

Jewish Studies at Rutgers

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

INSIDE



Broad range of programs on Israel
Page 7

Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education
Page 8

Outreach to Students
Page 13

VISIT
US ON
FACEBOOK

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

Center Launches Interfaith Dialogue

While the landscape of Jewish-Christian relations has undergone a positive transformation since the signing of Vatican II in 1965, interaction between the two groups has remained varied and complex. On the initiative of longtime friends of the Bildner Center, **Harriet and Joseph Tabak**, the Center saw the opportunity to move the discussion forward by launching an interfaith dialogue here at Rutgers.

With generous support from the Tabaks, the Bildner Center and the Diocese of Metuchen organized a public event entitled "Jewish-Christian Relations Today: A Historical Transformation" in the fall of 2008. Rutgers Hillel, the Rutgers Catholic Center, and the Rutgers Department of Religion cosponsored the program.

The evening opened with a small gathering attended by Rutgers president **Richard L. McCormick**, faculty, and representatives of both faiths. Nearly 300 guests and college students then joined an open discussion between **Eugene Korn**, a scholar of Jewish ethics and Jewish-Christian relations, and **John Pawlikowski**, director of



Rabbi Yakov Hilsenrath, Bishop Paul Bootkoski, and Rabbi Eliot Malomet with Joseph and Harriet Tabak and Rutgers president Richard L. McCormick

the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program at the University of Chicago.

The thinking behind the initial interfaith forum was straightforward: to stress the importance of bringing Jews and Christians together on a grassroots level. Following the success of this first program, students' requests led the Bildner Center to take this concept one step further, creating opportunities for them to engage in face-to-face dialogue with their peers.

➤ See **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE** on page 13

Visiting Scholars: Within and Beyond the Classroom



As leading academicians in their fields, visiting scholars enrich the course offerings of the Department of Jewish Studies and serve as ambassadors who further the Bildner Center's mission of creating a bridge between the university and the broader community.

Course instruction, both within and beyond the undergraduate classroom, is at

➤ See **VISITING SCHOLARS** on page 10

Bildner Center Engages Diverse Audiences



Occasionally, we'll have one of those amazing days filled with meetings and programs, classes and visitors, that make us wish we had a hidden camera recording "a day at the Bildner Center."

The diversity of the constituencies to which the Bildner Center extends its educational programs makes our work incredibly stimulating. It is refreshing to be working with so many different individuals and groups, thinking together about various programs, raising ideas for new projects, knowing that this work makes a difference.

Students come to the Center for some of the smaller Jewish studies seminars and to attend special programs. Many of the ideas for these additional programs are raised by the students while others are initiated by us. Among these recent events are special seminars on Israel and the Middle East, an interfaith student dialogue, and film discussions.

Our own Jewish studies faculty, visiting scholars, and guest speakers come to the Center to present their current work and participate in informal faculty seminars that provide a forum for exchanging scholarly ideas and developing research projects.

Teachers from New Jersey public and private schools come regularly to the Center to participate in the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI). Alumni of our initial MTI are invited to return for special programs.

The Bildner Center's intensive Jewish Leadership Forum, organized in cooperation with all the Jewish federations of New Jersey, brings to the Center key lay leaders from near and far to interact with prominent scholars and community leaders and to exchange ideas about major challenges facing the community.

The Center's major public programs regularly bring large crowds of community members to campus. Special lectures in Hebrew by noted Israeli writers and scholars attract Hebrew-speaking members of the community, faculty, and students. The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival draws thousands of community members, many of whom have become true devotees of this annual event. Jewish Studies Online, with its global reach, has further expanded the scope of the Center's programs.

Friends and supporters come to the Center to discuss its educational mission and its role as a community resource. Their generous gifts enable us to explore new ideas and meet new challenges. Outreach to this wide array of constituencies makes the Center a vital asset to the community and advances Rutgers' commitment to excellence in public education.

—Yael Zerubavel, Bildner Center director

Graduate School Approves Certificate in Jewish Studies



The academic year 2008–2009 witnessed major curricular developments at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in the Department of Jewish Studies.

The most significant news is the approval by the Graduate School–New Brunswick for a certificate in Jewish studies. This initiative will allow Rutgers graduate students to integrate Jewish studies into their graduate or professional program. We envision master's and doctoral students in diverse schools and departments (such as education, social work, library and information science, English, history, and German) taking advantage of this new opportunity, which allows graduate students to engage directly with Jewish studies in addition to their home programs.

Also in the works is a self-standing M.A. in Jewish studies. This proposal already has been approved by the New Brunswick graduate faculty, although the new degree program requires additional approvals from the central administration and the Board of Governors.

In short, the certificate program commences immediately, in fall 2009, and we hope to be able to admit our own M.A. students in fall 2010. We invite you to stay tuned for future developments in Jewish studies at the graduate level at Rutgers University.

On the undergraduate level, we are happy to report a series of new courses, cross-listed with cognate departments at Rutgers, such as the Department of Religion and the newly created Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literature (AMESALL).

For example, "Old Testament," offered by the Department of Religion, and "Hebrew Bible," offered by Jewish studies, have been merged into a single course, now entitled "Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)." In addition, "New Testament" (which originates in the religion department) henceforth will be cross-listed with Jewish studies. The shift in New Testament studies during the last generation or two, along with a concomitant shift in Jewish studies as a discipline, has led scholars to realize that the subject matter of the Gospels, the Epistles, and other New Testament books lies squarely within the purview of Jewish studies.

AMESALL, as one might expect from its areas of coverage, will include all of our Hebrew language and literature courses within its course listings.

The result of all these cross-listings is a significant increase in the number of Jewish studies courses to be offered this fall—and, with this expansion, we also expect to see a significant increase in overall student enrollment.

These curricular developments are indicative of a thriving and dynamic Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers.

—Gary A. Rendsburg, department chair

Jeffrey Shandler's Scholarship Challenges Conventional Approaches to Jewish Culture

“What I like best about being a scholar are the conversations I have,” explains Jeffrey Shandler, “whether with colleagues, students, or members of the community at large. These conversations play an important part in my scholarship, which centers on the discussions that modern Jewish life inspires and considers how those discussions might be advanced.” Shandler, who holds a Ph.D. in Yiddish studies from Columbia University, joined the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers as an assistant professor in 2001 and was promoted to professor in 2008. As a scholar of modern and contemporary Jewish culture, he engages a wide range of topics in his scholarship, which embraces not only Yiddish language, literature, and culture, but also Holocaust remembrance, Jewish museum and tourist practices, and the role of media, from photography to the Internet, in Jewish life.

“My interdisciplinary training in the field of Yiddish is distinct from that of most of my Jewish studies colleagues, both at Rutgers and elsewhere,” Shandler explains. “Because of this training, I focus on the present more than the past, the lives of ‘ordinary’ Jews more than religious or political elites, and a full range of cultural practices, not just canonical or sacred texts. I see diaspora as enabling Jewish cultural creativity, not as an abject state, and I consider the points of contact between Jews and their neighbors not as a threat to Jewish culture but as vital to its realization. As a result of this approach, I ask different questions about Jewish culture than are often raised, and in doing so I hope to challenge assumptions often made about modern Jewish life and how it can be understood.”

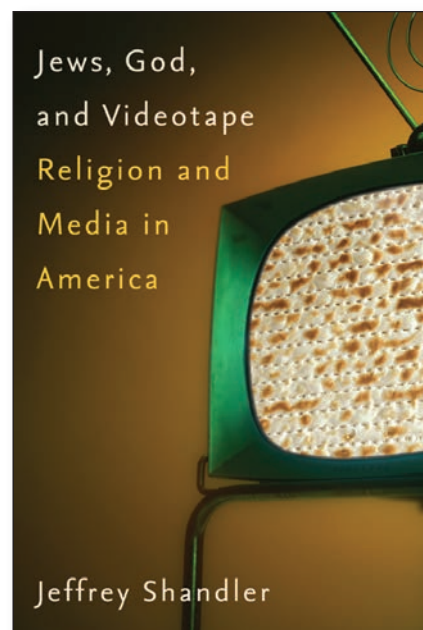
A case in point is Shandler's most recent book, *Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America*, published by New York University Press in 2009. This book examines the impact of new communication technologies and media practices on American Jews' diverse religious life, ranging from cantors' early recordings of sacred music to Hasidic outreach on the Internet. “New media are generally thought of as inimical to religion,” Shandler notes, “yet my



research demonstrates that Jews' interactions with the new media of the past century have proved definitive for much of their religious life. These interactions have challenged the role of clergy and transformed the nature of ritual; they have facilitated innovations in religious practice and scholarship, as well as efforts to maintain traditional observance and teachings. New media have created venues for outreach, both to enhance relationships with non-Jewish neighbors and to promote greater religiosity among Jews, and these technologies have even redefined notions of what might constitute a Jewish religious community or spiritual experience.”

Some of the ideas presented in Shandler's latest book first took shape in the classroom. “For example,” he explains, “I began to think about the impact of videotape on many American Jews' experience of life-cycle rituals by discussing this topic with students at Rutgers. These conversations were invaluable in shaping the questions I formulated to analyze the widespread practice of using video to document these rituals.” Similarly, his work as faculty adviser for various teacher training programs in Holocaust education sponsored by the Bildner Center have informed his study of how film, photography, broadcasting, and museums figure in Holocaust memory practices.

“Perhaps the greatest challenge I face in my work,” Shandler says, “is taking on subjects often thought of as disturbing, whether the moral complexities surrounding Holocaust remembrance, unprecedented notions of Jewish culture as something that can exist apart from Jews, or new cultural practices—ranging from the celebration of Chismukkah (a fusion of Christmas and Hanukkah) to queer Yiddish performance art—which seem to defy conventional notions of who or what is Jewish. I believe it is precisely those phenomena that seem surprising, even untenable, which will be the most revealing. Studying them can expand my own understanding of Jewish culture and, consequently, the understanding of those with whom I talk. So I am always listening to what colleagues, students, and others around me have to say, and I then ask, ‘What's missing from the discussion? What else is possible?’”



Jewish Studies Welcomes New Dean, Douglas Greenberg

The Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies welcome Douglas Greenberg, a distinguished professor of history, who has been named the first executive dean of Rutgers' School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), the university's largest academic entity. Greenberg is also affiliated faculty of the Jewish studies department, to which he brings his special interest in Holocaust studies and his vast experience in stewarding the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

Greenberg was reared in Highland Park, so his appointment represents a return to his roots. After graduating from Rutgers in 1969, he earned his Ph.D. in history from Cornell University and received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

Greenberg has published writings on the Holocaust, comparative genocide, and post-Holocaust American Jewish identity. In addition, they have addressed American law and history, as well as technology, scholarship, and libraries.

Beyond his academic accomplishments, Greenberg has held key leadership roles at several research

and outreach organizations, including the Shoah Visual History Foundation, where he served as executive director, and the Chicago Historical Commission, where he held the positions of president and director. In 2005, he was appointed to the American delegation of the International Task Force on Holocaust Remembrance, Education, and Research. He is currently a member of the board of directors of the Center for Jewish History.

Greenberg has championed the strategic use of new technology to further valuable institutional missions. At the Shoah foundation, he digitized the extensive collection of Holocaust testimonies, to preserve them in perpetuity, and incorporated the Visual History Archive into the collection of the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences at the University of Southern California (USC). He has also been instrumental in making these testimonies available for research and teaching purposes here at Rutgers beginning in the fall of 2009.

"Dean Greenberg's academic expertise and extensive experience enhance the Bildner Center's



commitment to public education and its mission to serve as a bridge between the university and the community," says Professor Yael Zerubavel.

Drawing on his vast knowledge, the Bildner Center and the SAS Dean's Office cosponsored Greenberg's public lecture marking the seventieth anniversary of Kristallnacht last November. This fall, he will discuss the significance of Holocaust testimonies in the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education.

"We appreciate Dr. Greenberg's present involvement and look forward to its impact on our future work in Holocaust education," adds Zerubavel.

VISITING SCHOLARS 2009–2010

Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies

Samuel (Muli) Peleg, an expert in conflict resolution, is a professor of political science and communication at Netanya College and a senior lecturer at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel. Peleg is also a research fellow at the Stanford Center for International Conflict Resolution and Negotiation. His books include *If Words Could Kill: The Failure of the Israeli Political Discourse* (Academcon Books, 2003, in Hebrew); *Zealotry and Vengeance: Quest of a Religious Identity Group* (Lexington Books, 2003); with W. Kempf, *Fighting Terrorism in the Liberal State* (OAS Press, 2006); and *Communication: From Discord to Coexistence* (Hakibbutz Hameuchad, forthcoming, in Hebrew). Peleg has been a top adviser on leadership and negotiations for the Peres Center for Peace and is currently the Israeli co-chairman of One Voice, an organization that promotes dialogue and

reconciliation among various factions of Israeli society as well as between Israelis and Palestinians. At Rutgers, Peleg will teach "Israeli Politics" and "Israeli Society through Film" during the fall semester and two courses in the spring, including "Arab-Israeli Conflict."

Aresty Visiting Scholar

Ariella Lang is the author of *Converting a Nation: A Modern Inquisition and the Unification of Italy*, a volume in the series Studies in European Culture and History, edited by Eric Weitz and Jack Zipes (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2008). A lecturer in the Departments of Italian and Comparative Literature at Barnard College, Lang earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2003. Her areas of expertise include Jewish-Christian relations, the Holocaust, and Jewish film. While at Rutgers, she will teach the course "Jews, Christians, and Conversion" in the fall semester and a course related to Jews and Italy in the spring.

FACULTY SEMINARS 2008–2009

The Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar was presented by anthropology and Jewish studies professor **Matti Bunzl**, director of the Program in Jewish Culture and Society, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In his talk, “Thinking the Center through the Margins: Jews and Homosexuals in Post–World War II Austria,” Bunzl discussed his attempt to write the history of Austria through an investigation of groups existing on its periphery, in this case Jews and homosexuals.

Additional faculty seminars included:

■ **Majid Al-Haj**, Haifa University: “Education, Multiculturalism, and the Empowerment of Minorities: The Israeli Case.” *Cosponsored by the School of Social Work.*

■ **Michael Galchinsky**, Georgia State University: “The Question of Human Rights in Jewish Traditions.” *Presented as part of Rutgers’ yearlong commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*

■ **Deborah Hertz**, University of California at San Diego: “Using Nazi Archives to Write Jewish History: Was Conversion Emancipation or Racial

Suicide?” *Cosponsored by the Department of History and the Department of Germanic, Russian, and East European Languages and Literatures.*

■ **Dovid Katz**, Vilnius University, Lithuania: “Holocaust Denial and the New Cold War: Observations from Lithuania.” *Cosponsored by the Department of History.*

■ **Berel Lang**, Wesleyan University: “From the Holocaust to Group Rights: A Twisted Journey.”

■ **Lital Levy**, Princeton University: “I Write Ashdodian So You Won’t Understand a Word: Mizrahi Authors, Literary Subversions, and the Rewriting of Hebrew.”

■ **Arie Nesher**, Tel Aviv University: “Sustainable Development in Israel.” *Cosponsored by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.*

■ **Yoram Peri**, Tel Aviv University: “Leadership Changes in Israel and Implications for the Peace Process.”

■ **Zahava Solomon**, Tel Aviv University: “Living in the Shadow of Terror: Soldiers, Prisoners of War, Holocaust Survivors.” *Cosponsored by the School of Social Work and the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology.*

Ethiopian Jews Featured in New Book Series

Jewish Cultures of the World, a new book series issued by Rutgers University Press, published its first title in July: *One People, One Blood: Ethiopian-Israelis and the Return to Judaism*, by anthropologist **Don Seeman** of Emory University. The series is coedited by **Jeffrey Shandler** (Rutgers University) and **Matti Bunzl** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). For more information, please contact **Beth Kressel**, associate editor, Rutgers University Press, at bkres@rutgers.edu.



Above: Professor Nancy Sinkoff; right: Professor Azzan Yadin

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Core Faculty

Gary A. Rendsburg,
department chair
Jeffrey Shandler, *vice chair of undergraduate studies*
Nancy Sinkoff
Paola Tartakoff
Azzan Yadin
Yael Zerubavel,
Bildner Center director

Associated Faculty

Maurice Elias
Leslie Fishbein
Ziva Galili
Judith Gerson
David Greenberg
Douglas Greenberg
Paul Hanebrink
Martha Helfer
Michael Levine
Phyllis Mack
Barbara Reed
Emma Wasserman

Visiting Scholars

Ariella Lang
Samuel (Muli) Peleg

Part-time Lecturers

Mark Kligman
Nina Redl

Language Instructors

Orly Moshenberg,
Hebrew-language coordinator
Edna Bryn-Noiman & Lily Levy, *Hebrew instructors*
Edward Portnoy,
Yiddish instructor



Message from the Associate Director

Partnerships, both on campus and beyond, are a hallmark of the Bildner Center. These connections—with individuals, communities, and institutions—are the key to our continuing success. They strengthen our existing initiatives, open the door to new opportunities, and enable us to create cooperative relationships among disparate groups at Rutgers and statewide.

The connections we enjoy with our donors make it possible for us to broaden our outreach and keep our programming current and exciting. This past year, donor initiative sparked our series of interfaith events on campus, including an ongoing student dialogue driven by the cooperative relationship that developed among the Center, Jewish studies faculty, Rutgers Hillel, and the Rutgers Catholic Center. The planning process itself became an interfaith experience for the sponsoring organizations.

In addition, we use our academic resources to solidify

statewide partnerships with educational and community-based agencies. The Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education works closely with Rutgers faculty, educators from public and private schools throughout New Jersey, and major institutions, such as the N.J. Commission on Holocaust Education and Holocaust museums. The Bildner Center also partners with Jewish federations to develop educational workshops that benefit their leadership and constituencies.

The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, now entering its tenth year, is firmly established as a major cultural event in the state, thanks to a consortium of donors, faculty, and community partners, as well as the involvement of filmmakers.

Jewish studies at Rutgers is uniquely positioned to draw on both the academic and public outreach components of the university. The Center's resource of people who bring knowledge and scholarship out to the community helps distinguish Rutgers as a strong community partner. These collaborations enrich all of our work, and they contribute to the vibrancy of Jewish life in New Jersey.

—Karen Small

Film Festival Captures Range of Jewish Experience

The ninth annual **Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival** introduced filmgoers to a diverse cast of Jewish characters, among them a Sabbath-observant prizefighter, a masterful counterfeiter, a Russian dancer, and a Catholic Frenchman who discovers his Jewish roots. The festival was sponsored by the Bildner Center, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the **Karma Foundation**.

Diversity has, in fact, been the benchmark of the festival and a key factor in its continued success. The slate of critically acclaimed and prizewinning films shown this past year wove together many strands of the modern Jewish experience. Films explored a wide range of topics, from unlikely friendships between Muslims and Jews in France to the strength of a

community of survivors in the Catskills.

The festival screened thirteen documentary and feature films from France, Austria, Germany, Israel, and the United States, reaching an audience of more than 5,000.

Attendees represented the region's Jewish population as well as the Rutgers University community and an enthusiastic film-going public with an interest in Jewish cinema. Four of the films were New Jersey premieres.

Each year, the Bildner Center enriches the festival experience by inviting noteworthy speakers to engage with audiences in thought-provoking dialogue about themes raised in the films. Directors, cast members, and experts in related fields attended screenings, placing the stories portrayed in the films within a personal and tangible context.

In celebration of Israel's sixtieth anniversary, Israeli films featured prominently at the festival. Six titles were shown, beginning with the opening-night presentation of *The Champagne Spy*, winner of the 2007 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary. **Oded Gur Arie**, who at

the age of twelve discovered his father's double life as a Mossad agent, attended the screening of the film, which follows his attempt to fill in the blanks in his father's story.

The other five Israeli films reflect the diversity of Israeli society today, spotlighting the disrupted lives of kibbutz veterans, the cultural tensions faced by new immigrants, and the many-sided experiences of the modern Israeli woman.

Among the festival highlights was a program, sponsored by **David and Sylvia Steiner**, featuring the moving documentary *Praying With Lior*. The film captures the powerful spiritual journey of a child with Down syndrome as he prepares for his bar mitzvah. Director **Ilana Trachtman** and **Lior Liebling**, whose story she chronicles, held conversations with the audience as part of the special program.

The **Regal Entertainment Group** and the **Center for Cultural Judaism, Posen Foundation** provide additional sponsorship for the festival. The Bildner Center is also proud of the support of its dedicated festival patrons.

Sharon Karmazin, Lior Liebling, and Karen Small



Israel Featured Prominently in Center's Public Outreach

From politics to fashion, from contemporary issues to Israel's ancient past, the Bildner Center offered a broad range of public programs relating to Israel.

Israeli Politics:

The Military and Civil Society

Yoram Peri opened the academic year delivering the **Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture**. According to Peri, Israel's military, not its civilian political leadership, currently wields the greatest influence in foreign and defense policy making. A political adviser to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and former editor in chief of the Israeli daily newspaper *Davar*, Peri is the author of the 2006 book *Generals in the Cabinet Room: How the Military Shapes Israeli Policy*. His book explores the military's influence on the democratic process, as well as on Israeli-Palestinian relations. Peri now heads the Rothschild Caesarea School of Communication and the Chaim Herzog Institute for Media, Politics and Society at Tel Aviv University.

Politics of the Environment in Israel and the Region

In October, the prominent Israeli architect **Arie Neshet** presented the **Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein and Edward J. Bloustein Memorial Lecture**. An architect and city planner, Neshet is professional director of the Porter School of Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv University. This lecture was

cosponsored by the **Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy**.

The Psychological Effects of Terrorism on Israelis

Zahava Solomon, a winner of the prestigious Israel Prize in 2009 for excellence in the field of social work, presented a talk in Hebrew. A leading scholar in the field of traumatic stress, Solomon discussed the findings of her innovative research, exploring the complex relationship between political violence and post-traumatic stress disorder and how it perpetuates an ongoing cycle of violence and re-traumatization. Her talk was cosponsored by the **New Jersey Israel Commission** and presented as part of Rutgers' yearlong commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Fashion and Identity in Israel in the 1950s

Through a talk and slide show, **Anat Helman** illustrated how clothes worn by Israelis in the 1950s reflected not just climatic, economic, and security conditions in the newly established state, but also ideological notions, membership in various subcultures, basic gender roles, and attempts to consolidate a new unifying national identity.

While at Rutgers, Helman was also a guest speaker in Yael Zerubavel's undergraduate course, "Space in Modern Jewish Culture,"



and spoke about the 100th anniversary of Tel Aviv, the first Hebrew city.

Alvin Rockoff, Yael Zerubavel, and Yoram Peri

In Search of Ancient Israel

Gary A. Rendsburg, Rutgers' Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History, delivered a talk about Israel's origins. Using photographs and ancient documents, Rendsburg showed how current archaeological evidence from both Egypt and Israel is at times consistent, and other times at odds, with the biblical narrative. The talk was held in conjunction with Rutgers Reunion Weekend.

Guest Scholar Enriches Hebrew Classes

Lital Levy, assistant professor of comparative literature at Princeton, spoke to the students in the Jewish studies department's three introductory Hebrew classes. Her talk, "Interactions of Arabic and Hebrew Literature: Mizrahi and Palestinian Writers in Israel," focused on the ways in which Arabic language and culture have informed contemporary Hebrew literature.

Panel on Israeli Film

The Bildner Center offered a public discussion at the film festival, led by a panel of experts, to examine how the multicultural face of Israel is mirrored in the output of its growing film industry. Panelists: **Miri Talmon-Bohm**, **Yael Zerubavel**, **Isaac Zablocki**, and **Olga Gershenson**.



THE HERBERT AND LEONARD LITTMAN FAMILIES HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER



Teacher Institute Focuses on Holocaust Education

The second **Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI)** began in February 2009 under the auspices of the **Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center**. Based in the Bildner Center, the two-year advanced training program hones the expertise of an exclusive cadre of New Jersey educators engaged in the teaching of the Holocaust.

Currently, twenty teachers from three private schools and sixteen school districts are enrolled in the institute, representing the diversity of the state itself. All participants are committed to serving as resource providers in their communities and to creating innovative Holocaust education programs for their districts and schools.

Teachers meet with leading scholars for intensive analysis of Holocaust history and methods of remembrance. This past year, study focused on pivotal events, from Kristallnacht and the Wannsee Conference to the Warsaw ghetto uprising and the liberation of the death

camps. Contributing experts included **David Engel** and **Marion Kaplan** (New York University), **Atina Grossman** (the Cooper Union), **Samuel Kassow** (Trinity College), and **Roni Stauber** (Tel Aviv University), the Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies at the Bildner Center.

Under the guidance of a team that includes faculty adviser Professor **Jeffrey Shandler**, Bildner Center associate director **Karen Small**, and educational consultant **Perri Geller-Clark**, participants also address pedagogical challenges and master a skill set specific to the teaching of this complex subject. They learn how to use primary documents and literature in their curricula and how to prepare students for visits to Holocaust museums and public commemorations. In addition, they develop the means to teach about the Holocaust within the broad framework of genocide and intolerance.

A third component requires teachers to research and create educational initiatives that will empower their students to challenge prejudice and discrimination through exposure to Holocaust history. As they develop and later implement their projects, teachers receive support from Rutgers faculty and ongoing access to valuable educational resources. They also draw on one another's experiences through a supportive network nurtured over the course of the MTI's two-year cycle.

According to Geller-Clark, "These projects reflect the impact of each teacher's participation on his or her own personal and professional growth. This is the MTI's most essential value."

As a secondary English and humanities teacher in Moorestown, New Jersey, Geller-Clark was a participant in the pilot phase of the MTI, launched in 2005. She has taught the Holocaust for many years and finds her current leadership role rewarding. "I am a student for life," she offers, "so it is meaningful to work with and learn from this bright and interesting group."

Below: Yael Zerubavel, Len and Barbara Littman, and Drs. Ted and Eva Stahl



Claims Conference ועידת התביעות
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

This educator training project has been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Additional support provided by:
The Marjorie and Egon Berg Endowed Holocaust Education Fund
Drs. Eva and Ted Stahl



Refugees and Safe Havens: Seventy Years after the *St. Louis*

The Bildner Center's 2008 **Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program**, entitled "Refugees and Safe Havens: Seventy Years after the *St. Louis*," offered a lesson from history that still resonates today. Through the lens of that "voyage to nowhere," an expert panel explored current U.S. refugee policy during a well-attended public event held this past April.

Supported by **Leon and Toby Cooperman**, "Refugees and Safe Havens" featured prominently in Rutgers' yearlong focus on human rights, part of an international initiative to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The *St. Louis* has long symbolized U.S. indifference to the plight of European Jewry on the eve of the Holocaust. In 1939, more than 900 Jewish refugees fled Nazi Germany in that ship, seeking safe haven across the Atlantic. Initially

refused by Cuba, they were forced back to Europe after America's strict quota system denied them early entry on their visas.

The esteemed panelists leading the discussion at the event included Professor **Fernando Chang-Muy** (University of Pennsylvania School of Law), a former legal adviser to the United Nations high commissioner for refugees; **Scott Miller** (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum), co-author of *The St. Louis Passengers and the Holocaust: Refuge Denied*; and Dr. **Hans Fisher**, now a retired Rutgers professor, who was a passenger on the *St. Louis*.

Fisher painfully recalled the lack of sympathy that shadowed U.S. immigration policy at that time. As a young child, he boarded the *St. Louis* with his mother and sister, hoping first to join his father in Cuba.

Denied entry, the family was reunited there only after a second



Fernando Chang-Muy, Scott Miller, and Hans Fisher

journey from Europe, but they were forced to wait a full year before Fisher's father received the U.S. visa that allowed them to emigrate together.

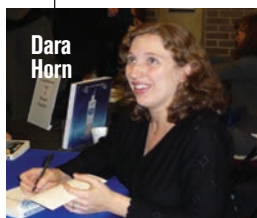
After settling in America, Fisher went on to found the Rutgers Department of Nutritional Sciences in 1966. He served as its chair for twenty-two years before retiring as a Distinguished Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry.

Similarly, Chang-Muy's story began in Cuba, where his father found safety as a Chinese refugee. He married a Cuban woman, and the couple later settled in the United States.

Chang-Muy asserted that with human-rights violations still prevalent on a drastic scale, the events of 1939 continue to inform the debate over refugee resettlement and American immigration policy. Each year, 80,000 refugees—most of them Asian or African—are granted asylum, but they also face enormous challenges. Often presumed to have terrorist connections, they are extensively screened by the Department of Homeland Security and must turn to resettlement agencies for aid.

For Scott Miller, too, the lessons of the *St. Louis* continue to have profound relevance. The director of the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors at

Center Explores Jewish Literature and Politics



Field Notes on Becoming a Jewish Novelist

The Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program

Dara Horn, winner, National Jewish Book Award. Cosponsored by Rutgers' Department of Comparative Literature.

Ballots, Babies, and Banners of Peace: American Jewish Women's Pre-World War II Activism

The Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program

Melissa Klapper, Rowan University

The New Philo-Semitism:

Israel, Islamophobia, and the Right Wing in Europe

Matti Bunzl, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

➤ See **SAFE HAVENS** on page 11

Yiddish: A Dynamic Element of Jewish Studies

The study of Yiddish offers a window onto a historically rich Diaspora culture that reaches around the globe and encompasses the breadth of the Jewish experience. Although Yiddish has its origins in Europe, it became—and remains—an international language, playing a vital role in the fields of American and Eastern European Jewish studies, as well as attracting growing attention in Israel.

“Yiddish is important for understanding a range of Jewish topics,” says Professor **Jeffrey Shandler**, who oversees the Yiddish-language program at Rutgers. “Current engagements with Yiddish worldwide are among the most telling developments of contemporary Jewish culture.”

As the most widely spoken Jewish language in history, Yiddish—along with its literature, culture, and history—is also a key component of Jewish studies at Rutgers. Courses include Shandler’s “Remembering the Shtetl,” as well as “Modern Yiddish Literature and Culture” and “Elementary Modern Yiddish,” both taught by Dr. **Eddy Portnoy**.

Portnoy, who holds a doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a master’s degree in Yiddish studies from Columbia University, is an expert on the cartoons of the Yiddish press. Now in his second year of

teaching in the Department of Jewish Studies, he lectures and writes about Jewish popular culture, and he also consults for museums worldwide.

Beyond Jewish studies courses offered here, Rutgers students also venture far to pursue advanced language immersion. For **Jordan Kutzik**, that meant a summer in Lithuania at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute, thanks to the Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Student Award from the Bildner Center. The intensive experience strengthened his commitment to the perpetuation of Yiddish language and its cultural heritage. Upon his return from Vilnius, Kutzik revitalized the Yiddish Club, under the auspices of Rutgers Hillel, to provide a venue for conversational Yiddish and other activities on campus.

Yiddish is a dynamic element of both Jewish studies and Jewish life at Rutgers. “The role of Yiddish in today’s Jewish culture is surprisingly diverse,” observes Shandler. “It is one of my greatest pleasures to share its treasures, past and present, with our students.”



VISITING SCHOLARS from page 1

the core of a visiting scholar’s role. With specialties that differ from those of departmental faculty, they teach classes, lecture to educators participating in the Master Teacher Institute, lead faculty seminars, and develop online mini-courses that are available to the public free of charge on the Bildner Center’s website. In addition, they address audiences at the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival and present public lectures on a wide array of subjects.

Still, the particular strengths of each scholar may stretch the bounds of the exchange even further. In 2007–2008, Professor **Roni Stauber** of Tel Aviv University, then the Aresty Visiting Scholar, presented an undergraduate course entitled “The Holocaust and Israel.” Recognizing the potential for wider impact, the Bildner Center asked him to develop an innovative, eight-session “History of the Holocaust” course for New Jersey educators teaching the subject in districts statewide.

Thanks to a special grant from the American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, Stauber remained for a second year. In 2008–2009, as the Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies, he taught two additional courses: “Anti-Semitism in Modern Times” and “The History of Zionism.” He also created a five-session course on Israel’s unresolved

conflicts, an extracurricular evening series for students, cosponsored by the Bildner Center and Rutgers Hillel.

Looking back on the experience, Stauber has observed, “The opportunity to engage with teachers of the Holocaust in order to develop their historical sensibilities was the highlight of my time here as a visiting scholar. I hope the knowledge and understanding they have acquired through exposure to our seminars will be transmitted to their students, now and in the future.”



Roni Stauber

Community Partnerships

As a component of the Center’s community partnerships with the Metrowest and Northern New Jersey federations, Dr. Stauber offered several educational seminars geared to supplementary school and day school educators. In Metrowest, in cooperation with the Partnership for Jewish Learning and Life, he presented a two-part workshop on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In Bergen County, he explored the impact of the Holocaust on Israeli society with teachers brought together by the community’s Jewish Educational Services.

DONOR SUPPORT APPRECIATED

We are grateful to our donors for their support of Jewish studies over the past year:

Steven and Christine Boehm, new donors to the Center, have provided a gift in support of Holocaust education. Steven is a 1975 graduate of Rutgers College and graduated from Rutgers Law School in Newark in 1978. Their gift honors the memory of Steven's parents, Henry and Irene Boehm. Henry was a Holocaust survivor. Steven is a partner in the law firm Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan, LLP, in Washington, D.C. Christine recently retired from her law practice to devote herself to being a full-time mom to their three young children. They reside in Virginia.

Gene Hoffman significantly increased his gift to **Jewish Studies Online**, which provides free online courses on topics of Jewish interest. Gene and his late wife, Adele, initiated the program, which has developed an international reach. Four courses taught by Rutgers faculty are now available to the public.

For the second time, the **Claims Conference: The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany** awarded the Center a generous grant for the **Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education**. Drs. **Eva and Ted Stahl** added their gift to ensure the success of this endeavor.

We are grateful to the **Karma Foundation** for providing a generous annual grant for the **Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival**, the Center's largest community program. The tenth festival will take place in November.

Special thanks to the family of **Deborah S. and Herbert B. Wasserman** for their generous contributions to a fund for student research.

We appreciate **Herbert and Jacqueline Klein** and the **Krieger Charitable Trust's** further support for their student award fund for study in Israel. Our gratitude to **Robert Steinberg** for his additional gift to the Center, and to **Andrew Melnick** for his support of Israel programs at Rutgers.

A grant from the **American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise** provides funding to the Bildner Center for a **Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies**, enabling Jewish studies to expand its curricular offerings and strengthen Israel studies at Rutgers.

Generous funding for secular studies and cultural programs from the **Center for Cultural Judaism, Posen Foundation** has benefitted both the Department of Jewish Studies and the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival.

SAFE HAVENS from page 9

the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Miller and his colleague Sarah Ogilvie spent ten years chronicling the long-elusive fates of the *St. Louis* passengers. Defying the common assumption that nearly all had perished during the war, their meticulous research proved that most had, in fact, survived.

According to Miller, the *St. Louis* represents the convergence of Holocaust history and American history. He added that an unbending U.S. immigration policy under the Roosevelt administration bears direct responsibility for the fateful journey. Knowledge of that history has an important role to play in increasing awareness of the fate of refugees today.

In Memoriam: Jerome Joseph Aresty



philanthropist whose generous gifts supported major Jewish causes.

With great sadness, we mourn the passing of Jerry Aresty, a graduate of Rutgers College in 1951. Jerry and his wife, Lorraine, have been generous supporters of Rutgers and the Bildner Center. Their establishment of an endowment to fund visiting fellows in Jewish studies greatly enhances Rutgers' ability to attract first-rate scholars in the field. Each year, the Center brings an Aresty Visiting Scholar to enrich Jewish studies at Rutgers (see pages 1 and 4). Jerry was known as a prominent community leader and

Student Awards Ceremony



Select Jewish studies majors and minors were recognized in May for their academic achievement at the annual awards ceremony, attended by the award recipients and their families, Jewish studies faculty, and friends and donors of the Bildner Center. **Barry Qualls**, vice president for undergraduate education at Rutgers, greeted the guests and spoke about the importance of Jewish studies.

A new component of this event was the presentation of scholarly research by Jewish studies faculty. Professor **Jeffrey Shandler** discussed the impact of new communications technologies and media practices on

the religious life of American Jewry over the past century, as outlined in his new book (see page 3). Professor **Nancy Sinkoff** shared texts by Hannah Arendt and Lucy S. Dawidowicz that illuminated their contrasting interpretations of Jewish behavior during the Holocaust.

*The following is an excerpt from award recipient **Avi Smolen's** speech, in which he discussed how his post-college plans were influenced by the Bildner Center's collaboration with Hillel and the Rutgers Catholic Center on interfaith dialogue:*

Such joint efforts have reinforced my own commitment to interfaith cooperation, and I will be continuing with this next year. I was recently chosen to participate in the Faiths Act Fellowship, an initiative of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation and the Interfaith Youth Core, which focuses on bringing together young people of different faiths to promote the Millennium Development Goals. The focus is on the commitment to prevent deaths from malaria, and my placement with the Malaria No More policy office in Washington, D.C., will help me work towards this goal. I, as one of thirty fellows from the U.S., U.K., and Canada, will travel this summer to London, then Malawi, Mali, and Tanzania, and finally Chicago for training, before beginning my work in Washington in October... I trust that the knowledge I have gained, both academic and experiential, at Rutgers and my commitment to Judaism will serve me well in my interfaith work.

Right:
Professor
Jeffrey
Shandler with
Avi Smolen and
Alexandra
Casser



Jewish Studies Graduates

Majors

Joshua Halpern
Jordana Ornstein
Danielle Umanoff
Leah Weis
Gregory Yellin

Minors

Brooke Andrews
Emily Bernstein
Tiffany Burke
Lisa Chalik
Rachel Dushkin
Freida Eddi
Samantha Hellwege
Gabriel Homa
Lauren Katz
Judah Loewenstein

Jonathan Mazlin
Kseniya Moshikhova
Kristin Reyes
Gilah Rosenberg
Molly Salovitz
Avi Smolen
David Spangenthal
Heather Wombough
Charles Woods
Ron Zahavi

Award Recipients

Emily Bernstein, '09

The Ruth Feller
Rosenberg Award

Aneta C. Biesiadecka, '10

The Herbert and Jacqueline
Klein Award for Study in Israel

Ariel Bucher, '11

The Harold and Betty Perl Award

Alexandra Casser, '10

The Baruch S. and Pearl W.
Seidman Award

Rachel Dushkin, '09

The Gertrude and Jacob Henoch
Memorial Award

Lauren Glassman, '10

The Bernice and Milton I.
Luxemburg Award

Tal Grebel, '11

The Leonard and Adele
Blumberg Student Award

Hod Klein, '10

The Betty and Julius Gillman
Memorial Award

Christopher Mercurio, '11

The Maurice Meyer III and Irma
Meyer Award

Ariella Prince, '10

The Rudolph and Mary
Solomon Klein Award

Molly Salovitz, '09

The Alexander and Ruth
Seaman Award

Avi Smolen, '09

The Baruch S. and Pearl W.
Seidman Award

Shoshana Smolen, '11

The Norma U. and David M.
Levitt Award

Leah Weis, '09

The Louis Fishman
Memorial Award

OUTREACH TO STUDENTS



Crash Course on Israel

Israel's unresolved conflicts were the focus of a mini-course for students developed and taught by **Roni Stauber**, the Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies, during the spring semester. About fifty students attended the five-session course, held at the Bildner Center and cosponsored by the Center and Rutgers Hillel.

In Stauber's course, students looked at some of Israel's major conflicts. The first topic, the claim to the land, examined the roots and evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict dating from the British Mandate Period in the 1920s to the present time. The second, Israel as a divided and polarized society, explored the social and political tensions among various groups in Israeli society. Friction exists between the Jewish majority and ethnic minorities, and there are ethnic tensions within the Jewish community as well. For the final topic, Stauber examined the fundamental debate regarding the meaning of Jewish identity in Israel, which has been at the forefront of public discourse there since Israel's inception. Leaders in the first years of the state attempted to create a national identity based on a homogeneous Hebrew culture; Israeli society has gradually moved from the melting-pot concept to a multicultural society and a growing openness toward various Jewish traditions.

Interfaith Dialogue

continued from page 1

With a focus on listening and sharing, the first *iFaith: Jewish-Catholic Student Dialogue*—sponsored by the Bildner Center, the Catholic Center, and Hillel—took place in the late fall. **David C. Kraemer** of the Jewish Theological Seminary and **Gregory Floyd** of the Tri-County Scholarship Fund discussed the role that religion plays in their lives and the meaning of Hanukkah and Christmas in today's world. Students broke off into small groups to share their experiences in a more intimate conversation.

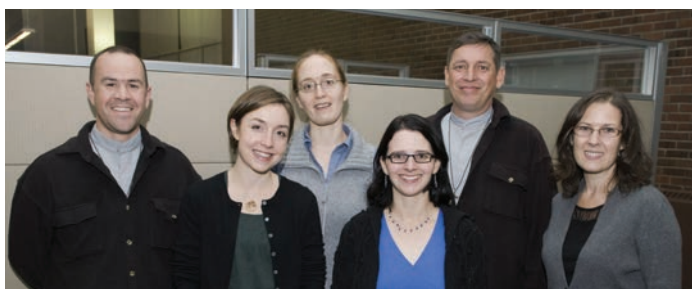
The comfortable atmosphere and engaging format of *iFaith* quickly proved the right combination for students looking to learn more about other religions as a means of finding common ground. While the initial session drew thirty participants, a second program attracted nearly 100 to the Student Activities Center on the College Avenue campus.

On the heels of that momentum, the Bildner Center and its campus partners planned two additional *iFaith* events for the spring semester, including a year-end program that explored Passover and Easter observances. A session held just after winter break focused on the Jewish holiday of Purim and the Catholic period of Lent. Rabbi **Esther Reed**, assistant director of Rutgers Hillel, presented an interactive interpretation of the holiday story using a *Megillat Esther* (Scroll of Esther), and Brother **Ken Apuzzo** of the Rutgers Catholic Center spoke about Lent and its role leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Jewish and Catholic students shared their memories of Purim and Lent experiences, respectively.

Student response to this dialogue series has been enormously positive, as participants expressed their appreciation for this rare opportunity to hear their peers proudly discuss the importance that religion holds for them. As one student reported, "I leave the meetings with the feeling that the dialogue was a testament to the openness and diversity of the Rutgers campus."



Students discuss interfaith issues; Professor Paola Tartakoff at right.



Planning committee: Brother Adam Neri, Professors Paola Tartakoff and Nina Redl, Rabbi Esther Reed, Brother Ken Apuzzo, and Karen Small

Faculty Updates

Maurice Elias published "How to Foster Children's Resilience While They Wait for Schools to Improve," *Education Week* 28, no. 15 (December 10, 2008): 36; "The Other Side of the Report Card," *School Leader: Journal of the New Jersey School Boards Association* (November–December 2008): 30–31; and, as editor, "Introduction to Service Learning, Youth Empowerment, Civic Engagement, and the Direction of Community Psychology Research and Action," *Community Psychologist* 41, nos. 3/4 (2008): 60–62. In addition, he coauthored the following: with L. Cedeno, "How Do You Know When Your Student or Child Is Being Victimized?" special issue on bullying (2008), at <http://www.education.com>; with N. M. Haynes, "Social Competence, Social Support, and Academic Achievement in Minority, Low-Income, Urban Elementary School Children," *School Psychology Quarterly* 23, no. 4 (2008): 474–95; with J. S. Kress, "Distancing in Encompassing Education Settings: Lessons from Jewish Education," *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* 29, no. 4 (2008): 337–44; with J. Rosenblatt, "Dosage Effects of Preventive Social-Emotional Learning Intervention on Achievement Loss Associated with Middle School Transition," *Journal of Primary Prevention* 29, no. 6 (2008): 535–55; and, with S. J. Parker, V. M. Kash, R. P. Weissberg, and M. O'Brien, "Social-Emotional Learning and Moral and Character Education: A Comparative Analysis and a View toward Convergence," in *Handbook of Moral and Character Education*, ed. L. Nucci and D. Narvaez (Philadelphia: Taylor and Francis, 2008). Elias delivered the following keynote addresses: "Implementation and Sustainability of Social-Emotional Interventions" at the Center for Social and Emotional Education Summer Institute 2008, the Society for Ethical Culture, New York City; "Why Social-Emotional and Character Development Is Essential

for Moving All Children Forward toward Success in School and Life" at the 2008 Pennsylvania Governor's Institute for Early Childhood Educators at Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania; and "Why School Psychologists Must Become Leaders for Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) in Schools and Communities" at the summer meeting of the National Association of School Psychologists, Atlantic City. Elias was convener and chair of the Advisory Group on Research and Evidenced-Based Practice Related to Harassment, Bullying, Intimidation, and Victimization of Youth in Schools, for the Governor's Commission on Bullying.

Leslie Fishbein is at work on a book on the self-representation of American prostitutes and madams, to be entitled *Memoirs of the Sex Trade: A Cultural History of Prostitution*. Last year, she was a Faculty Fellow of the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women seminar "The Culture of Rights / The Rights of Culture," in which she began work on a project entitled Tangled Tropes: Blacks and Jews in Vexed Conversation; the project explores the complexities of black-Jewish relations by examining the various ways in which blacks and Jews have used common tropes in their struggles for freedom, equality of opportunity, and social justice and ascribed to them different, even discordant, meanings. Fishbein serves as a member of the K–16 Collaborations Committee of the American Studies Association and presented an all-day seminar on American Childhoods at the High School Teachers Institute, sponsored by the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis.

Ziva Galili was on research leave following the completion of her term as acting dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. During this leave, she continued to research the history of Zionism in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and early 1930s. Much of her time was spent in Israel, but she also traveled to archives in Russia and Ukraine, including the archives of the security services in Moscow and Kiev. A long essay she wrote, "Zionism in Soviet Russia, 1917–1939," is about to be published in a two-volume collec-

tive work on the cultural geography of Zionism: Alon Gal, ed., *Hatsiyonut le-Ezoreiha: Heibetim geo-tarbutiyim*, 2 vols. (Jerusalem: Israel Historical Association and Zalman Shazar Center). She presented her work at "Israel's Russian Expanse," a conference at Tulane University, New Orleans.

Judith Gerson presented a paper entitled "'I Was Lucky': Jewish Refugees from the Altreich Recall Their Emigration" at the "International Conference on Jewish Perspectives on the Years of 'Forced Emigration' to Ghettoization and Deportation of Jews from the German Reich, 1938/39–1941," Hamburg, Germany, organized by the Institute for the History of German Jews in Hamburg. She participated in "Everyday Life in the Camps, 1933–1945," an international workshop in Paris, sponsored by the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah. The title of her presentation was "Insider Accounts of Everyday Life in the Camps, 1933–1941: Methods and Evidence." Gerson also gave a lecture entitled "Before and After Kristallnacht: German Jewish Refugees in the U.S. Remember" at the Highland Park Conservative Temple as part of its Kristallnacht Remembrance Program.

Martha Helfer co-directed a workshop on German and Jewish studies at Duke University.

Michael G. Levine published "Spectral Gatherings: Derrida, Celan and the Covenant of the Word," *Diacritics* (Spring 2009). At the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Festival, he gave a post-screening talk on the film *One Day You'll Understand*. He presented a paper entitled "The Day the Sun Stood Still: Benjamin's Theses on the Philosophy of History" at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference at Harvard University, an expanded version of which he delivered at the City University of New York Graduate Center under the title "The Day the Sun Stood Still: Benjamin, Trauma, and the Eichmann Trial." Levine serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of the Kafka Society of America*.

Barbara Reed presented the following papers: "David Naar and the *Daily True American* of New Jersey" at the "Symposium on the Civil War, the Press, and Free Expression in the 19th Century," Chattanooga, Tennessee; and "*The Menorah Journal*: Scholarly, Timely, Readable" at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Chicago.

Gary A. Rendsburg published "Alliteration in the Exodus Narrative," in *Birkat Shalom*, Shalom Paul Festschrift (2008); "The Two Screens: On Mary Douglas's Proposal for a Literary Structure to the Book of Leviticus," *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 15 (2008); "The Jubilee Pericope (Lev. 25:8–24) as a Northern Composition," *Mehqarim ba-Lashon* 11–12, Avi Hurvitz Festschrift (2008); "Linguistic and Stylistic Notes to the Hazon Gabriel Inscription," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 16 (2009); and "Israelian Hebrew Features in Deuteronomy 33," in *Mishneh Todah*, Jeffrey Tigay Festschrift (2009). He presented the following lectures: "Qumran Hebrew" at the Semitic Philology Workshop of Harvard University and at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies (2008); "In Search of (Most) Ancient Israel" at American Jewish University and at Rutgers University; "The Book of Leviticus: Structure and Meaning in the Least Read Book of the Torah" at the Biblical Archaeological Society's annual Bible Fest program; "Israelian Hebrew, Inscriptions from the North of Israel, and Samaritan Hebrew: A Complex of Northern Dialects" at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature; and "A Survey of Israelian Hebrew" at Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition, he continued in his role as associate editor of the *Encyclopaedia of the Hebrew Language and Linguistics*.

Jeffrey Shandler published *Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America* (New York: New York University Press, 2009) and several essays, including "In Sala's Footsteps, through Yishay's Lens," in *In My Mother's Footsteps*, ed. Yishay Garbasz (Hatje Cantz, 2009), which was translated into Japanese for the

exhibition "In My Mother's Footsteps" at the Institute of Contemporary Art and International Cultural Exchange, Tokyo (2009); "Mapping Yiddishland: Place, Time, and Speech," in *Beiheft zum Language and Culture Atlas of Ashkenazic Jewry*, no. 5 (2008); and "The Virtual Rebbe," for the Religion and Culture Web Forum of the Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion (February 2009). Shandler also gave the following public presentations: "Transformations of the Ketubah, or, the Gallery of Failed Marriages" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C. (2008); "Found in Translation: Reading World Literature in Yiddish," Program in Jewish Studies, Vanderbilt University; "Turning on 'The Eternal Light'" at the "Seminar on Religion in New York," Department of Religion, Columbia University; "Learning the Facts of Death: Holocaust Education as Rite of Passage" at "Jewish Youth and Cultural Change: A Conference on Rethinking American Jewish History," Center for Jewish History, New York; "Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America" at the Center for Religion and Media, New York University; "Absolut Tschotchke: Materializing the Mother Tongue" at the University of Toronto; eight seminars on the topic "Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America" and a public lecture, "Shtetl Fabulous: Imagining the East European Jewish Past," as the visiting scholar for the Inaugural Berkeley Seminars in Modern Jewish Culture, University of California, Berkeley; and "The Man in the Glass Box: Eichmann on American Television" at "Filming the Eichmann Trial: An International Conference," University of California, Los Angeles. In addition, he was invited to join the editorial board of *AJS Review*.

Nancy Sinkoff concluded her service as the undergraduate chair in the Department of Jewish Studies. Her essay "The Polishness of Lucy S. Dawidowicz's Postwar Jewish Cold War" is in the forthcoming volume *The Jewish Feminist Mystique*, ed. Hasia Diner, Rachel Kranson, and Shira Kohn. She was awarded a

Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award for *Seeing Red: The Political Life of Lucy S. Dawidowicz*, to support research in the category of biography. Sinkoff was given the Donald C. Gallup Fellowship in American Literature at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University to support the research project "The Fiction of History: Jewish Politics and Resistance in John Hersey's *The Wall*." She was invited to give the following presentations: "Lucy S. Dawidowicz, Nathan Birnbaum, Max Weinreich, and Leibush Lehrer: Contesting Jewish Secularism beyond the Borders of Ashkenaz" at the seminar on East European Jewry / Modern Jewish Studies Program of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; and "Neither Here Nor There: Eastern Europe in Lucy S. Dawidowicz's Postwar Jewish Cold War" at the Center for the United States and the Cold War Seminar of the Tamiment Library at New York University. She also organized a panel, "The (Im)Possibilities of Jewish Secularism," at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies (2008), to which she contributed the paper "Lost in Migration: Leibush Lehrer's Ambivalent Secularism."

Paola Tartakoff received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete her book, *Conversion and Inquisition in the Medieval Crown of Aragon, 1243–1391*. This year she also finished an article, "Jewish Women and Apostasy in the Medieval Crown of Aragon, c.1300–1391," which shall appear in *Jewish History* 23, no. 4 (2009), and in January she presented a paper entitled "Re-Reading Conversion in Medieval Spain" at the American Historical Association conference. In September she opened the Camden County College lecture series, Abraham's Children: The History of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, with a talk on "Re-Thinking the Jewish Middle Ages." She returned to Spain to continue archival research on several ongoing projects, including a study of royal attitudes toward Jewish conversion in medieval Iberia and a study of attempts to catechize Iberian Jews who were forcibly baptized in 1391.

Emma Wasserman published "The Death of the Soul in Romans 7: Sin, Death, and the Law in Light of Hellenistic Moral Psychology," *WUNT* 2, no. 56 (2008). She also presented the following papers: "Situating the Subject in Paul's Letter to the Romans: The Lutheran Interpretation of Paul and Its Legacies in Contemporary Thought" at the joint meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion and the Society for Psychological Anthropology, Asilomar, California; and "What Is an Apocalyptic Cosmology? Human and Non-Human Agents in the Book of the Watchers, the Similitudes of Enoch, and Jubilees" at the "Redescribing Christian Origins" seminar, and "Demons Yes, Powers No: A Historical Critique of the Notion of Sin as a 'Power' in Romans," both at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston.

Azzan Yadin published two articles last year: "Ronald Dworkin and the Problem of Self-Undermining Interpretation," and "*Qol ha-Tinoqot*," which expands the recognized meaning of a common rabbinic word. The former was published in a special volume of *Dine Israel* (a journal of Jewish law published by Tel Aviv University) devoted to Ronald Dworkin and Jewish law; the latter was published in *Leshonenu*, the journal of the Israeli Academy of Language. Yadin continues to serve as the head of the Rabbinics Division of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), at whose annual meeting he presented last year, and as coeditor of the Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism book series. Along with the AJS annual meeting, Yadin gave invited talks at Pennsylvania State University, Rice University, the University of Kansas, and Northwestern University. He taught a four-session course at Cardozo Law School on the thought of Michel Foucault and its significance for the study of Jewish law, and he was a visiting associate professor at the University of Chicago, where he taught a graduate seminar, "The Authority of Scripture in Early Rabbinic Literature."

Yael Zerubavel delivered the Thirty-fourth Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures on the theme "Encounters with the Past: Remembering the 'Bygone' in Israeli Culture," at the University of Washington, and the Yedida Kalfon Stillman Memorial Lecture, entitled "The New Jew, the Arab, and the 'Hebrew Bedouin': The Transformations of an Israeli Identity," at the University of Oklahoma. She presented a number of seminar and conference papers, including "Cultural Ambivalence and Hybrid Identities: The Case of the Hebrew-Bedouin" at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis seminar on "Vernacular Epistemologies"; "The Lure of the Past in a Global Age: Antiquity, Tourism, and the Politics of Remembrance" at the "Second Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Memory" at the New School for Social Research; "National Myths, the Dynamics of Memory, and the Politics of Interpretation: The Case of Israel," at an international conference, "Whither National Myths?" at Harvard University; and "The Globalization of Antiquity: Cultural Performances, Tourism, and the Politics of Commemoration" at an international conference, "Media Memory," at Haifa University. She also served as a panelist in a session entitled "Jewish Studies, Jewish Money, and the Future of an Academic Field: Reflections by Scholars and Donors" and chaired a session entitled "Politics, Culture, and Ideology in Israel" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) (2008). Zerubavel completed her term on the editorial board of the Association for Israel Studies. She serves on the editorial board of the AJS and on editorial boards of several academic journals including, the *Israel Studies Forum*, *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*, the *Journal of Israeli History*, the Rutgers University Press book series *Jewish Cultures of the World*, and a new Academic Studies Press series *Israel: Society, Culture, and History*. She recently joined the new editorial board of *AJS Perspectives*, the semi-annual magazine/newsletter of the AJS.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS FALL 2009

Terrorists, Tyrants, Tycoons and Theocrats: American Challenges in the Middle East

Funded by the Blanche and Irving

Laurie Foundation

Speaker: Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer

September 9

Beyond Anne Frank: Hidden Children and Postwar Families in Holland

The Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program,
supported by Leon and Toby Cooperman

Speaker: Diane L. Wolf

September 30

Greeting the Season: The December Dilemma in American Jewish Popular Culture

The Toby and Herbert Stolzer
Endowed Lecture

Speaker: Jeffrey Shandler

October 15

Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

November 1–10

Israeli Commemorations of Yitzhak Rabin

The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture

Speaker: Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi

November 18

Professional Development for Teachers

Dispelling Myths and Stereotypes to Reduce Prejudice

Cosponsored by the
Daniel Pearl Education Center,
Temple B'nai Shalom

October 22

Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education

January 2009–June 2010

Monthly sessions

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<http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>



*Made possible by a generous gift
from Adele and Gene Hoffman*



**Professor Gary Rendsburg poses as an ancient
Israelite at first annual Rutgers Day.**

Jewish Studies at Rutgers

Partnering with the community

- Programs on Jewish history and culture
- Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival
- Conferences and seminars
- Jewish Studies Online (non-credit courses)

Fostering academic excellence and faculty research

- Major/minor in Jewish studies
- Student awards and programs for students
- Visiting scholars and faculty seminars

Serving as a Holocaust Resource Center

- Teacher training
- Resource materials for teachers, students, and scholars
- Public programs on the Holocaust, racism, and genocide

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