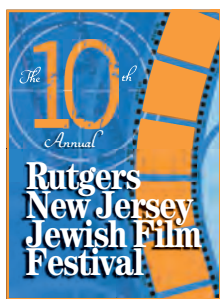


Jewish Studies at Rutgers

Number 14
Fall 2010

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

INSIDE



Film Festival Celebrates 10th Year
Page 10

Faculty News
Pages 4, 14–15

Holocaust Education
Pages 8–9



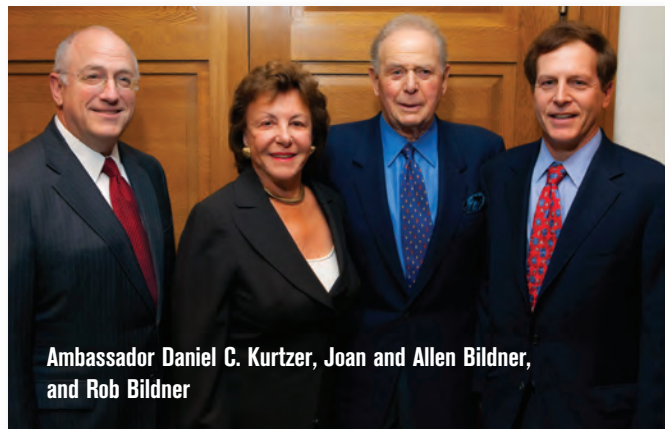
RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

American Challenges in the Middle East

The Bildner Center kicked off the 2009–2010 academic year in style. On September 9, 2009, **Joan and Allen Bildner** and Rutgers president **Richard L. McCormick** hosted a dinner with **Daniel C. Kurtzer**, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel and Egypt and a leading scholar of the Arab-Israeli peace process. The dinner was attended by friends and donors of the Center.

Kurtzer later delivered a public lecture, “Terrorists, Tyrants, Tycoons and Theocrats: American Challenges in the Middle East,” to more than 275 people. The event was supported by the **Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation**.

Kurtzer spoke about the various difficulties Washington faces as it attempts to revive the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Offering a rigorous examination of U.S. diplomacy since the end of the Cold War, Kurtzer identified and drew lessons from past peacemaking efforts, offering suggestions for future American participation in the peace process.



Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer, Joan and Allen Bildner, and Rob Bildner

Ambassador Kurtzer is the S. Daniel Abraham Chair in Middle East Policy Studies at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He is also coauthor (with Scott B. Lasensky) of the book *Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East* (U.S. Institute of Peace Press, 2008).

Nancy Sinkoff Researches Politics of Jewish History

Professor **Nancy Sinkoff** is the new chair of the Department of Jewish Studies, and she is currently at work on a second book, tentatively entitled “*Last Witness*”: *Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Politics of Jewish History*. She describes it as “a political biography of an influential and contentious Jewish public intellectual of the postwar era, who had a profound impact on the discourses related to Jewish politics in the Diaspora, East European Jewish

culture, and the Holocaust.”

Sinkoff, who penned the introduction, “Yidishkayt and the Making of Lucy S. Dawidowicz,” to the reissue of Dawidowicz’s *From That Place and Time: A Memoir, 1938–1947* (Rutgers University Press, 2008), received a Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award in support of her current project.

➤ See **NANCY SINKOFF** on page 5

Ancient Relics in the Modern World



As arriving passengers walk down the marble ramp toward the exit of the renovated terminal at the Ben-Gurion Airport, they may spot the colorful display of Israel's Independence Day posters to their right and, far across from them, hanging high above a large passageway, two pieces of ancient mosaics excavated in Israel. I had walked this way many times, yet never noticed these mosaics—that is, until an American colleague recently mentioned this display to me, following my lecture “Reimagining Antiquity in Israeli Culture.”

The symbolism of the ancient relics and the modern posters at this entrance to Israeli national space is, of course, telling. Antiquity has been an important foundation of Israeli national memory, and archaeological sites are a major tourist attraction. Yet Israelis' passionate interest in archaeology, so clearly evident in the 1950s and 1960s, has declined considerably, along with an attachment to and knowledge of the Bible, once seen as a major inspiration for secular national Israeli culture. The display of ancient mosaics at the airport may speak primarily to entering tourists, both Jews and non-Jews. But what meanings are ascribed to the Bible and to the ancient past in multifaceted Israeli culture today?

This year, thanks to a fellowship at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, I was able to focus on my research into the changing representations of antiquity in Israeli culture. Examining a host of new literary and popular texts, artistic images, and cultural events, I realized that the earlier significance attached to antiquity and the Bible has not given way to oblivion but rather to the coexistence of multiple approaches and interpretations. Their meanings thus continue to be generated, debated, and transformed, and new cultural forms may be replacing old ones.

I believe that this desire to understand Jewish society and culture, in their diverse historical developments and multiple spiritual, literary, and artistic expressions, motivates and inspires Jewish studies faculty to devote their time and energy to academic research. Our reward is to witness this passion transmitted to and shared with our students.

Returning from a year of engaging in research, I look forward to teaching an advanced seminar that introduces a cross-disciplinary group of doctoral students to various approaches to the study of cultural memory, which they can apply to their own research, and to teaching undergraduate students about Israeli culture and its historical development, growing complexity, and ever-changing character. I plan to share some of my new research and ideas with them and learn from their questions and responses.

—Yael Zerubavel, Bildner Center director

Reflections on Department's Progress



When I arrived at Rutgers in 2004 and assumed the role of chair of Jewish studies, I set several important goals for the department. As my six years as chair draw to a close, it is very gratifying to report that these goals have largely been attained.

My first objective was to expand the Jewish studies faculty. We did so with the addition of core faculty member Paola Tartakoff (medieval Jewish history), as well as associated faculty members Michael Levine (German) and Emma Wasserman (religion).

There were two further accomplishments related to undergraduate studies: building more bridges between Jewish studies and other departments, and increasing the number of students enrolled in Jewish studies courses. We achieved these interrelated goals in several ways, including an expansion of the number of courses cross-listed with other departments. For example, many Jewish studies courses are now cross-listed with the Department of Religion and with the recently created Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures, with several newly proposed courses on the horizon.

Our efforts have helped to achieve an increased awareness of Jewish studies among undergraduate students across Rutgers, especially in the School of Arts and Sciences. I am pleased to report that 2,021 students—a record number—were enrolled in Jewish studies courses during the past academic year. This growth bespeaks a very healthy undergraduate program in Jewish studies, and we recognize the potential for even greater growth in the years ahead.

Finally, we have made great strides toward the establishment of a graduate program in Jewish studies. A certificate in Jewish studies is now available to Rutgers graduate students, while a self-standing M.A. program in Jewish studies currently awaits approval from university and state authorities. Through these initiatives, we plan to meet the needs of the growing number of prospective students from New Jersey and neighboring states, who seek the opportunity to pursue graduate work in Jewish studies at Rutgers.

This year, I will pursue my research as a visiting fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies at Yarnton Manor. My colleague Nancy Sinkoff, the new chair of the department, will bring her vision and commitment to bear in further strengthening Jewish studies at Rutgers.

—Gary A. Rendsburg, department chair

Paola Tartakoff Studies Jewish and Christian Cultures in Medieval Spain

Although Jews in late medieval Iberia certainly lived at the mercy of their Christian overlords, Professor **Paola Tartakoff** seeks to broaden the often-accepted portrayal of Jews from that era as merely passive victims of Christian oppression. Her research and teaching expand upon that restrictive image, bringing to light active Jewish response to Christian hostility and identifying periods of peaceful, even productive, collaboration between the two communities.

It was during her father's sabbatical in Paris that Tartakoff, then a high school student, developed a passion for the medieval period that melded with her ongoing interest in religion and Jewish-Christian relations. She went on to complete her undergraduate studies at Harvard College and her master's degree and doctorate at Columbia University. In her work, she engages with primary sources in Romance vernaculars and Latin, a fluency mastered in Rome, at a program run by one of the Pope's Latinists.

Tartakoff came to Rutgers in 2007 as a postdoctoral fellow. She joined the faculty in 2008, with a joint appointment in the departments of Jewish Studies and History.

Her current research reconstructs the larger context of an unusual incident from mid-fourteenth-century Aragon involving a Jewish convert who had been sentenced to burn at the stake. Surprisingly freed from the flames by an inquisitor and taken for questioning, the convert claimed that a group of Jews had accosted him, urging him to save his soul by courting a martyr's death. The case offers evidence of what Tartakoff calls "the inquisition before the Inquisition."

Now at work on a book entitled *Conversion and Inquisition in the Medieval Crown of Aragon, 1243–1391*, Tartakoff received a fellowship from the National

Endowment for the Humanities for the 2009–2010 academic year. The grant enabled her to return to Spain to continue her research in the diocesan archives of Barcelona and Girona. There she focused on royal attitudes toward Jewish conversion in medieval Iberia and on attempts to catechize Jews who had been forcibly baptized.

Several articles, too, have emerged from that research. Among them is "Jewish Women and Apostasy in the Medieval Crown of Aragon, c. 1300–1391," in *Jewish History* 23, no. 4 (2009), in which Tartakoff examines the reasons for, alternatives to, and consequences of conversions by Jewish women in the century before the massacres and forced conversions of 1391. She suggests that Jewish women apostatized either in the footsteps of their fathers or husbands or to assert control over their individual fates in defiance of communal norms.

"I am interested in recovering a complex and dynamic Jewish past," explains Tartakoff, "one that was always in dialogue with surrounding Christian culture."

This past year, Tartakoff presented several important papers and lectures. In November 2009, she addressed a conference at Princeton University on *Toldot Yeshu*, a medieval satire of the Gospels penned by Jews as a means of strengthening their stance without the risks of open protest. At a 2010 History Faculty Forum at Rutgers, she gave a talk entitled "Converts and the Jewish-Christian Confrontation in Fourteenth-Century Iberia."

She also headlined a well-received public lecture in April 2010, "Jews, Converts, and Inquisitors in



Medieval Spain: Recent Revelations." The event, sponsored by the Bildner Center and supported in part by the **Sagner Family Foundation**, enabled her to share her new research on the period one hundred years prior to the establishment of the Spanish Inquisition.

At the start of the current academic year, Tartakoff began a three-year rotation as undergraduate vice chair in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers. She presently holds a fellowship from the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is among a group of scholars researching the subject of conversion. She will resume her teaching at Rutgers in the spring with a new seminar for Jewish studies majors, "Jews and Their Neighbors."

Her previous Jewish studies courses included "Jewish-Christian Relations through the Ages: Jews, Heretics, and the Inquisition," and "Jewish Society and Culture: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages." She has also taught "The Development of Europe" in the Department of History.

"My greatest challenge is to seek to understand Jewish and Christian cultures in medieval Spain, two communities eternally at odds, but not entirely exclusive of one another," says Tartakoff. "In my teaching, too, I strive to enable students from different backgrounds to envision, appreciate, and understand another perspective."

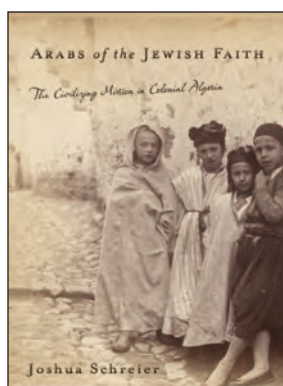
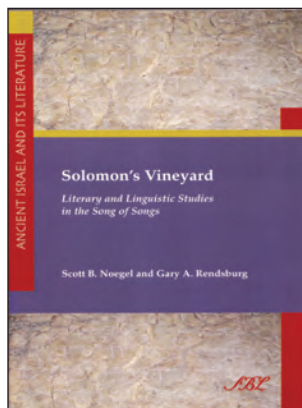
NEW PUBLICATIONS

New Perspectives on the Song of Songs

Gary A. Rendsburg, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History,

has published *Solomon's Vineyard: Literary and Linguistic Studies in the Song of Songs*, coauthored with **Scott B. Noegel** (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature; Leiden: Brill, 2009). The book appeared as the inaugural volume in the newly launched SBL series Ancient Israel and Its Literature. The

volume includes four extended studies on the Song of Songs, identifying the northern dialect of the poetry, focusing on the literary devices of alliteration and variation, and comparing the composition to medieval Arabic poetic genres of invective, designed to criticize the king and his court.



Algerian Jews the Focus in Rutgers Book Series

Arabs of the Jewish Faith: The Civilizing Mission in Colonial Algeria, published in September 2010, is the latest title in the Rutgers University Press series Jewish Cultures of the World.

Joshua Schreier (Vassar College) explores Algerian Jews' complex response to French colonial rule in the nineteenth century. The series, coedited by **Matti Bunzl** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and **Jeffrey Shandler** (Rutgers University), is published in association with the **Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life**.

FACULTY AWARDS



David Greenberg has received a fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which supports outstanding research in the social sciences and humanities. The nine-month residential appointment will enable Greenberg to pursue his research topic, "The Story of Spin: Presidential Persuasion from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush," and to interact both with policy makers in Washington and with the Wilson center's staff. An associate professor of history, journalism, and media studies, Greenberg is also an associated faculty member in Jewish studies.



Michael G. Levine has received the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Teaching (Associate Professor category). An associated faculty member in Jewish studies, Levine is based in the Department of Germanic, Russian, and East European Languages and Literatures and is acting undergraduate director of German. Levine's cross-listed courses in the Department of Jewish Studies include "Germans and Jews: An Intercultural History" and "Franz Kafka: Secularism and World Culture."

VISITING SCHOLARS

Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies

Samuel (Muli) Peleg will remain at the Bildner Center for an additional year thanks to a grant from the American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. During the fall semester, he will teach "Israeli Politics" and "Community and Identity in Israel." In the spring, he will teach "Arab-Israeli Conflict" and "Zionism: Idea and Ideology."

Aresty Visiting Scholar

Federica Francesconi earned her Ph.D. in Jewish history from the University of Haifa in 2007, and she is developing her dissertation into a book, "The Wealth of Silver: The Journey of the Modenese Jews from the Renaissance to Emancipation (1598–1814)." An expert in modern Italian Jewish history, she generally focuses on the cultural and social history of Jews in early modern

Europe. At Rutgers in the fall, she will teach the courses "Jewish-Christian Relations" and "History of Jewish Art."

Norman and Syril Reitman Visiting Scholar

Corinna Ruth Kaiser received her Ph.D. in 2007 from Heinrich-Heine University of Düsseldorf in Germany, preparing the dissertation "'Music: Soon to Be the Only Art Form Where Speaking Is Allowed.' Intermediality, Intertextuality, and Silence as Instruments of *Fin de Siècle's* German-Jewish Language Skepticism." Her areas of expertise include Jews in popular culture, ritual studies, media studies, Jewish life during the Holocaust, and Holocaust memory. At Rutgers in the spring, Kaiser will teach the course "The Passover Seder and Its Contemporary Reinterpretations."

FACULTY SEMINARS

The Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar

The Schwartzman seminar, entitled “Making Honey from All the Buzz and Babble: Re-theorizing Intertextuality in the Poetry of Yehuda Amichai,” was presented by **Chana Kronfeld**, a professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at the University of California at Berkeley, and an award-winning translator of the poetry of Amichai and Dahlia Ravikovitch. (See p. 6 for related public talk.)

► **NANCY SINKOFF** from page 1

As “Last Witness” recounts, Dawidowicz’s life and oeuvre were shaped both by American culture and by her direct engagement with Eastern European Jewish culture. Born into a Polish Jewish immigrant family in 1915, she studied in New York City public schools and spent a seminal year in Vilna, Poland, in 1938–39, returning to Europe to work with Jewish refugees in the American zone of occupied postwar Germany.

Sinkoff positions Dawidowicz as a neglected figure in the historiography on the “New York Intellectuals,” a small yet powerful group of male American literary figures who advocated left-wing politics and generally minimized their Jewish backgrounds. She differed from them not only in gender but also in her vociferous anti-assimilationist position and her firm rooting in the neoconservative camp. As the book’s title suggests, her encounters with Jewish history, both on the eve of the Holocaust and in its aftermath as a displaced persons camp aid worker, powerfully informed her politics.

While other Jewish women held a place among postwar American Jewish intellectuals, Dawidowicz was

Additional faculty seminars included:

■ **Douglas Greenberg**, executive dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers: “Introduction to the Shoah Visual History Archive”

■ **Ariella Lang**, Aresty Visiting Scholar, Bildner Center: “Race, Religion, Exclusion: Anti-Semitic Initiatives and the Catholic Church in Mussolini’s Italy”

■ **Muli Peleg**, Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies, Bildner Center: “Text Manipulation and the Search for a Winning Formula: How Leaders Shape Adherence”

the most influential because of the success of *The War Against the Jews: 1933–1945*, published in 1975. One of the first English-language histories of the Holocaust, the book earned her “an imprimatur as an authentic interpreter of the European catastrophe,” says Sinkoff. Although her writing prior to 1967—when she published *The Golden Tradition*, an anthology of Eastern European Jewish writings—and contributions to American politics were unknown to many, there was hardly an issue central to postwar Jewish life about which she did not express her opinion.

Notably, Dawidowicz insisted on the singularity of the Jewish experience of the Holocaust and on the need to preserve American Jewish particularism, anticipating the advent of late-twentieth-century multiculturalism. Sinkoff’s research illuminates the many influential roles, some well known and others often neglected, that Dawidowicz played in her lifetime.

With this book, Sinkoff continues to explore the multifaceted Eastern European Jewish encounter with the modern world.

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Core Faculty

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

Associated Faculty

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

Visiting Scholars

Federica Francesconi
Corinna Ruth Kaiser
Samuel (Muli) Peleg

Instructor

Hilit Surowitz

Part-time Lecturer

Nina Redl

Language Instructors

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

*vice chair of undergraduate studies, fall 2010

**vice chair of undergraduate studies, spring 2011

Center Focuses on Israeli Politics and Culture

Over the years, Israel has been an essential element of the public and educational programs offered by the Bildner Center. Israel's history, politics, and culture were a central theme last year, offering members of the university and the larger community an array of lectures, discussions, and cultural offerings.

Our opening event in September, hosted by Joan and Allen Bildner and Rutgers president Richard McCormick, featured the former U.S.

ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer, who drew on his diplomatic experience in Israel and Egypt to address American strategies in the Middle East. His remarks were particularly poignant with a new administration in office. A generous gift from the Laurie Foundation made this event possible, and we had the happy occasion to include a ninetieth-birthday celebration for twin sisters Adelaide Zagoren and Ruth Marcus Patt, two longtime friends and supporters of the Center, at a dinner preceding the lecture.

Professor Joel Migdal's talk, "Is There a Strategic Relationship Between the U.S. and Israel?" was particularly timely. His excellent analysis outlined the policies and relationship between Israeli leaders and U.S. presidents, emphasizing the significance of the distinction between defining Israel as a "friend" and seeing it as a strategic ally.



Ruth Marcus Patt,
Yael Zerubavel,
Adelaide Zagoren,
and Karen Small

Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi visited us in November and used Israeli commemorations of Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem to examine the implications for the social and political rift in that country. Rachelle Alterman from the Technion in Haifa delivered the annual Bloustein memorial lecture, on the evolution of Israel's housing policies and its responses to major influxes of refugees.

On the cultural side, Israeli films, authors, and poetry were showcased in a variety of venues. At the film festival, the diversity of Israeli films ranged from a boy's adventure in pre-state Palestine, to a soldier's nightmares about the war in Lebanon, to the challenges of coexisting with Palestinian neighbors, and culminated in a celebration of life and music with restored Shoah violins. The annual Israeli Authors Forum drew a crowd from our Hebrew-speaking students and community members who had the opportunity to meet and converse with a well-known writer. Talks about two of Israel's major poets completed the literary focus.

Our partnership with the community drives our continued efforts to provide educational and enriching programming, and we look forward to a peaceful and fulfilling year ahead.

—Karen Small, associate director

PUBLIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Israeli Commemorations of Yitzhak Rabin

The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture

Speaker: Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Is There a Strategic Relationship between the United States and Israel?

Speaker: Joel Migdal, Robert F. Philip Professor
of International Studies, University of Washington

The Evolution of Israel's Housing Policies

**The Ruth Ellen Steinman and
Edward J. Bloustein Memorial Lecture**

Speaker: Rachelle Alterman, David Azrieli Chair in
Architecture, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
Cosponsored by the Edward J. Bloustein School of
Planning and Public Policy

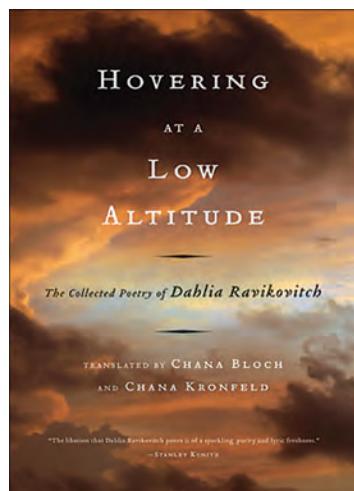
Israeli Author Attracts Hebrew Speakers

Award-winning author and journalist **Ron Leshem** was the featured speaker at the Bildner Center's annual **Israeli Authors Forum**. Leshem's debut novel, *Beaufort*, won the 2006 Sapir Prize, Israel's top literary award, as well as the Yitzhak Sadeh Prize for military literature. Leshem's talk, in Hebrew, attracted more than forty community members, faculty, and students to the Bildner Center in February.

The novel traces the moving story of a group of Israeli soldiers stationed at an outpost in southern Lebanon in the late 1990s. They receive orders to evacuate in the final days of the Lebanon War. A reporter for the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Ahronot* in 2000, Leshem was assigned to cover the Israeli army unit that lost the first soldier in the conflict. Leshem's experiences and interviews with soldiers in the unit, as well as subsequent talks with Israeli soldiers who had served in the war, were the inspiration for *Beaufort*.

The forum offered a special opportunity for advanced Hebrew language and literature students to meet an author whose works they had read in class. The Bildner Center presented the film *Beaufort* (based on the novel) and a talk by its director, Joseph Cedar, at its 2007 Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival. With a screenplay cowritten by Leshem and Cedar, the film was an Academy Award nominee for best foreign film.

Translating Israel's Great Poets



In March 2010, the poetry of Yehuda Amichai and Dahlia Ravikovitch was discussed by translators **Chana Kronfeld**, professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at the University of California at Berkeley, and **Chana Bloch**, a poet and professor emerita of English and creative writing at Mills College in Oakland, California. The program

was held in conjunction with the **Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar**. The following poem by Amichai, who is widely considered to be Israel's greatest modern poet, is taken from *Open Closed Open* (Harcourt, 2000), translated by Kronfeld and Bloch and winner of the Pen Award for Poetry in Translation. It is reprinted here by permission of the translators.

I, May I Rest in Peace (In My Life, On My Life #12)

I, may I rest in peace—I, who am still living, say,
May I have peace in the rest of my life.
I want peace right now while I'm still alive.
I don't want to wait like that pious man who wished for one leg
of the golden chair of Paradise, I want a four-legged chair
right here, a plain wooden chair. I want the rest of my peace now.
I have lived out my life in wars of every kind: battles without
and within, close combat, face-to-face, the faces always
my own, my lover-face, my enemy-face.
Wars with the old weapons—sticks and stones, blunt axe, words,
dull ripping knife, love and hate,
and wars with newfangled weapons—machine gun, missile,
words, land mines exploding, love and hate.
I don't want to fulfill my parents' prophecy that life is war.
I want peace with all my body and all my soul.
Rest me in peace.

—Yehuda Amichai

The December Dilemma

The coincidence of Hanukkah and Christmas in December—what some American Jews refer to as the “December Dilemma”—has proved to be a surprisingly rich topic for American Jewish cultural creativity, according to Professor **Jeffrey Shandler**, who addressed it last fall in his talk “Greeting the Season: The ‘December Dilemma’ in American Jewish Popular Culture,” the **Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program**.

Shandler's presentation was drawn from his book *Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America* (New York University Press, 2009), which examines the impact of new communications technologies and media practices on American Jews' religious life over the past century.

Responses to the December Dilemma speak to larger issues, Shandler noted, including the dynamics of Jewish-Christian relations in America and changing understandings of religion in the public sphere generally. Both Jews and Christians have engaged the December Dilemma in a wide array of media, including articles and advertisements in the Yiddish press, cartoons, parodies, films, and television programs.

Among the more prolific responses to the December Dilemma are holiday greeting cards that address the coincidence of Hanukkah and Christmas. Some cards present Yiddish-inflected parodies of Christmas carols or comically subversive ideas, such as the notion that Santa Claus is really Jewish. Other cards offer inventive fusions of symbols associated with Christmas and Hanukkah. Shandler considers these cards, which first appeared in the 1980s, to be especially revealing examples of American popular religion. They reflect not the official views of clergy or community leaders, but rather the desires and concerns of “ordinary” people.

“The December Dilemma's many practices,” Shandler concluded, “offer structures for engaging in larger conversations about challenging notions of religion, community, and public culture and for relating these issues to the intimacy of home, family, and friends. These practices also offer strategies to confront challenges that a diverse American population faces as it experiences signal shifts in its understanding of difference and commonality, during a season that idealizes optimism. In the face of long-standing celebrations of the miraculous, the practices of the December Dilemma open up the possibility of celebrating the problematic.”



Illustration: Nina Frankel

THE HERBERT AND LEONARD LITTMAN FAMILIES HOLOCAUST RESOURCE CENTER

Eighteen Teachers Complete Holocaust Education Course



When **Fran Flannery** first created an exhibit juxtaposing photographs of Auschwitz with images of Holocaust survivors from New Jersey, she believed it would make a thought-provoking display in her “Genocide Studies” classroom at South Plainfield High School. But her goals changed during her participation in the pilot phase of the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI) nearly five years ago.

“The MTI motivated me to take the project in a new direction. I encouraged my students to develop personal relationships with the survivors featured in the exhibit by reaching out to learn their stories and, eventually, to meet them,” Flannery recalls.

Her students gave tours of the exhibit to other classes within the school, too, and invited a large delegation that included the survivors to a special evening event. The lessons of tolerance and responsibility resonated so powerfully that her students went on to create an active local chapter of Help Darfur Now, in response to the ongoing genocide in western Sudan.

Held in the Bildner Center, the MTI engages teachers in both advanced historical study and pedagogical methodologies over a two-year period. In turn, participants draw on one another’s experiences to create educational programs and enhanced curricula that will have a wide-reaching impact throughout the state for years to come.

In May 2010, the second class of the MTI came to a close, graduating a cadre of eighteen New Jersey educators. Most of them hailed from public middle and high schools, which are required by state law to include Holocaust education in their core curricula. One teacher from a Catholic school and a teacher from a private preparatory school also participated.

Among the participants, diverse personal backgrounds and varying levels of experience in Holocaust education result in a vibrant peer network that, by design, continues long after the program has formally ended. At the same time, these teachers look to the ongoing support of a team composed of faculty adviser **Jeffrey Shandler**, Bildner Center associate director **Karen Small**, and educational consultant **Perri Geller-Clark**, herself a graduate of the first MTI class.

Themes such as pivotal events in the Holocaust timeline, survivor testimonies and collective memory, and the legacy of the Holocaust in relation to other genocides anchored the recent MTI class. Workshops—such as Shandler’s “The Holocaust and the Internet,” and “Survivors and Their Testimonies,” taught by **Douglas Greenberg**, executive dean of the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences—explored these themes in depth.

“The MTI was a major part of my development as a teacher of the Holocaust, exposing me to superior scholarship and a great network of other teachers. But mostly it inspired me to never stop learning about the Holocaust,” said Flannery.

The Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education is subsidized by:



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 Majorie and Egon Berg Endowed Holocaust Education Fund
Steven and Christine Boehm
Drs. Eva and Ted Stahl*

Victoria Formato displays her school project at the closing MTI event.



Hollywood and the Holocaust

Hollywood's ongoing interest in the Holocaust and World War II and a recent spate of high-profile films inspired the Bildner Center's panel discussion in March. The event was the annual **Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program** supported by the **Karma Foundation**.

The panel was composed of **Stuart Klawans**, film critic for *The*

Nation; **Alan Mintz**, Chana Kekst Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary; and **Steven Alan Carr**, Indiana University–Purdue University, Fort Wayne. **David Greenberg** of Rutgers moderated the discussion.

After screening film clips from *The Reader*, *Storytelling*, and *Inglourious Basterds*, the panelists addressed a range of questions, from how a Holocaust film is defined to changes in the ways that recent films relate to this difficult topic. On the one hand, many think it is important and positive to educate mass numbers of people about the Holocaust.



Panelist **Stuart Klawans** addresses the audience.

On the other hand, there is growing criticism of many of these films as manipulative, romanticized, falsely redemptive, and so on.

Can Holocaust films serve a social purpose of teaching tolerance? Greenberg stated, "I've had Christian students growing up in parts of America with hardly any Jews who have said these films are eye-opening."



MTI participants engage in a discussion about Holocaust representation on film during a workshop prior to the public program.

Jewish film and Holocaust education: two areas of special interest

Both "Hollywood and the Holocaust" and "Beyond Anne Frank: Hidden Children and Postwar Families in Holland" were developed in conjunction with the Master Teacher Institute (MTI) curriculum. Presenters discussed these topics with the MTI participants in special sessions prior to the public programs.

Hidden Children and Postwar Families in Holland

Although the image of the Jewish child hiding from the Nazis has been shaped by Anne Frank, Frank's experience hiding with her entire family in the Netherlands during World War II is out of the ordinary, according to sociology professor **Diane L. Wolf**. The director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of California, Davis, Wolf discussed the findings of her recent book, *Beyond Anne Frank: Hidden Children and Postwar Families in Holland* (UC Press, 2007), in September at the **Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program**, supported by **Leon and Toby Cooperman**.

Wolf's study focuses on the postwar experiences of Dutch-Jewish hidden children. She found that while for camp survivors, May 1945 meant liberation from oppression, for hidden children, it was extremely traumatic. Wolf identified two major categories of hidden children: those who were clandestine, such as Frank, and,

much more common, those who were "integrated" into non-Jewish families.

In Wolf's study sample, the median age of the children when taken in by non-Jewish families was four years old, before the age when one generally develops strong memories. These children were given new identities to protect them, and they frequently began to believe their new family was the real one. When meeting their parents after the war, they often had little, if any, memory of the parents and no desire to separate from their wartime families. If both parents died during the war, the children would remain with their wartime families, be taken in by other relatives, or be sent to orphanages.

Maud Dahme of Flemington, who was herself a hidden child in Holland, attended the lecture. In an interview with the *Jewish State* newspaper, she spoke about her memories of reuniting with her parents after the war. Although, ultimately, she was able to adjust to her new life, she never experienced with her parents the kind of closeness that she has with her own child.



Rutgers Jewish Film Festival Celebrates Tenth Year

The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival marked its first decade in November 2009, a proud milestone for the Bildner Center. In celebration, the festival screened eighteen unique productions from around the globe—among them two U.S. debuts and four New Jersey premieres—and offered an exciting lineup of visiting directors, expert speakers, and performers that turned each screening into a full-fledged cultural event.

The tenth annual festival was sponsored by the Bildner Center, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the **Karma Foundation** and the loyal support of a growing cadre of film festival patrons.

Douglass College alumna **Sharon Karmazin**, president of the Karma Foundation, sees the festival as a perfect fit with the foundation's mission to sustain the arts and enrich Jewish life in central New Jersey. After hearing about many films that mine the richness of the Jewish experience but were not being screened in this area, she approached the Bildner Center because she believed that audiences here would be eager to view them.

"One of my strengths is good instincts for what people want," says Karmazin, whose daughter, **Dina Elkins**, serves as the foundation's executive director. "The film festival is a response to that instinct." For her, Bildner was a natural venue for the festival.

The academic setting meant access to the finest intellectual resources, and the Center already served as a link between the university and the broader community.

Her instincts were on target. Over the years, the festival has grown from modest beginnings to become the Center's largest community program and an established cultural institution attended by an audience of more than 5,000 annually. It is the program that the local public most closely associates with the **Karma Foundation** and the one with which Karmazin herself is most hands-on, actively participating on the film selection committee, a process to which she looks forward each year.

The festival is distinctive in having the presence of directors and actors from the films, who engage directly with the audience. For Karmazin, this component is "thrilling, because their motivation and passionate commitment to the filmmaking process add so much to the experience of seeing a film, especially for the sort of noncommercial films that are screened at the festival."

She is also excited by the recent explosion of films from Israel, which has a movie industry that is "maturing in both quality and quantity." Israeli films were featured prominently at the recent festival,



Sharon Karmazin, Yael Zerubavel, and Karen Small on opening night.

which screened seven titles that explore the breadth of modern Israeli society, from the insular religious world in *Gevald!* to a soldier's wartime experience in the Golden Globe-winning animated feature *Waltz with Bashir*.

On closing night, the festival presented the American premiere of another Israeli film, the moving documentary *Amnon's Journey*. The film chronicles violin maker Amnon Weinstein's ten-year search for violins played by Jews during the Holocaust and his mission to lovingly restore them in his Tel Aviv workshop. An appearance by French director **Jean-Marie Hosatte** and a musical performance by Israeli violinists enriched the evening.

Other highlights included two full-capacity screenings of *Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*, sponsored by **David and Sylvia Steiner**. Director **Aviva Kempner**, whose documentary pays tribute to legendary television star Gertrude Berg, made a guest appearance at the festival.

The Karma Foundation recently awarded a five-year grant to the Bildner Center to ensure the festival's continuity as a landmark cultural program. Karmazin hopes it will continue to expand its audience, drawing younger filmgoers, more students, and others who have not yet participated. But it is the powerful, personal impact the films have on audiences that motivates her ongoing support.

That point, in fact, was brought home when a group of Indian Jews rose spontaneously to address the audience after the screening of *In Search of the Bene Israel*. The exchange created a meaningful moment that put the film—a documentary of the filmmaker's journey to India to trace her grandmother's roots—in context and enhanced the experience for the entire audience.

"There is always something at the festival for people to identify with regardless of how they see themselves," observes Karmazin.

Aviva Kempner,
director of
*Yoo-Hoo,
Mrs. Goldberg*



DONOR SUPPORT APPRECIATED

We are grateful for the generosity of all Bildner Center supporters. Thanks to the following donors for new gifts during the past year:

The Karma Foundation for a five-year grant to the Bildner Center to ensure the continuity of the **Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival**. We thank **Sharon Karmazin** (DC '67) and **Dina Elkins** for their commitment to Jewish culture.

The Marion and Norman Tanzman Foundation, and its president, **Jeffries Schein** (RC '62), and trustee, **Roy Tanzman** (RC '73), for the generous gift to strengthen Jewish studies.

Barry Adler (AG '72) and **Deborah Venezia Adler** for the establishment of the **Barry and Deborah Venezia Adler International Study Scholarship** to support Rutgers Jewish studies majors studying abroad.

The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation for its renewed commitment to the Department of Jewish Studies' **Curriculum Enhancement Fund**.

Robert Steinberg (RC '67) for his ongoing support of the Bildner Center and its educational mission.

Andrew Melnick (RC '63) for a gift in support of the Center's efforts to advance Israel studies at Rutgers and in the community.

The Rutgers Class of '54 for sponsoring a film screening at the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival.

Maurice (Pete) (RC '56) and **Irma Meyer** (DC '53) for an additional gift for the **Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Endowed Student Support Fund**. This fund provides financial support to outstanding Jewish studies majors and minors.

The American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) for a grant to the Bildner Center for a **Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies**, enabling the Jewish studies department to expand its course offerings in Israel studies.

IN MEMORIAM

With great sadness, we mourn the loss of two dear friends of the Bildner Center and Rutgers:



Sima Jelin, loving wife of Sidney Weinstein, was a major supporter of the Bildner Center and played a vital leadership role in the Center's founding and early development. Predeceased by her husbands Martin Jelin (RC '31) and Cecil Lichtman, she developed a deep commitment to Rutgers, her "adopted" university, and a great enthusiasm about the Bildner Center, bringing her energy, excitement, and commitment to her role as a vice chair of the Center's campaign. A 1941 graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Jelin was a passionate philanthropist and community activist who served on many boards, including those of the United Jewish Federation of MetroWest and Newark Emergency Services for Families. More recently, she became a vice chair for the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, promoting numerous programs to serve the needs of vulnerable residents of the Newark area. For more than forty years, Jelin was a broker at the Kislak Company, Inc., one of the first women in her field, and more recently served as the chief executive officer of Karnak Corporation.



Arthur Lawrence Taub, along with his wife, Ann J. Zar-Taub, was a longtime generous supporter of the Bildner Center, regularly attending the Center's events. They were also committed to Rutgers, where the two met while studying at the Rutgers College of Pharmacy in Newark. They married during spring break and graduated in 1951. The couple later opened Taub Pharmacy in East Brunswick. Arthur served as president of the Middlesex County Pharmaceutical Society and on the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Pharmacists Association, directing its membership services until his retirement in 1994. At Rutgers, Arthur was a member of the Board of Trustees and was honored by being named a Trustee Emeritus. He also served as chairman of the College of Pharmacy Trustee Advisory Committee and was named the College of Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year in 1988. Arthur and Ann were honored by Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple, receiving the Crown of Torah Award in 1998.



Center Honors Outstanding Students

On May 5, 2010, thirteen students were recognized for their academic achievements in Jewish studies, and three received grants for study in Israel at the Bildner Center's annual student awards ceremony. Award recipients and their families, and donors and friends of the Center, gathered with Jewish studies faculty to celebrate their achievements. The program included a talk by **Douglas Greenberg**, executive dean of the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, entitled "Memory and History: The Shoah Foundation Archive," and remarks by student award winner **Alexandra Casser**. (See her profile on p. 13.)

Honorees Reflect Diverse Interests

Ariel Bucher ('11), **Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award**. A double major in Jewish studies and political science, Ariel worked as an intern at the Reform Action Council in Washington, D.C. Under the guidance of Professor Nancy Sinkoff, she completed a research paper on the Reform movement's commitment to social justice.

Michelle Eisenberg ('11), **Louis Fishman Memorial Award**. A psychology major with a double minor in philosophy and Jewish studies, Michelle was an intern at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, working with children who have social-emotional disorders.

Michal Gordon ('11), **Gertrude and Jacob Henoah Memorial Award**. Michal is a psychology major and Jewish studies minor. This year, through Rutgers, she did fieldwork with foster-care children.

Hod Klein ('11), **Sandra and Stephen M. Greenberg Award**. A double major in Jewish studies and philosophy

with a minor in economics, Hod did an independent study with Professor Azzan Yadin on the Bar-Ilan Responsa Project and Israel's Judicial System.

Michelle Lieblich ('11), **Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Award**. Michelle, a cell biology and neuroscience major and Jewish studies minor, will write an honors thesis under the supervision of Professor Paola Tartakoff on the history of relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel.

Christopher Mercurio ('11), **Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award**. Christopher, a classics and religion double major and Jewish studies minor, recently completed his honors thesis, cum laude, entitled "New Approaches in the Interpretation of Genesis 4: Cain and Abel."

Matthew Nover ('12), **Harold and Betty Perl Award**. A double major in physics and Jewish studies, Matthew studied both ancient and modern Hebrew, Ugaritic, and Aramaic. He is a research assistant to Professor Yadin.

Samuel Schiff ('11), **Reitman Family Award**.

A psychology major and Jewish studies minor, Samuel is a research assistant in the Department of Rheumatology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Samuel Weiner ('12), **Betty and Julius Gillman Memorial Award**. A double major in Jewish studies and political science, Sam is an Aresty research assistant for political science professor Milton Heumann. He also holds the Grinspoon Israel Advocacy Internship at Rutgers, and has studied Qumran Hebrew with Professor Yadin.

Study Abroad

Three students studied in Israel last semester:

Mollie Adoni ('11), **Margolin Family Award for Study in Israel**, and **Rachel Skoff** ('11), **Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Award for Study in Israel**, studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. **Joseph Kammerman** ('11), also a recipient of the **Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Award for Study in Israel**, studied at Tel Aviv University.

Europe offered study opportunities for three others:

Tal Grebel ('11), **Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award**. Tal was in France, researching how Berbers maintain their cultural identity and comparing their struggle to that of Jews in the Diaspora. She conducted her research under the supervision of history professor Phyllis Mack.

Jordan Kutzik ('11), **Deborah and Herbert B. Wasserman Research Award**. The first recipient of this award, Jordan studied in Spain. He will write his honors thesis, under the supervision of Professor Jeffrey Shandler, on the use of Yiddish by Hasidim in America in the post-World War II era.

Shoshana Smolen ('11), **Ruth Feller Rosenberg Award**. Shoshana studied in Italy last spring.

See p. 15 for Jewish Studies Graduates

Contemporary Jewish Life Viewed through Lens of Jewish History



For **Alexandra Casser**, Judaism plays a significant role in everyday life. Still, it was the opportunity to examine Jewish culture from an academic perspective while at Rutgers that has enabled her to engage with the Jewish community in a more meaningful, articulate way.

Alex majored in history and political science, and through those courses she came to study Jewish history, a process more serendipitous than planned. The disciplines interacted well, and she saw meaning in the way different phenomena influence one another, even when the subjects themselves are disparate.

The recipient of the **Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Award**, Alex completed a minor in Jewish studies, taking a diverse array of courses in subjects that ranged from biblical Hebrew and Yiddish language to rabbinic literature and Jewish ethnography. After interning at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, she wanted to study advanced Yiddish, which was not available within the curriculum.

"It was important to me, and they made it happen," Alex says, commending the department's willingness to arrange an independent study.

Alex also completed an honors thesis under the guidance of Professor **Nancy Sinkoff**, researching American Jewish cookbooks in the period from 1940 to 1975. She found that many of them were used by their authors and readers alike in negotiating Jewish life in the United States.

"Her research focused on postwar cookbooks as texts of women's culture and modern Jewish identity, illuminating the spectrum of American Jewish definitions of 'Jewish foodways,'" offers Sinkoff, adding, "It is always great to work with a motivated student."

Beyond her formal studies, Alex was a founding member of the Rutgers Yiddish Club. She also served as a member of the Hillel Student Board.

After graduation, she plans to attend Mechon Hadar, a progressive yeshiva in New York, to improve her knowledge of Jewish religious texts. She then hopes to pursue a master's degree in Jewish anthropology, focusing on the Hasidic world and changing religious standards among Orthodox Jewish communities.

Looking back, Alex appreciates how her Jewish studies courses enabled her to view current Jewish life through the lens of Jewish history. "The department and the professors were always friendly and accessible," she adds. "That would not have been possible in a larger department."

STUDENT NEWS



Jewish-Catholic Student Dialogue

Discussions to foster understanding between Jewish and Catholic students at Rutgers, initiated in 2008, continued in November 2009 and March 2010. The ongoing **ifaith** dialogue series offers an open environment for students to talk to one another about various aspects

of their religions and cultural practices. The two events this year, "BUSTED: Myths about Jews and Catholics" and "Community Building," were led by Brother **Ken Apuzzo**, Brother **Adam Neri**, Rabbi **Esther Reed**, Professor **Nina Redl**, and **Karen Small**. The series, which attracted more than 100 students last year, is cosponsored by the **Bildner Center**, the **Department of Jewish Studies**, **Rutgers Catholic Center**, and **Rutgers Hillel**.

Student Internship

Jewish studies minor **Sophia Bailey** secured an internship last spring in the development office of the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) and gained a basic understanding of nonprofit development and fundraising. Along with this important hands-on experience, Sophia received course credit in Jewish studies by researching the archive of the AJHS and writing a paper on Lieutenant Colonel Rachel Dianne Landy, a nursing pioneer in Palestine under the auspices of Hadassah (1913–15), and a U.S. Army nurse who served in both world wars. Professor **Jeffrey Shandler** served as her adviser.

Aneta C. Biesiadecka was awarded the 2009 Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Award for Study in Israel to pursue research for her honors thesis in art history, "Construction of an Artistic Persona: Magdalena Abakanowicz and Her Polish Roots." Aneta is pictured next to Abakanowicz's 1987 sculpture *Negev* at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.



Faculty Updates

Maurice J. Elias continued in his role as academic director of Rutgers' Civic Engagement and Service Education Partnerships Program (CESEP), which was awarded a grant recently to create collaborations between Johnson and Johnson employee volunteers, Rutgers' community partner organizations, and Rutgers students interested in community-based action research. He was also just appointed director of clinical training and area coordinator for the Rutgers Clinical Ph.D. program. Recent projects include *Mishma'ut v' Mishma'ut—Bringing the Laws of Life/Meaning and Purpose of Life Program to Israel*, funded by the Templeton Foundation. Through this program, Elias traveled to Israel in May 2010 to speak to a conference of high school students and educators from Israeli secular, religious, and Arab schools who came together to share their projects on the meaning of life and their core values. His recent publications include "Social-Emotional and Character Development and Academics as a Dual Focus of Educational Policy," *Educational Policy* 23 (2009): 831–46; "Sustainability of Social-Emotional Learning and Related Programs: Lessons from a Field Study," *International Journal of Emotional Education* 2, no. 1 (2010): 17–33; as coauthor with C. J. Van Dyke, "How Expressions of Forgiveness, Purpose, and Religiosity Relate to Emotional Intelligence and Self-Concept in Urban, Fifth-Grade Students," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 78, no. 4 (2010): 481–93; as coauthor with L. Cedeno, S. Kelly, and B. Chu, "School Violence, Adjustment, and the Influence of Hope on Low-Income, African-American Youth," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* 80, no. 2 (2010): 213–26; and as coauthor with J. Kasler and J. Dahan, "The Relationship between Sense of Hope, Family Support and PTSD among Children: The Case of Young Victims of Rocket Attacks in Israel," in *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies* (in press).

Leslie Fishbein presented an all-day seminar, "Race Matters," to the Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers, sponsored by the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis. She also served as acting chair of the Department of American Studies, in fall 2009, and continued to be a member of the K-16 Collaboration Committee of the American Studies Association.

Ziva Galili spent the second year of a research leave continuing to work on a three-volume documentary collection dedicated to the history of Zionist movements in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and early 1930s. This is a joint project with several archives in Russia and Ukraine, including the archives of the security services in Moscow and in Kiev. She is also researching a book on the personal and public lives of Klara and Elazar Galili and the history of Kibbutz Afikim.

Martha Helfer is a cofounder and coeditor (with William C. Donahue) of *Nexus: Duke Journal for German and Jewish Studies*.

Michael G. Levine received the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Teaching. (See p. 4.) He gave the following talks: "Remembering the Holocaust through Spiegelman's Graphic Novel, *Maus*" at Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania; "The Day the Earth Stood Still: Benjamin's 'Theses,' Trauma, and the Eichmann Trial" at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and "Kafka for Beginners" at Congregation Neve Shalom in Metuchen. At the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, he gave a post-screening talk on the film *And Along Come Tourists*.

Gary A. Rendsburg published the book *Solomon's Vineyard: Literary and Linguistic Studies in the Song of Songs* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2009), coauthored with Scott B. Noegel. (See p. 4.) He also published the following: "Lashon Mebulbelet ke-Takhsis Sifrut ba-Sippur ha-Miqra'i" in *Menahot, Yedidut, ve-Hoqra le-Moshe Garsiel*, ed. S. Vargon et al. (Bar-Ilan

University Press, 2009); and "From the Desert to the Sown: Israel's Encounter with the Land of Canaan," in *The Mountains Shall Drip Wine: Jews and the Environment*, ed. L. J. Greenspoon, Studies in Jewish Civilization, vol. 20 (Creighton University Press, 2009). He presented the following lectures: "Late Biblical Hebrew in the Book of Haggai" at the World Congress of Jewish Studies, in Jerusalem; "From the Desert to the Sown: Israel's Encounter with the Land of Canaan" at both the Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem, and Spertus College, Chicago; and "The Story of Rahab: Harlot of Jericho, Heroine of Israel" at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. During the winter, he visited archaeological sites in Israel and Jordan, including Tel Lachish, Tel Bet Shemesh, Tel Eton, Tel Zayit, Tell Bet Mirsim, and Khirbet Qeyafa in the former, and Petra and Wadi Rum in the latter. Rendsburg continued to serve as associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, a multivolume reference work to be published by Brill. He also produced a course entitled "The Dead Sea Scrolls," which was released by the Teaching Company in both audio and video formats.

Jeffrey Shandler presented the following lectures: "Transformations of the Ketubah: or, the Gallery of Broken Marriages" at the Seminar in Jewish Art of the Jewish Museum, New York, and the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York; "Keepers of Accounts: The Practice of Inventory in Modern Jewish Life," Belin Lecture, at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Jewish Studies Seminar, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; "Absolut Tchotchke: Materializing the Mother Tongue" at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; "Observing Rites: Videotaping American Jewish Life-Cycle Celebrations" at the University of California, Davis; "The Cultural Politics of Yiddish in the United States after the Holocaust" at the "Symposium on Yiddish and Politics," Menasseh ben Israel Institute for Jewish Studies, University of Amsterdam; "Cantors on Trial" at the "Jews and Performance Seminar," Jewish Theological Seminary;

"Greeting the Season: The 'December Dilemma' in American Jewish Popular Culture" at the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Rutgers University (see p. 7); and "Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America" at the Center for Religion and Media, State University of New York at New Paltz. He was also appointed to the executive committee of the board of directors of the Association for Jewish Studies as vice president for publications.

Nancy Sinkoff gave the following talks: "Gender and the (Dis)Continuities of the European Jewish Enlightenment: Hannah Arendt, Lucy S. Dawidowicz, and the New York Intellectuals" and "Gender and Jewish Identity" at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan; "Fiction's Archive: John Hersey and the Literary Construction of *The Wall*" at the Beinecke Library, Yale University; "From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the New York Intellectuals" at the Max Weinreich Center, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Center for Jewish History, New York; and "Can a Woman Be a New York Intellectual? Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Postwar Jewish Cold War" at the Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem. Sinkoff was a consultant for the Eighteenth-Century Gallery at the Museum of the Jews of Poland, in Warsaw. She also served as the academic coordinator of the Graduate Fellows Program at the Center for Jewish History, New York.

Paola Tartakoff (see her faculty profile on p. 3).

Azzan Yadin published a personal reflection on the study of rabbinic literature, entitled "Engaging Rabbinic Literature: Four Texts," in *Why Study Talmud in the Twenty-first Century?: The Relevance of the Ancient Jewish Text to Our World*, ed. Paul Socken (Lexington Books, 2009); and a study (coauthored with Ghil'ad Zuckermann) of the secularization of Hebrew words from biblical and rabbinic Hebrew to modern, entitled "Blorit: Pagan Mohawk or Sabra Forelock?: Ideologically Manipulative Secularization of Hebrew Terms in Socialist Zionist Israel," in *The*

Sociology of Language and Religion, ed. Tope Omoniyi (Palgrave Macmillan, in press). He also published a review of Avi Sagi's "The Open Canon" in the *Journal of Semitic Studies*, and of Devorah Steinmetz's "Punishment and Freedom" in the *AJS Review*. In addition, his translation of David Flusser's *Judaism of the Second Temple Period: The Rabbis and Their Literature* was published by Eerdmans. Yadin also participated in an international conference, "Political Theology," at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York. Yadin continued to serve as the head of the Rabbinics Division of the Association for Jewish Studies and as coeditor of the Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism book series for Mohr Siebeck. In addition to his work in Jewish studies, Yadin completed his first year as acting chair of the Classics Department.

Yael Zerubavel spent the academic year as a fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, as a member of its seminar "Secularism and Its Discontents," and working on her research project: "Encounters with the Past: Tradition, Remembrance, and Cultural Revivals in Israel." At the Katz Center, she gave the following presentations: "Ancient Figures, Biblical Landscapes, and the Symbolic Reenactment of Antiquity in Secular Israeli Culture"; "Bible Lite with a Satirical Bite: Retelling the Bible in Contemporary Israel"; and "Reimagining Exile in the Homeland: Tradition, Cultural Revivals, and the Search for Historical Continuity in Israel." Her essay "The Conquest of the Desert and the Settlement Ethos" has been published in *The Desert Experience in Israel: Communities, Arts, Science, and Education in the Negev*, ed. A. Paul Hare and Gideon Kressel (Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 2009). Zerubavel gave the following talks: The Forkosh Judaic Studies Lecture at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota; the Stulman Endowed Lecture and faculty seminar at Brown University; a public lecture at the Center for Jewish History, New York, as part of a series, "The Secular and the Sacred in the Modern Jewish World"; "*Waltz with Bashir*: War,

Trauma, and the Burden of Memory" at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and a lecture at a symposium, "Israelite Archaeology and Israeli Identity," at the University of Chicago. She served as a panelist in the first professional development workshop on the academic job market for graduate students in Jewish studies, organized by the Association for Jewish Studies. Zerubavel continued to serve on the board of directors of the Association for Jewish Studies and on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Journal of Israeli History*, *Israel Studies Forum*, *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*, and *AJS Perspectives*. She also served on the editorial boards of the Rutgers University Press series Jewish Cultures of the World and the Academic Studies Press series Israel: Society, Culture, and History.

Jewish Studies Graduates

Majors

Tal Adoni
Arianna Beitscher
David Hochbaum

Minors

Jonathan Abrahamian
Tal Basis
Norite Bercovicz
Alexandra Casser
Molly Corbman
Felicia Frantz
Deborah Friedman
Sara Friedman
Lauren Glassman
Julie Greenberg
Samuel Hauser
Adam Lautman
Avraham Lerner
Corey Leyton
Lindsay Maranca
Ariella Prince
Marci Sakkal
Sarah Schanfield
Michael Schechter
Allison Stahl
Tricia Ward
Adam Workman

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 (noncredit 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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October 10

Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution

**The Toby and Herbert Stolzer
Endowed Program**

Speaker: **Kenneth Moss**,
Johns Hopkins University
October 21

Israeli Authors Forum:

A Conversation with Michal Govrin
October 26

The 11th annual Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

November 3–14

The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson

**Supported in part by the Sagner
Family Foundation**

Speaker: **Samuel Heilman**, Queens College
December 8

SAVE THE DATE

Conference on Testimonies

Keynote speaker: **Christopher Browning**,
The University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
March 27–28

Professional Development for Teachers

Using Testimonies from the Shoah Visual
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October 14

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