent an agreement, disengagement and stabilization constitute the next best option. Anyone opposing the fence has a moral obligation to come up with an alternative solution that not only would sound politically correct and nice on paper, but also has a chance of implementation.

Aresty Visiting Fellow 2004

Na'ama Sheffi, the Aresty Visiting Fellow for fall 2004, is a senior lecturer in the School of Communication at Sapir College in Ashqelon, Israel. She received a Ph.D. in History from Tel Aviv University after completing a dissertation on German literature in Hebrew culture from 1882-1948. Sheffi has published two books in Hebrew: *German into Hebrew in Jewish Palestine, 1882-1948* (Yad Itzhak Ben Zvi, 1998) and *The Ring of Myths: Wagner, The Israelis, and the Nazis* (Haifa University Press, Zmora Bitan, 1999). The latter was published in an English translation by Sussex Academic Press in 2001. Sheffi's current project focuses on the role that children's stories played in indoctrinating the ideal of heroism in Israel, from the establishment of the state in 1948 through the Six Day War in 1967. As a visiting scholar, Sheffi will teach the undergraduate course "Israeli Culture," which examines the State's early development.

FACULTY STUDENT SEMINARS

■ **Shlomo Avineri**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem: "Israeli Society between War and Peace"

Co-sponsored with Rutgers Hillel:

■ **Danny Kaplan**, Ben-Gurion University: "Brothers in Arms: Sexuality in the IDF"

■ **Kimmy Caplan**, Bar-Ilan University: "Are the Haredim Becoming More Israeli?"

■ **Oren Soffer**, Aresty Visiting Professor, Bildner Center: "The Challenge of Democracy in Israel"

**For courses on Israel,
please see page 13.**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From the Associate Director

The Bildner Center's rich array of lectures and programs attracted large audiences to the Rutgers campus, creating a bridge between the university and the community. Lectures on Jewish food and the Lower East Side, Jewish summer camps and Jewish GIs in World War II contributed to the Center's commemoration of 350 years of Jewish life in America. Our newest initiative, the Israeli Authors Forum, drew Hebrew speakers to campus for an engaging dialogue with authors visiting from Israel. For the fourth year in a row, the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival played to sold-out audiences, who enjoyed stimulating dialogue on a diverse range of Jewish topics and issues with filmmakers and scholars. The tremendous interest in

Israeli films was the spark for the Mini-Israeli film festival this year, featuring a pre-film talk on the transformation of Israeli cinema and three-award winning Israeli films.

The work of the Littman Holocaust Resource Center extended beyond New Jersey through a partnership with the U.S Holocaust Memorial Museum. The first Mandel Fellows Regional Conference was held at Rutgers, utilizing the expertise of Rutgers staff and faculty, who organized the conference and facilitated the workshops (see p. 9). Thanks to a generous grant from the Claims Conference, the Center is now planning a Master Teacher Institute on Holocaust Education slated to begin in the fall of 2005.

We appreciate your support and invite your participation in all of our community programs.
—Karen Small

Lecture Series Marks 350 Years of Jewish Life in America

To commemorate 350 years of Jewish life in America, the Bildner Center presented several public lectures focusing on the Jewish American experience. In October, Dr. **Deborah Dash Moore** delivered the **Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Lecture** entitled "When Jews Were GIs: How World War II Changed a Generation." Moore showed how military service in World War II transformed a generation of Jews, reshaping Jewish life in America and abroad. In particular, military service strengthened Jews' identification with American democratic ideals, even as it confirmed the importance of their Jewish identity.

A professor of religion at Vassar College, Moore has focused much of her research on twentieth-century urban Jewish history. Her publications include *To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.* and *At Home in America: Second Generation New York Jews*. Moore's forthcoming book looks at Jewish GIs and the transformations in Jewish identity wrought by World War II.

In February, Dr. **Riv Ellen Prell** explored the various struggles faced by American Jews and Jewish community leadership in the 1950s and 1960s, in her talk entitled "Jewish Youth Culture Following World War II: Remaking American Judaism." Prell addressed the challenges of suburbanization, including the challenge of maintaining one's Jewish identity while assimilating into American society. According to Prell, the rise of

denominational and Zionist summer camps had a strong impact on American Judaism in the 1970s. She drew on vivid examples from campers' diaries and letters to illustrate their impact on Jewish identity.

An anthropologist from the University of Minnesota, Prell has focused her research on American Jewish culture and the ways in which it has been shaped by class and gender. She is the author of *Fighting to Become Americans: Jews, Gender, and the Anxiety of Assimilation* and *Prayer and Community: The Havura in American Judaism*, winner of the 1990 National Jewish Book Award. Her forthcoming book is tentatively titled *Reshaping American Judaism: The Jewish Culture of the Baby Boom*.

In March, Dr. **Sherry B. Ortner** delivered the **Avram Matlofsky Memorial Lecture** supported by the **Karma Foundation**. She spoke about her recent book, *New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58*, which explores the ways in which class, race, gender, and ethnicity affected the lives of Ortner's graduating class from Weequahic High School in Newark. For the study, Ortner managed to track down most of her 304 classmates and, through surveys and interviews, documented their experiences. Her talk focused largely on how the vast majority of her class, which was 83 percent Jewish, went from predominantly working-class or middle-class beginnings to positions of great wealth and status, similar to the major



Sherry Ortner and Sharon Karmazin

social transformations in the United States at the time.

Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University, Ortner spent many years studying the Sherpa of Nepal. In the 1990s, she decided to turn her attention to her own culture, which resulted in her book. The talk attracted a significant number of Weequahic alumni, many of whom still live in the area.

In May, the Bildner Center joined with the Jewish Historical Society of Central Jersey to present "Send a Salami to Your Boy in the Army: Jewish Food and Memory on the Lower East Side." Delivered by **Eve Jochowitz**, a Yiddish instructor at Rutgers University and a culinary history instructor at The New School, the lecture focused on Katz's Delicatessen, a famous destination restaurant in Manhattan, as a means of exploring the geography of Jewish memories, particularly those connected with food and the historical landmarks of the Lower East Side. The talk was presented in association with the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center's EXPO '04, "The Jewish Immigrant."

Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

A love story about two outsiders in Israeli society, the dangerous voyage of the *Exodus 1947*, and the tale of an ordinary man who finds courage in Nazi-occupied France were just some of the subjects of the ten films featured at the fourth annual Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival.

Filmmakers and other special guests drew large crowds for the festival's screenings. **Alan Berliner**, award-winning director of *Nobody's Business* and *The Sweetest Sound*, appeared following this double feature and discussed the challenges of making films about his father and other family members. **Joel Katz**, director of *Strange Fruit*, remained after the screening of his film for a dialogue with members of a new student organization at Rutgers called Alliance and Understanding, which attempts to strengthen black-Jewish relations.

Sami Michael, acclaimed Israeli author of the novel *A Trumpet in the Wadi*, appeared at the festival's closing night screening of the film based on this work. Drawing an audience of more than five hundred people, the film was screened in two theaters simultaneously. Those attending the screening of *Nowhere in Africa* were moved by the testimony of **Jill Pauly** and **Inge Katzenstein**, who shared their personal experiences of fleeing Nazi Germany for Africa as children.

The festival added new programs to enhance its outreach in the community. The "Teen Screen," an educational film program for teenagers, featured the recent documentary *Exodus 1947*.

Nathan Nadler, a crew member, and **Lina Goldberger**, a passenger on the *Exodus*, both made guest appearances at the screenings of this remarkable documentary about the famous ship that tried to bring Holocaust survivors to Palestine in 1947. The festival also offered a "Vintage Film" program for classic movie lovers, featuring the 1961 Hollywood epic *Exodus*, starring Paul Newman.

With more than three thousand tickets sold, the festival continues to be a major cultural event in central New Jersey, drawing community members as well as Rutgers faculty, students, and staff. Attendees enjoyed critically acclaimed international films as well as special receptions, such as the one held on opening night, which featured live jazz music and French theme food to complement the opening night film, *Monsieur Batignole*.



Fall 2003 Festival Films

Monsieur Batignole

France, 2001

Director: Gérard Jugnot

A Trumpet in the Wadi

Israel, 2001

Directors: Lina and Slava Chaplin

Strange Fruit

USA, 2002, director: Joel Katz

The House I Live In

USA, 1945

Director: Mervyn LeRoy

Nobody's Business

USA, 1996, director: Alan Berliner

The Sweetest Sound

USA, 2001, director: Alan Berliner

Exodus 1947

USA, 1996

Directors: Elizabeth Rodgers and Robby Henson

Exodus

USA, 1960

Director: Otto Preminger

Gloomy Sunday

Germany, 2001

Director: Rolf Schübel

Nowhere in Africa

Germany, 2002

Director: Caroline Link

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival is made possible through the generous support of the **Karma Foundation**. The Regal Entertainment Group is also a sponsor of the festival.

Films featured at the 2004 Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival included (clockwise from left) *Nobody's Business*, *Strange Fruit*, and *Exodus 1947*.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

Workshops for Educators

Teachers of kindergarten through high school attended educational programs on the Holocaust offered through the Littman Holocaust Resource Center (HRC). Sixteen high school teachers participated in a daylong workshop at the Bildner Center in December 2003 entitled "Looking at Barbarity in Modern Society: History and Morality." This workshop was facilitated by **Peter Nelson**, director of the New York office of Facing History and Ourselves, and it featured a special lecture by Professor

David Engel of New York University. The workshop addressed several related questions: How do historians understand the Holocaust in light of new research? How can we draw lessons from the Holocaust to inform our moral judgment today and relate those lessons to contemporary situations facing students?

A workshop on teaching the Holocaust in elementary school drew forty teachers to the Bildner Center in February. Professor of Jewish Studies and Psychology **Maurice Elias** gave the opening talk, "Internalizing

the Lessons of the Holocaust: Influencing Everyday Behavior." The teachers then participated in a drama workshop and reading of the play "Candles in Our Windows: How Goodness and Courage Triumphed in an American Town," led by **Kathleen Kalleigh**, artistic director of the Action Theatre Conservatory in Clifton. At the closing session, **Maud Dahme**, past president of the New Jersey State Board of Education, offered a moving account of her experience as a hidden child in the Netherlands.



Rutgers Hosts Statewide Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Approximately 1,000 community members and survivors filled the College Avenue Gymnasium for the Statewide Yom HaShoah Commemoration held at Rutgers on April 18. Sponsored by the Office of the Governor and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, the program was held in cooperation with the Littman HRC, the Bildner Center, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County. Rutgers President **Richard L. McCormick** and **Hans Fisher**, a member of the Littman HRC Advisory Committee, gave official greetings at the event. The keynote speech was delivered by actor **Theodore Bikel**, a child survivor; other program highlights included remarks by Governor **James E. McGreevey** and musical selections by the Anshe Segulah Men's Chorus of Central New Jersey.

LITTMAN HRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

William Fernekes	Penelope Lattimer
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Herb Gilsenberg	Herbert Littman
Mary Jean Guidette	Leonard Littman
David Jefferson Harris	Prof. Ruth B. Mandel
Devorah Hilsenrath	Prof. Clement Price
Mary Johnson	Prof. Jeffrey Shandler
Norman Kansfield	Karen Small
Steven W. Katz	Prof. Yael Zerubavel

David Engel, New York University,
delivered the annual **Raoul
Wallenberg Annual Lecture**
supported by the Leon and Toby
Cooperman Fund "Moral Judge-
ment and Holocaust History:
Jewish-Nazi Collaboration on Trial"



Littman HRC Partners with U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Littman Holocaust Resource Center and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum co-sponsored the Inaugural Mandel Fellows Regional Conference at Rutgers University on February 29 and March 1. The conference brought together twenty educators from Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C., to discuss Holocaust education and the continuing work of the Mandel Fellows.

The Mandel Teacher Fellowship program is based at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The program selects and trains a group of skilled middle and high school educators to serve as leaders in Holocaust education. These educators must have extensive knowledge of the Holocaust and successful teaching experience, and they must participate in community and professional groups. Fellows are expected to create and implement an outreach project in their schools, communities, or professional organizations.

Karen Small, associate director of the Bildner Center, and **Gretchen Skidmore**, coordinator of national outreach initiatives for the Holocaust Museum, planned the conference together with three Mandel Fellows from New Jersey: **Jill Cerquira**, **Denise Coleman**, and **Colleen Tambuscio**. The conference drew on the expertise of Rutgers faculty as well as the experience of Mandel Fellows to examine new educational material, explore a variety of teaching methods, and discuss the future of Holocaust education.

At the Rutgers conference, **Jeffrey Shandler**, an assistant



Karen Small and Gretchen Skidmore with Ruth B. Mandel, Director, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, and Vice Chair, US Holocaust Memorial Council (Center). Mandel gave opening remarks on the second day of the conference.

professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers, spoke about youth diaries and autobiographies written before, during, and after the Holocaust. Participants received copies of Shandler's book *Awakening Lives: Autobiographies of Jewish Youth in Poland before the Holocaust* (2002). Shandler also addressed the topic of the Holocaust in film before a screening of **Joan Stein's** short film *One Day Crossing*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2001. A lively discussion with the filmmaker followed the screening.

William C. Donahue, a professor in the Department of Jewish Studies and the chair of the Department of Germanic, Russian, and East European Languages and Literatures at Rutgers, delivered a slide presentation and talk entitled "Berlin Holocaust Memorials." The conference also featured presentations by several Mandel Fellows as well as discussions on the future work of the Fellows and Holocaust education, facilitated by Gretchen Skidmore. In addition, the conference provided an invaluable opportunity for informal networking and discussion among the teachers.

Lodging and educational materials for the conference were underwritten by the **Leon and Toby Cooperman Fund** at the Bildner Center.



Center Receives Grant for Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education

The Bildner Center has received a \$50,000 grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany-Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Research, Documentation and Education to help develop its Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education, a program of the Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center. The Master

Teacher Institute is a comprehensive two-year study program to develop a statewide cadre of expert teachers in Holocaust studies. The program will engage teachers in a wide reaching study of the history of the Holocaust including its historical antecedents, as well as how it has been remembered and represented in film and literature over the past six decades. These teachers will serve as resource providers in their schools, districts and communities. The grant will provide initial funding for the institute, which is entering the final planning phase.

DEVELOPMENT

CENTER MEETS ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

Our sincere gratitude to Center founders **Joan and Allen Bildner** for their one-million-dollar matching grant. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Bildner Center raised over \$1 million to meet the Bildners' challenge.

Bildner Center's Outreach in Florida

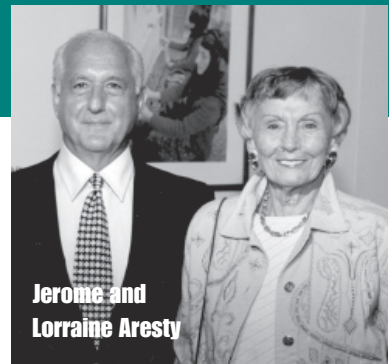
The Center extended its efforts to reach Rutgers alumni and friends in Florida at an afternoon gathering in March that was hosted by **Ruth Marcus Patt** and the **Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation** at the Palm Aire Club in Pompano Beach. Rutgers Professor **Azzan Yadin** delivered a talk on David and Goliath, offering new perspectives and insights into the biblical narrative. His talk was followed by a lively question-and-answer session and a light supper. More than forty guests were in attendance, enjoying the program as well as the opportunity to reunite with old friends.



Back Row - Isadore Goldberg, Sheila Goldberg, Herbert Raiffe, Adelaide Zagoren, Joseph Tabak. Front Row: Ruth Marcus Patt, Harriet Tabak, Rita Raiffe

IN MEMORIAM

With great sadness, we mourn the passing of **Mary Solomon Klein**, a 1938 graduate of the New Jersey College for Women, now Douglass College. Mary and her husband, Rudolph Klein, have generously supported the Bildner Center and Rutgers students through the Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Undergraduate Scholarship. Her memory will be cherished by students and faculty in the Department of Jewish Studies.



**Jerome and
Lorraine Aresty**

Major Gifts to the Center

■ **Jerome and Lorraine Aresty**, longtime supporters of the Bildner Center, have significantly enhanced the ability of Rutgers to attract scholars in Jewish Studies through a major gift to their existing Visiting Fellows Fund. Visiting scholars have become an integral part of the program, adding diversity and depth to the Department and the activities of the Bildner Center.

■ **Arline Schwartzman**, a member of the Center's Campaign Leadership Committee, has endowed the Henry Schwartzman Faculty Seminar in the Department of Jewish Studies. This forum will bring distinguished scholars to Rutgers to present their scholarly work and provide intellectual exchange with Jewish studies faculty.

■ **Sharon Karmazin** has renewed the Karma Foundation's commitment as the lead sponsor for the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival. The foundation provided a three-year grant for this major program organized by the Bildner Center.

■ **Jacqueline and Herbert Klein** have established a fund to provide financial assistance for students and faculty for study and/or research in Israel. Herbert Klein has been a member of the Center's Campaign Leadership Committee since its inception.

■ **The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation** continues to support the Judaica collection at Rutgers' Alexander Library by establishing a fund for the purchase of essential scholarly materials to support the Jewish studies curriculum.

STUDENT NEWS

Student Awards

Rachel Rosen '05

The Leonard and Adele Blumberg
Student Award

The Sandra and Stephen M. Greenberg
Student Award Fund

Stephanie Schwartz '04

The Louis Fishman
Memorial Student Support Fund
The Norma U. and David M. Levitt
Student Award

Danielle Orron '04

The Betty and Julius Gillman
Memorial Student Support Fund
The Gertrude and Jacob Henoch
Memorial Student Support Fund

Simona Kogan '04

Ella Perlis '05

The Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein
Undergraduate Scholarship

Elan Gorshein '05

The Bernice and Milton I. Luxemburg
Student Award Fund

Miriam Jaffe Foger, Graduate Student

The Maurice Meyer III and
Irma Meyer Endowed Student
Support Fund

Rebecca Leibowitz '04

The Harold and Betty Perl
Endowed Scholarship

Shira Meidav '05

The Reitman Family Student Award

Ari Corman '04

The Ruth Feller Rosenberg
Endowed Student Award Fund

Leo Brown '04

Beth Feinberg '04

Elizabeth Klane '04

Amy Weiss '05

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman
Scholarship Fund

THE STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY



Left: Rudolph Klein with Simona Kogan



Adele Blumberg with Rachel Rosen



Below: Prof. Jeffrey Shandler presents Ella Perlis with her award.



Above: Jewish studies award winners with Professor Chaim I. Waxman, acting chair, spring '04, and Professor Nancy Sinkoff, vice chair of undergraduate education.



Right: Bernice Luxemburg poses with Elan Gorshein

STUDENT NEWS

Rebecca Leibowitz

Rebecca Leibowitz had long planned to become a psychology major, yet she was also interested in exploring her Jewish identity. She graduated with a double major in psychology and Jewish studies, with a concentration in Jewish society and history. Her academic achievements were recognized three years in a row, during which time she received the Ruth Feller Rosenberg Award and the Harold and Betty Perl Scholarship Award in Jewish Studies.



Rebecca undertook several in-depth research projects during her studies in the Department of Jewish Studies. In the Jewish studies seminar taught by Professor **Nancy Sinkoff**, Rebecca researched the American Jewish community's response to Soviet immigration in the 1970s. She concluded that a disjuncture between American and Soviet Jews arose because the American Jews defined themselves as a religious community while the Soviet Jews defined themselves as a national community.

Rebecca integrated her interests in Jewish studies and psychology for her Henry Rutgers Scholars Honors Thesis. Under the supervision of Professor **Maurice Elias**, she analyzed the ways in which Israel's public schools teach children to cope with terrorism. She discovered that while issues of coping with terrorism are not incorporated into the official curricula of Israeli public schools, the Israeli system tends to impart a feeling of empowerment to students, explaining that buildings can be rebuilt quickly and that life will continue.

Rebecca devoted herself to making the Rutgers campus a welcoming and informative environment for Jewish students. In addition to serving as president of Hillel and the Jewish Community Service Organization, she is also a co-founder of the Israel Action Committee, which promotes pro-Israel activism on campus, and Garin, a support network for students seeking to spend time in Israel. Rebecca won numerous leadership awards, including the Rutgers Hillel Rising Star Award and the Caren B. Heller Leadership Award.

Rebecca would like to combine her interests in Jewish communal service, Jewish education, and psychology with her passion for Israel. Next year, she will study at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and she also hopes to work in an Israeli psychiatric clinic to help children coping with trauma. Currently, she is considering a number of career options, including working for Hadassah through Hamagshimim, its national university organization, and earning a doctoral degree in psychology, which she would apply to her interests in research and therapy for Israeli children.

Stephanie Schwartz

Stephanie Schwartz has had a long-standing interest in both Jewish studies and political science. Stephanie fostered her commitment to Jewish studies by attending the Jewish Community High School Program at Gratz College in Philadelphia, from which she received a teaching certificate. At Rutgers, she decided to become a double major in Jewish studies and political science. This year she received the Norma U. and David M. Levitt Award and the Louis Fishman Memorial Award in Jewish Studies. Her fascination with government and the legislative process was also rewarded upon graduation when she received the prestigious Eagleton Institute of Politics Undergraduate Associate Certificate as well as a Certificate in International Studies.



Because Stephanie has always had a deep love of Israel, it was a natural choice for her to declare a concentration in Israel studies as a Jewish studies major. Stephanie was able to explore Israel from political, sociological, and cultural perspectives through courses offered in the Department of Jewish Studies such as "Israeli Politics," "The Arab-Israeli Conflict," and "Hebrew Literature and Media."

Her passion for Israel also inspired her to work closely with Rutgers professors, particularly **Yael Zerubavel**, in helping to establish the new *Rutgers Student Journal of Israel Affairs*. While fostering interaction between students and faculty, the journal also provides a new opportunity for students who want to become involved in activities on campus related to Israel. Stephanie co-authored an article published in the first issue of the journal, titled "A Comparison of Presidential Foreign Policies Towards Israel: William Jefferson Clinton and George W. Bush."

In addition, Stephanie showed her dedication to Israel education through her work as president of Rutgers Hillel. She was a guiding force in the October 2003 "Israel Inspires" initiative and rally, which attracted Governor **James E. McGreevey** and more than 7,000 students and community members to Rutgers. Stephanie's leadership was key to the success of the rally and the implementation of this yearlong effort, for which Hillel received prominent statewide and national recognition.

Stephanie plans to pursue a career in politics. To that end, she has held several internship positions in the political arena. She was the candidate coordinator for the Eagleton Institute's New Jersey Voter Information Project, compiling information on candidates running for election in New Jersey in 2003. More recently, she was a legislative intern for Assemblywoman **Linda Stender** in Scotch Plains.

Stephanie would like to contribute to the legislative process by working as a lobbyist, legislative assistant, or policy analyst and, eventually, running for public office at the congressional level. She is considering applying to law school as well as to joint masters programs in public policy and Jewish studies. Next year, Stephanie will serve as a Hillel Leadership Fellow, traveling to college campuses across the United States as a consultant on Israel education. This position will bring her expertise in Israel education and community organization to college campuses across the country.

Alumni News

Sarah Cohen, RC '03, spent the past year as a Hillel Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She worked on student programs with a focus on strengthening Jewish identity, such as the Birthright Israel trip. Sarah is entering a joint degree program in Jewish communal service and social work at Gratz College and the University of Pennsylvania. She is eager to continue her Jewish education and to use her degree to benefit the Jewish community.

Erik Kessler, LC '02, is a new campaign associate for the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County (JF-GMC). Erik's responsibilities include outreach and education for the Jewish community in Monroe Township, and he will also be directing the ATID volunteer leadership development program. Before coming to the JF-GMC, Erik worked for the UJA-Federation in New York and the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan. After graduating from Rutgers, Erik earned a masters degree in social work in community organization and a certificate in Jewish communal service from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. He resides in Highland Park and is engaged to **Dana Chait** (RC '04).

Ami Yares, LC '03, participated in the Jewish Agency's Stagerim program in Israel this past summer. He undertook a music therapy internship at the Beit Ilanot school in Katamon, which serves children with cerebral palsy. He taught music to children with limited mobility "giving the children a musical experience that often is inaccessible because of their handicap. I saw some incredible reactions from the students when I helped them play instruments. The classes brought out a tremendous amount of happiness and excitement from the children."

Alumni: Please keep us informed of your activities at csjl@rci.rutgers.edu

JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATES 2004

Majors

Aliza Berow
Ronn Blitzer
Leo Brown
Ilana Clay
Beth Feinberg
Lauren Garber
Elizabeth Klane
Rebecca Leibowitz
Philip Nusbaum Kieserman
Marisa Rosner
Stephanie Schwartz
Eric Silverman

Minors

Gil Almogi
Rachel Bayar
Lydia Bazikian
Ari Corman
Ann Fabrikant
Aminadav Foger
Rebecca Fogler
Michelle Gesser
Elijah Guy
Alison Hoffman
Norman Jemal
Jonathan Kobrinski

Simone Nussbaum
Heidi Peck
Ilana Polack
Daniel Portilla
Shira Pruce
Golan Rodgers
Jeremy Rosenbaum
Eric Wong

JEWISH STUDIES HONORS THESES

Ronn Blitzer - "The Behavioral Cycle of the Jewish People" *

Leo Brown - "A Critical Analysis of the Rabbinical View of Biblical Anomalies"

Rebecca Leibowitz - "Teaching Children Amidst a War on Terror: An Exploration of the American-Jewish and Israeli Education Systems' Response to Terrorism" *
(Alice M. and Walter F. Phillips Prize, Psychology Honors Program)

* *Rutgers College: Henry Rutgers Scholars Honors Thesis*

Courses 2004–2005

Jewish Society & Culture I
Jewish Society and Culture II
American Jewish History & Culture
American Jews & the Media
Jewish Contemporary Music *
Introduction to Kabbalah & Jewish Mysticism
Second Temple Judaism and the Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism *
Rabbinic Literature: Midrash & Theory *
Seminar: The Bible and Modernity *
Modern Jewish Philosophy
Classical Jewish Philosophy
Israeli Culture: The First Twenty Years of Statehood *
Israeli Politics
Israeli Society
History of Zionism
Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation *
Arab Israeli Conflict

Critical Perspectives on the Middle East
Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation
Power & Politics in Modern Jewish History
Remembering the Shtetl
Performing Jews on Stage *
History of the Holocaust
Elementary Modern Hebrew
Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Advanced Modern Hebrew
Love and Desire in Hebrew Prose and Poetry (*in Hebrew*)
Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature (*in Hebrew*)
The Hebrew Novel (*in Hebrew*)
Contemporary Hebrew Literature and Media (*in Hebrew*)
Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature (*in Hebrew*)
Elementary Modern Yiddish
* *new courses*

FACULTY UPDATES

Myron J. Aronoff delivered a paper on "Anthropology and Political Science: Comparative Perspectives" at the meeting of the American Anthropological Association held in Chicago (November 2003) and was a discussant on a panel at the meeting of the Association of Israel Studies in Jerusalem (June 2004). Aronoff continues to serve on the board of the Association of Israel Studies.

William Donahue published "Rilke as Political Progressive: Art as Politics in the *Zwei Prager Geschichte*," in *Recherches germaniques* (2004); "The Shadow Play of Religion in Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*," in *New England Review* (2004); "Good-bye to All That: Elias Canetti's Obituaries" in *The Camden Companion to Canetti*, edited by C. G. Lorenz (Dagmar, 2004); and "The Holocaust as an Occasion for Self-pity: Narrative Coyness in Bernard Schlink's *Der Vorleser*" [in German], in *Reckonings: Legal and Literary Discourse in the Settlement of Nazi War Crimes*, edited by Stephan Braese (Wallstein, 2004).

During the past year, Donahue delivered a number of lectures and papers: "An Answer to the Question, 'How Much German in German Studies?': Institutional Economic, Academic, and Existential Conditions" [in German], in a roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association, New Orleans (September 2003); "Diversity in Contemporary Germany" for the Teach Europe program at Rutgers University (October 2003); "Berlin Holocaust Memorials" at the Mandel Fellows Conference sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Bildner Center at Rutgers (March 2004); "The Holocaust as Epiphenomenon in Recent German Literature" at Departments of Judaic and German Studies at Brown University (March 2004); and the keynote address at the conference on The Modernist Fallacy at Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (April 2004).

Maurice Elias published "A Comprehensive Skill Building Approach to Jewish Values: Social and Emotional Learning and Caring Early Childhood Classes" with J. Kress and "Menschlichkeit as a Goal of Jewish Education and Parenting," in *Jewish Values for Growing Exceptional Jewish Children* (Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, July 2004). The latter essay was reprinted as "The Challenge of Raising a Mensch," in *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles* (2004).

Elias served on the planning committee and delivered the following presentations at the second CAJE Conference for Day School and Early Childhood Educators at Hofstra University (June 2004): "Creating Emotionally Intelligent Classroom Climates of Caring and Respect"; "Character Education in High School: If Not Us, Who? If Not Now, When?"; and "Creating a Moral, Well-Disciplined Classroom."

Elias was appointed as associate editor of the *Journal of Jewish Education* published by the Network for Research in Jewish Education.

Leslie Fishbein organized and chaired a roundtable discussion on "Domestic Violence/Domestic Silence: The Activist Response to Shaming Rituals" at the American Studies Association Convention in Hartford (October 2003). She presented a paper on "Gender and Narrative Form: The Memoirs of Prostitutes and Madams" at the Print Culture in the City Conference at McGill University in Montreal (March 2004).

Ziva Galili serves as the chair of the Department of History. Her article "The Soviet Experience of Zionism: Importing Soviet Political Culture into Palestine" was published in Russian translation in the journal *Ab Imperio* (2003). Galili delivered a paper on "Between Legality and Persecution: The Role of Personal Intercession in Making Space for Labor Zionism in Soviet Russia, 1919-1925" at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Toronto (November 2003) and spoke on "Zionism and the Early Soviet State" at the International Conference on Soviet and Post-Soviet Jewry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (December 2003).

Judith Gerson delivered a paper on "German Jewish Immigrants, not German Jewish Survivors" at the European Social Science History Conference in Berlin (March 2004).

Paul Hanebrink was on a competitive fellowship leave during the 2003-2004 academic year, made possible by a grant from ACLS-Eastern Europe. He participated in an international conference on "The Holocaust in Hungary: Sixty Years Later" at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (March 2004).

Alicia Ostriker published "Whither Exodus? Movies as Midrash," in a special issue of the

Michigan Quarterly Review (2003); "Jewish in America; "Notes on 'Listen,'" in *The Grand Permission: New Writings on Poetics and Motherhood*, edited by Patricia Dienstfrey and Brenda Hillman (Wesleyan University Press, 2003); and "Blake's London," in the *Atlantic Monthly Online* (December 2003).

Ostriker's works were reprinted in two anthologies: "Jephtha's Daughter: a lament," in *On the Cutting Edge: The Study of Women in Biblical Worlds: Essays in honor of Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza*, edited by Jane Schaberg, Alice Bach, and Esther Fuchs (Continuum, 2003) and "The Disasters of War," in *Feminism and Theology*, edited by Janet Martin Soskice and Diana Lipton (Oxford University Press, 2003). She presented papers on "Contemporary Midrash in America," at the Conference on Creative Writing in a Jewish Context at Bar-Ilan University (June 2003); "May Swenson and Walt Whitman," at the May Swenson Colloquium at Utah State University (June 2004); and participated in a panel on Jewish Identity at the Conference on Jewish Writing at Lehigh University (March 2004).

Barbara S. Reed delivered a paper on "The American and British Jewish Press Coverage of the First Wave of Pogroms," at a symposium on The Press, Civil War and 19th Century Free Expression at the University of Tennessee (November 2003).

Jeffrey Shandler was a visiting scholar and co-convenor of the Working Group on Jews, Religion, and Media at the Center for Religion and Media at New York University during the 2003-2004 academic year. He published articles on "The Time of Vishniac: Photographs of Prewar East European Jewry in Postwar Contexts," in *Polin: A Journal of Polish-Jewish Studies* (2003); "Imagining Yiddishland: Language, Place, and Memory," in *History & Memory* (2003); "The Testimony of Images: The Allied Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps in American Newsreels," in *American and International Journalism During the Holocaust*, edited by Robert Moses Shapiro (Yeshiva University Press, 2003); and "Postvernacular Yiddish: Language as a Performance Art," in *The Drama Review* (2004).

Shandler presented papers at several conferences and other events, including "The Way (Back) to Our Youth: YIVO's Autobiographies of Jewish Adolescents in Interwar Poland," at the Holocaust Museum, Houston (July 2003); SUNY New Paltz (September

2003); and Brookdale Community College (November 2003); "Wanted Dead or Alive? Theorizing Yiddish after the Holocaust," at the International Conference on Yiddish after the Holocaust, at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (August 2003); "*Yidish, undzer tsirung*: New Uses for a Traditional Language among Contemporary Hasidim," at the Annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Boston (December 2003); "Mediating Community: American Jewry and the 'New' Media of the Twentieth Century," at the conference on Imagining the American Jewish Community at The Jewish Theological Seminary (March 2004); "New York Jews and Television: At Home on the Small Screen," at Hampshire College (March 2004); "Aliens in the Wasteland: American Encounters with the Holocaust on '60s Science Fiction Television Series," at Smith College (April 2004); "Mapping Yiddishland: Speech, Space, and the Imaginary," at the Second Annual Yiddish Conference, University of California, Berkeley (May 2004); and "Rites of the Beholder: 'Home Movies' as Witness in American Jewish Life-Cycle Rituals," at the Conference on Religious Witness, Center for Religion and Media, New York University (May 2004).

Shandler was appointed to the following academic advisory boards: the Board of Directors of the Association for Jewish Studies; the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York; the International Editorial Board of *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*; and the advisory board of the *Jewish Studies Quarterly*.

Nancy Sinkoff served as vice chair of undergraduate education in the Department of Jewish Studies and was promoted to associate professor of Jewish studies and history. Her book, *Out of the Shtetl: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands*, was published by Brown University Press Judaic Studies monograph series (2004). Sinkoff also published "The *Maskil*, the Convert, and the *Agunah*: Joseph Perl as a Historian of Jewish Divorce Law," *AJS Review* (2003); "Haskalah," in *Dictionary of Early Modern Europe*, edited by Jonathan Dewald, vol. 3 (Charles Scribner's Sons, 2004). She delivered the papers, "'Against Imagination': The East European Haskalah's Critique of Hasidic Piety" at Yale University (March 2004), and "Mapping the Marketplace: Poles and Jews at the Center of Town" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies (December 2003). Sinkoff gave a

public lecture entitled "From the Heartland of Ashkenaz to the Golden Land: East European Jewish Immigration to the United States" at Temple Beth El in Great Neck, N.Y. (April 2004). She gave a lecture on "A Passion for *Bildung*: German-Jews and the Quest for Enlightenment" and led a walking tour of the *Sheunenviertel*, a Jewish neighborhood of Berlin for the Rutgers in Berlin Summer Abroad program (July 2004).

Chaim I. Waxman published "American Modern Orthodoxy: Confronting Cultural Challenges," *Edah Journal* (2004); thirty-four entries in the *Encyclopedia of Modern Middle East & North Africa*, edited by Phillip Mattar (Macmillan Reference, 2004); and "American Jews and Israel: An Essay-Review," in *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, Vol. XIX: *Dangerous Alliances and the Perils of Privilege*, edited by Ezra Mendelsohn (Oxford University Press, 2004).

Waxman presented a paper, "Thought, Socio-culture and Structure: Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik as the Leader of Modern Orthodoxy in the U.S.," at a conference on Studies Exploring the Influence of Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik on Culture, Education and Jewish Thought at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (December 2003). He delivered a colloquium on "Culture Wars and Societal Breakup or Underlying Unity?: Religio-Political Competition in Israel in the 21st Century," at Rutgers University (March 2004).

Azzan Yadin's book *Scripture as Logos: Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Midrash* was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press (2004). Yadin also published "Hammer on the Rock: Mekhilta Deuteronomy and the Question of Rabbinic Polysemy," in *Jewish Studies Quarterly* (2003), and "Qol as Hypostasis in the Hebrew Bible" in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* (2003). His Hebrew translation of Abraham Joshua Heschel's *God in Search of Man* was published by the Hebrew University's Magnes Press.

Yadin presented papers on "Rabbi Aqiva's Aggadic Biography" at the annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Studies (December 2003); "Rabbi Aqiva, Rabbi Ishmael and the Place of Midrash in Tannaitic Literature" at the University of Michigan (March 2003); "An Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics" at the Jezreel Valley Philosophical Forum (January 2004); and "Tradition and Interpretation in Early Rabbinic Literature" at Ben Gurion University (January 2004).

Yadin was a scholar-in-residence at Congregation Beth Shalom in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, and he delivered a three-part lecture series at the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center on the subject of the Zohar.

Yael Zerubavel continues to serve as the director of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life and has concluded her term as the chair of the Department of Jewish Studies. In spring 2004, she was a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where she participated in a research group of American and Israeli scholars exploring the dynamics of collective Jewish identities and modes of belonging in a comparative perspective.

Her most recent publications include "The Desert as a Mythical Space and Site of Memory in Hebrew Culture" [in Hebrew], in *Myths in Jewish Culture*, edited by Moshe Idel and Itamar Grunwald (Zalman Shazar Center for the Study of Jewish History, 2004); "Battle, Sacrifice, and Martyrdom: Continuity and Change in Patriotic Sacrifice in Israeli Culture" [in Hebrew], in *Patriotism in Israel*, edited by Avner Ben-Amos and Daniel Bar-Tal (Dyonon & Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2004); and "Bar Kokhba's Image In Modern Israeli Culture," in *The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered: New Perspectives on the Second Jewish Revolt against Rome*, edited by Peter Schäfer (Mohr Siebeck, 2003).

Zerubavel presented a paper on "Orientalism and the Zionist Imagination during the Yishuv Period" and participated in a roundtable discussion on "Israel Studies in the Context of Jewish Studies" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies (December 2003). During her stay in Israel, she delivered several lectures on her current research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, and Bar-Ilan University and served as a panel chair and discussant at the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies in Jerusalem.

Zerubavel continues to serve on the editorial boards of *Israel Studies* (Indiana University Press), *Journal of Israeli History* (Tel Aviv University), and *Israel Studies Forum* (Association for Israel Studies); she also serves on the faculty advisory board of the new *Rutgers Student Journal of Israel Affairs*. She has been appointed by Governor McGreevey to the New Jersey-Israel Commission of the State of New Jersey.



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