

Jewish Studies at Rutgers

Number 20, Fall 2016

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

The Bildner Center Marks Its Twentieth Anniversary



Building dedication ceremony, Bildner Center, 1999

Twenty years ago, the idea that Rutgers University would have a center for Jewish studies was a plan on paper following a seed gift by the visionary philanthropists **Allen and Joan Bildner**. Today, the Bildner Center is one of the most active academic centers in the field of Jewish studies. Its international reputation and scope of activities, along

with the development of the Department of Jewish Studies, have propelled Rutgers to

become one of the leading institutions in this field.

What makes the Bildner Center distinct, I believe, is its wide-ranging educational outreach, which includes public lectures, scholarly conferences, faculty seminars, an annual Jewish film festival, and student programs. The Center also provides special seminars in Holocaust education for schoolteachers, and it has offered leadership development programs together with the Jewish Federations in New Jersey.

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Confronting Religious Violence

The Bildner Center had the privilege of hosting Rabbi Lord **Jonathan Sacks** at Rutgers on November 16, 2015. Just days after the terrorist attacks in Paris and amid heightened tensions in Israel, Rabbi Sacks, the former chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth, discussed his powerful new book, *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence*. The **Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation** generously supported this timely and inspirational event.

Following a private reception for faculty, university officials, and friends

of the Center, a sold-out crowd of 500 filled Traves Hall for Rabbi Sacks's talk. Among the general audience were many students as well as a cross section of the Jewish community, including rabbis from the spectrum of denominations.

Professor **Yael Zerubavel**, Bildner Center director, welcomed New Brunswick Chancellor **Richard Edwards**, who offered greetings from the university. Professor **Gary Rendsburg**, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History, formally introduced Rabbi Sacks.

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Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Director's Desk

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Highlights of the Center's programs over its twenty-year history illustrate this breadth. Academic conferences have explored the development of Modern Orthodoxy, the nature of community in Judaism, the Eastern European roots of contemporary Israeli and American Jewish cultures, and the role of testimonies. The Center's symposia have tackled a range of topics from the Nuremberg trials to anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, from discussion of *New Yorker* cartoons to Jews and food.

Among prominent figures the Center has brought to campus are Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, architect Daniel Libeskind, artists Shimon Attie and Sigalit Landau, composer Osvaldo Golijov, and singer-songwriter David Broza. Talks by prominent scholars have explored topics such as the genesis of the Bible, the translation of the Zohar, Jewish-Christian relations, violence and religion, the politics of the environment in Israel, and Jews and the media. Our writers' series have included Chaim Potok, Marjorie Agosin, Sami Michael, Michal Govrin, Dara Horn, and Meir Shalev.

Anniversary celebrations give us the opportunity not only to look at the past but also to reflect on the future. I find the development of the vibrant center for Jewish studies and the excellent academic program at Rutgers truly rewarding. But I am also concerned about the future of both.

Given the budgetary constraints of a state university, we face the increasing need to guarantee that the Center and the department will continue to be strong not only in the next few years but in the more distant future. Endowment gifts for various activities of the Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies would safeguard their continuation. A gift in support of our Holocaust education, for example, would help guarantee that the high-quality teacher training will continue to impact future generations of public and private school students. Major gifts to endow faculty in Jewish studies would ensure the university's commitment to recruit successors to those who leave or retire. Endowed fellowships and visiting scholarships would provide support for young scholars entering the field or beginning their academic career.

If you recognize the impact of the Center in fostering Jewish scholarship, providing educational outreach, and contributing to the creation of vibrant Jewish culture, please be in touch. Whether you have participated in the Center's programs or read about them, we invite you to explore how you can contribute to safeguarding the future for the Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers. Generations of students and the community will benefit from your generosity.

My best wishes to readers of this newsletter from near and far,

—Yael Zerubavel, Director
The Allen and Joan Bildner Center
for the Study of Jewish Life

From the Chair



The past academic year brought much construction to College Avenue, including the opening of the Honors College building. This new addition to the campus greatly expanded the possibilities for undergraduates at Rutgers to pursue honors degrees. With this growth of honors has come more opportunities for the university's faculty to offer interdisciplinary honors seminars. In 2015–2016, the Department of Jewish Studies taught several of these seminars, demonstrating both the diversity of the faculty's research interests and the possibilities that the field offers to students.

Professor Yael Zerubavel taught a seminar titled "How Societies Remember?" in which she introduced students to the many ways that recalling the past have been understood from a variety of scholarly approaches. The course embraced a number of memory practices, including the memorial to 9/11 in Lower Manhattan, which she and the students in the seminar visited. The seminar also examined different practices of remembering the Holocaust and the role of collective memory in forming Israeli national identity.

Professor Azzan Yadin-Israel's seminar on the theology of Bruce Springsteen provided students with the opportunity to consider how a scholarly close reading of texts can shed light on the significance of familiar works of popular culture. During the seminar, students examined the lyrics of some of Springsteen's best-known songs in relation to relevant biblical passages and theological motifs.

Working in conjunction with the Honors College and the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, Professor Nancy Sinkoff developed a new global field experience, "A Tale of Two Uprisings: Poles, Jews, and Polish-Jews under Nazi Occupation and Soviet Domination," which took students to historic sites in Warsaw, Kraków, and environs. Their itinerary included visits to locations connected to the history of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, as well as a workshop with students at the University of Warsaw, among other activities.

In addition, I taught a seminar on Jewish museums, in which students explored the important role that these institutions play in modern Jewish culture. The students not only visited several Jewish museums in New York City and met with museum professionals but also created plans for their own exhibitions of Jewish culture. These ranged from a performance-based exhibition on modern Jewish dance to an exhibition examining the connections between artworks created by Jewish and African American artists in New York in the first half of the twentieth century.

The department's faculty looks forward to engaging more honors students in the future by teaching interdisciplinary seminars, organizing global field experiences, and supervising honors theses. It is especially gratifying for us to provide these students with opportunities to explore the wide range of possibilities that the field of Jewish studies has to offer.

—Jeffrey Shandler, Chair
Department of Jewish Studies

Rutgers Study Tour in Poland

This past May, twelve Rutgers students embarked on the journey of a lifetime, traveling to Warsaw and Kraków, Poland, as part of an eight-day global field experience. A unique itinerary brought them face-to-face with Poland's cultural heritage and traces of Polish and Polish-Jewish history. Participants gained insight into current issues facing the country, including topics of debate among Polish Jewry, and partook of local culture.

The trip, a one-credit class titled “**A Tale of Two Uprisings: Poles, Jews, and Polish-Jews under Nazi Occupation and Soviet Domination**,” was offered by the Honors College, the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) Honors Program, and Study Abroad under the auspices of the university's Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA Centers). Professor **Nancy Sinkoff**, director of the Center for European Studies and associate professor of Jewish studies and history, led the trip, together with **Karima Bouchenafa**, assistant dean of the SAS Honors Program.

Sinkoff, who developed the course, says that “the experience was designed to give students a deep understanding of the complexities of contemporary Poland while also examining its dark past, which was shaped by political powerlessness and the influence of its large, vibrant, and distinct Jewish urban majority—now mostly absent.”

The students had the opportunity to meet with prominent leaders, scholars, and activists, among them a ninety-year-old veteran of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 and representatives of the Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków. They learned about the role of Roman Catholicism in shaping Polish nationalism and met with Polish and Ukrainian university students, as well as faculty members at the University of Warsaw, to discuss the representation of the uprising in popular culture.

Highlights in Warsaw included two site visits to POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and dinner with **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett**, adviser to the director and chief curator of the museum's core exhibition. The students

Right: Students with Dr. Samuel Kassow (Trinity College in Hartford) at POLIN Museum

took in the contrasts between the city's old and new art and architecture during guided walking tours and while exploring the plans for the new Museum of Modern Art and the Stalin-era Palace of Culture and Science. The itinerary also covered important Jewish locations, such as the Nozyk Synagogue, the Umschlagplatz (the square where Jews were assembled for deportation to the death camp at Treblinka), and sites commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The students examined the country's Stalinist legacy while touring Kraków's easternmost district, Nowa Huta. They toured the city's historic Old Town, too, and examined the new lives of former Jewish spaces, such as the mikvah that has become a venue for social and political activity, with the requisite café. They also toured the Oskar Schindler factory, now a museum, and the nearby Wieliczka Salt Mine, which had been one of the world's longest-operating salt mines when it closed in 2007. Most notably, the students took an intensive guided tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp complex. In one of the exhibits, several students found in the camp's “Book of Names” identification of relatives who had perished there.

Participants blogged daily about their experiences. Sinkoff admired how their words attested “to the many diverse ways in which the trip stimulated their minds and hearts.”

In her post about Kraków's Jewish district, **Elisheva Rosen**, who received a travel grant from the Department of Jewish Studies for the trip, writes that “the revitalization of Jewish life in Poland is essential,” yet she struggles with what she sees as an oversimplified appropriation of her Jewish heritage. **Janki Patel** describes how in Nowa Huta, “the city begins to speak of its past” as a relic of the postwar Communist ideal. **Chris Lind** blogs that his fingers froze on the keyboard when he first tried to describe the visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, “a journey that has undoubtedly changed the lives of each and every one of us.”

A final post by student **Gabriel Chalom** reflects the feelings of his fellow travelers: each of them “had been bettered and had gained greater perspective by going on this trip.”

For more on the study tour, visit <https://ataleoftwoup risings.wordpress.com/>.



Nancy Sinkoff and students in the Okopowa cemetery in Warsaw

Faculty Seminars, 2015–2016

The Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar

Professor **Ishay Rosen-Zvi**, head of the Talmud program in the Department of Hebrew Culture Studies at Tel Aviv University, presented the talk “**The Evolution of the Concept of the Non-Jew in Late Antiquity**.” Scholars and graduate students gathered at the Bildner Center in April for the annual Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar, which examined the Hebrew term *goy* from a novel perspective.



Rembrandt, *St. Paul in Prison*, oil on panel

While the status of gentiles in classical Jewish sources has received extensive treatment, the concept itself—the notion that the world is divided into Jews and *goyim*—was considered self-evident. In truth, however, the term *goy*

meant “people” or “nation” in biblical and Second Temple literature, and it appears as a general term for all non-Jews only in early rabbinic literature.

While at Rutgers, Rosen-Zvi also delivered a public lecture, “**The Apostle Paul and the Rabbis**,” drawing a crowd of 100 at Brower Commons. He discussed the relationship between Paul and the rabbis, suggesting that some early rabbinic debates were shaped by Paul’s views. The talk was cosponsored by the **Department of Religion**.

Additional faculty seminars:

- **Eva Mroczek**, University of California, Davis: “**How to Close a Canon from Jewish Antiquity to Haile Selassie**”
- **Eve Krakowski**, Princeton University: “**Young Wives between the Courtroom and the Bedroom: Jewish Marriage Agreements in Twelfth-Century Egypt**”
- **Erez Tzfadia**, Israel Institute Visiting Scholar, Rutgers: “**Gray Urbanism in Israel**”

Visiting Scholars, 2016–2017



Joshua B. Friedman, the **Aresty Visiting Scholar** for the fall 2016 semester, is a cultural anthropologist and Jewish studies scholar with a focus on Jewish life in contemporary America. Friedman earned his Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Michigan in 2015, and he is currently an adjunct assistant professor of anthropology at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. His research interests include the political economy of philanthropy, the American Jewish nonprofit sector, and the politics of Yiddish in American Jewish life. Friedman will return to Rutgers for the spring semester to teach the course “Contemporary Jewish Culture.”

Yakir Englander will serve as the **Bildner Visiting Scholar** during the spring 2017 semester. Englander’s interdisciplinary research explores the interface between Jewish philosophy, Jewish law, and gender studies. He earned his Ph.D. in Jewish philosophy and gender studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2012, and has since served as a visiting professor and postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University, a Shalom Hartman Scholar, and a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School. His first book, *Sexuality and the Body in the New Religious-Zionist Discourse*, coauthored with Avi Sagi, examines aspects of the religious-Zionist image of the body and sexuality during the last decade. It was published in English translation in 2015 by Academic Studies Press. His second book, *The Perception of the Male Body in Lithuanian Ultra-Orthodox Society during the Last Sixty Years*, was published in Hebrew in May 2016 (Hebrew University Magnes Press). In February, Englander will deliver a public lecture about the body and sexuality in yeshiva theology, sponsored by the Bildner Center. While at Rutgers, he will also teach a course, “Jews, Gender, and Sexuality.”



BILDNER CENTER PROGRAMS

Diverse and Engaging Programs

As I look back over the past year at the Bildner Center, three exceptional days stand out that represent the diverse and engaging programming that has become our signature. In September 2015, the renowned scholar James E. Young met over dinner with teachers in the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI) and then, at our public lecture, shared both his insider view of the 9/11 Memorial process and ways in which other countries recently have gone about creating memorials to national tragedies. His talks prompted us to organize a tour of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in Lower Manhattan for this same group of teachers.

In November, acclaimed Israeli singer-songwriter David Broza spent a day on campus. First, he met with the freshman class of Rutgers' new Honors College, where he spoke about

music and social change, and subsequently he performed at the opening night of the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, held at the Nicholas Music Center.

Then, later that month, we all felt privileged to meet Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, whose public talk about religion and violence in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris was so timely and heartening.

Now we meet the challenges and exciting opportunities involved with moving our beloved film festival to new locations. Our largest public event, the festival is expanding to include more venues and more film screenings. The festival will continue with its high-quality films and stimulating speakers, which bring the community together. I look forward to seeing you this fall—whether on campus or in a theater—to share the Jewish experience through the power of film.

—Karen Small, Associate Director



Rabbi Jonathan
Sacks and
Karen Small

How Jewish Authors Reinvented the American War Novel

When Dr. Leah Garrett was growing up in New York, she often heard her male relatives talking about their military service in World War II. Later, she became preoccupied with trying to understand the conflict's broad impact on American Jews. Garrett began researching popular novels about the war and soon came to the astounding conclusion that for the first time, Jewish literary figures represented what it meant to be both a soldier and an American.

Garrett, the Loti Smorgon Research Professor of Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture at Monash University in Australia, explored this topic in a public talk held on Wednesday, March 9, at the Douglass Student Center. The event was the Bildner Center's **Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program**, supported by the **Karma Foundation**. It was cosponsored by the **Department of American Studies** and the **Program in Comparative Literature**.

While perusing the *New York Times* best-seller list for 1948, Garrett discovered that five of the most popular titles—including Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* and Irwin Shaw's *The Young Lions*—were written by Jews and featured Jewish soldiers as their protagonists. In contrast to most previous war fiction, the “Jewish” novels were often ironic, funny, and irreverent, and they sought to teach the reading public broader lessons about liberalism, masculinity, and pluralism.

Garrett observed that the way Jewish Americans were writing about World War II, the Holocaust, and Jewish soldiers was influencing American perspectives on all three.

They offered Americans their first exposure to the tragedy of the Holocaust and drove home messages about what needed to change in this country in terms of racial and religious tolerance. Garrett's latest book, *Young Lions: How Jewish Authors Reinvented the American War Novel*, a finalist for a 2015 National Jewish Book Award, pivots on this discovery.

Service in World War II became a transformative rite of passage for Jewish soldiers. They enlisted at higher rates than other Americans, and while anti-Semitism remained a current in the military, Jews were, in general, highly respected. Many non-Jewish soldiers had their first personal encounters with Jews in their platoons, helping to overturn widely held stereotypes that Jews were weaklings and shirkers. The war experience also enabled Jews to enter the American cultural mainstream, and it propelled many of them from the working class into the middle class.

“Much has been written about the significance of World War II in American culture,” says Bildner Center director **Yael Zerubavel**, “yet Garrett adds a new perspective on the unique role of American Jewish fiction in shaping public memory that contributes to our understanding of this process.”



Film Festival Celebrates Sixteen Years

The Rutgers Jewish Film Festival plays a pivotal role in fulfilling the Bildner Center's twenty-year-old mission to provide a public forum for Jewish studies and to build community around an exploration of the many facets of Jewish life. Sixteen years ago, it was a pioneering undertaking when the Center launched a film festival in the academic setting of a university campus. But the festival has demonstrated its value and impact each fall since, drawing both students and faculty as well as filmgoers from the broader New Jersey community looking to experience entertaining, cutting-edge Jewish films. The 2015 festival was no exception.

Festival Highlights

The film festival opened with a screening of the New Jersey premiere of *East Jerusalem West Jerusalem* and a live performance by leading Israeli singer-songwriter **David Broza** at the Nicholas Music Center on Rutgers' Douglass Campus. The film follows Broza's journey to record his latest album with Israeli, Palestinian, and American musicians in East Jerusalem, an effort to bridge cultures through music. Opening night was cosponsored with the **Mason Gross School of the Arts** and the **GAIA Centers 2015–2017 Biennial Theme: Global Urbanism**.

Thought-provoking film selections throughout the festival touched on the breadth of the Jewish and wider human experience. Several tackled the subject of identity, including *The Last Mentsch*, a European feature about a man who rejects his Jewish past after escaping Auschwitz, and *A Borrowed Identity*, an Israeli film about a



Karen Small, Academic Dean Matt Matsuda of Rutgers Honors College, David Broza, Yael Zerubavel



Palestinian-Israeli teenager struggling to fit in with Jewish-Israeli culture in the late 1980s. **Marcel and Hana Rozenzweig** sponsored the screening of *Phoenix*, a German film about love and betrayal in postwar Berlin. Other films homed in on issues within Israeli society, such as the conflict between the secular and religious, and life under threat of terror. *Apples from the Desert* follows a rebellious teenager who breaks away from the ultra-Orthodox, Sephardic world of her parents, while *Rock in the Red Zone* showcases Sderot's music scene, vibrant despite a life under constant rocket fire.

Dough, a gently humorous story about overcoming prejudice and finding redemption in unexpected places, had its East Coast premiere at the festival with two sold-out screenings. Director **John Goldschmidt** and lead actor **Jerome Holder** charmed a packed house during a post-film discussion, and Holder engaged in photo sessions with many of the young audience members. **David and Sylvia Steiner** continued their commitment to the festival with their support of the documentary *Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem*, which interweaves portraits of these two beloved Jewish cultural icons.

The Rutgers Jewish Film Festival is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Karma Foundation and a devoted cadre of festival patrons.

Festival Experiences for Students

The Bildner Center engaged student audiences by giving them special access to films and other festival resources, both on and off campus. On opening day, **David Broza** appeared as a guest artist at the Rutgers **Honors College Forum: Art and Social Change**, attended by 250 Honors freshmen. These students received complimentary tickets to attend the screening of Broza's film that evening.

The Center invited New Jersey high school students to a special free screening of *Nicky's Family* at the Regal Cinema in North Brunswick. Following the film, **Hanna Slome**, one of the children rescued by Sir Nicholas Winton in 1938, spoke to students about her experience. They spontaneously lined up to take selfies with her, a celebrity in her own right. Feedback from teachers and students was overwhelmingly positive and reinforced the importance of this kind of outreach programming. The presentation was made possible through a partnership with the **Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center**.

The Center also organized a screening of *Raise the Roof* at the Rutgers Cinema for students, cosponsored by the **Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service**. The Boston-based artists **Rick and Laura Brown**, featured in the documentary, shared their story of bringing together volunteers, students, and artisans to rebuild one of Poland's magnificent lost wooden synagogues. The Browns also met with students in Professor **Jeffrey Shandler's** course on Jewish museums.

Audience Choice Awards

The festival's Audience Choice Awards encouraged meaningful conversations among filmgoers by giving them the opportunity to participate in an interactive voting process for their favorite films of the 2015 festival. Audiences selected films for two awards. Favorite Documentary went to *Raise the Roof*, which closed the festival, and Favorite Narrative Film to *The Last Mentsch*.



David Broza and Sharon Karmazin

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Between Morocco and Israel: Jewish Memory and Heritage

Aomar Boum, University of California, Los Angeles
André Levy, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
*Supported by the Sagner Family Foundation and
cosponsored by the Department of Anthropology
and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies*



The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture **Living Together Separately: Israel's Jewish-Arab City**

Erez Tzfadia, Israel Institute Visiting Scholar,
Rutgers University
*Cosponsored by the GAIA Centers 2015–2017
Biennial Theme: Global Urbanism*

The Richard D. Heffner Open Mind Lecture **The Future of Privacy, Free Speech, and the Curse of Bigness: What Louis Brandeis Means Today**

Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO,
National Constitution Center
*Presented by the School of Arts and Sciences
Honors Program and cosponsored by the Bildner
Center, among others*

David Ohannessian and the Armenian Ceramics of Jerusalem

Sato Moughalian, Independent Scholar
*Cosponsored by the Center for European Studies,
the Armenian Studies Program, the Department
of Art History, the Bildner Center, and the Center
for Middle Eastern Studies*

Di Goldene Kale (The Golden Bride) Yiddish Operetta

*Presented by the Mason Gross School of the Arts
and cosponsored by the Bildner Center*

Jewish Scholars and the Development of Islamic Studies

At a time when both Jews and Muslims faced discrimination in Christian-dominated Europe, Jewish scholars sought to improve the image of Judaism by focusing on the nascent field of Islamic studies. From the 1830s to the 1930s, these scholars produced critically acclaimed works that often compelled Christian colleagues to reevaluate Islam in the context of monotheism. In the process, Jewish scholars often deepened their understanding of Judaism, said Dr. **Susannah Heschel** in her public talk at Rutgers.

Heschel delivered the Bildner Center's annual **Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Lecture** on March 28 at the Douglass Student Center in New Brunswick; it was cosponsored by the **Center for Middle Eastern Studies** and the **Institute for Women's Leadership**.

Heschel, the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College, told the diverse crowd of 250 that an era of Jewish-Islamic study and cooperation ended with the rise of Nazism. Currently a Guggenheim Fellow who has done extensive research into Jewish-Christian relations, Heschel is the daughter of the prominent scholar, theologian, and civil rights leader Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

In the lecture, Heschel explained that Jewish scholars between the 1830s and the 1930s studied Arabic and often traveled to Muslim countries. They found common ground



Susannah Heschel

with Islam, recognizing similarities in food requirements and ritual practices, and regarding it, much like Judaism, as a "rational" religion.

Rabbi Abraham Geiger, a founder of Reform Judaism, led the development of Islamic studies. During the 1830s, his studies linking the Koran to rabbinic Judaism were acclaimed throughout Europe. Gustav Weil, who spent much of the 1830s traveling through Algeria,

Egypt, and the Ottoman Empire, wrote the first biography of Muhammad based on Islamic sources.

Gottlieb Leitner fled anti-Semitism in Hungary, ultimately going with British colonial forces to India in 1858; there he was appointed principal of the Government College at Lahore. Upon his return to England, he designed and built the country's first mosque, still in use in Surrey. "He wanted to increase sympathy for Islam," said Heschel, who noted that the mosque's windows are all in the shape of a Star of David. "I would guess he was interested in trying to bring people together and advocate for kindness and sympathy."

➤ See **JEWISH SCHOLARS AND ISLAMIC STUDIES**

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➤ **SACKS** from page 1

Rabbi Sacks, the author of more than twenty-five books and a life peer in the House of Lords, is considered the moral voice of his generation. His talk focused on the rise of fundamentalism and religious violence gripping the world today. He traced the historical experiences pointing toward its inevitability and identified ancient sibling rivalry as its primary driver. Even now, according to Sacks, it is the biblical narrative that continues to lock the three Abrahamic religions into sibling rivalries with one another, often with devastating results.

With the dawn of secularization in the eighteenth century, Rabbi Sacks said, its proponents predicted that science, technology, the market economy, and the liberal democratic state would supplant the centrality of religion and that religions would adapt to this secular approach to public life. Yet individuals are by nature self-reflective. In their search for meaning, secularism failed them. Today, it is the extreme wings of each religion that thrive. As Rabbi Sacks observed, this return of religion to center stage—and with it the revenge of the repressed—came "as a whirlwind, an earthquake, and a fire."

Still, how can humans who are hardwired to be empathetic kill in cold blood in the name of God? Rabbi Sacks explained that they become detached from their empathy. They justify violence by dehumanizing or demonizing the other, a perspective that also enables them to assume the role of victim. Barbarity then becomes permissible as a means to restore their religion's position of honor. Rabbi Sacks concluded with his belief that a shared humanity will ultimately take priority over these religious differences, "to work our way through toward a more gracious and constructive future."

Following an engaging question-and-answer session, Rabbi Sacks offered the audience a message of hope. He referred to "the dignity of difference," a term he coined in the wake of 9/11, and cautioned that individuals and communities should not be threatened, but rather enlarged, by their differences. "God loves diversity," he stated. "The possibility of another kind of world," he said, will drive the need for change among global religious leadership.

Rabbi Sacks recently served as the Ingeborg and Ira Rennert Global Distinguished Professor of Judaic Thought at New York University and the Kressel and Ephrat Family University Professor of Jewish Thought at Yeshiva University.

The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education

Recovering and Representing the Past: Museums, Archives, Sources

In fall 2015, teachers in the **Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI)** examined the complexities of public memory and the challenges involved in the commemoration of traumatic historical events. Professor **James E. Young**, a world-renowned expert on Holocaust memorials and museums, presented the opening program in September.

Young, the Distinguished University Professor of English and Judaic Studies and the director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, delivered remarks during a private dinner with teachers. Later, in his public talk, **"Staging Public Memory,"** he spoke about public memorials and history from World War II and the Holocaust to the National 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero and the process of creating a memorial in Norway for the mass shooting there in 2011. Held at the Douglass Student Center, the event was the Bildner Center's **Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program**, funded by **Leon and Toby Cooperman**.

Subsequent sessions, held at the Bildner Center, offered a range of views on museums and memorials. **Natalia Aleksium**, an associate professor of modern Jewish history at the Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Touro College, New York, focused on the new POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. "From Bergen-Belsen to Brooklyn: History, Memory and Orthodoxy" was the topic addressed by **Henri Lustiger-Thaler**, senior curator at the Kleinman Holocaust Education Center in Brooklyn and a professor of sociology at Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Dr. **Jackie Feldman**, a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, spoke about Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial and museum. A session on the International Tracing Service was presented by **Elizabeth Anthony**, the Barbara and Richard Rosenberg Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Anti-Semitism: History and Myth

The spring course offered a chronological exploration of anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism, in various historical contexts, from the Middle Ages to the present day. The history and politics of these phenomena, as well as the changes and continuities in the long history of hatred against Jews, were explored.

The course opened with the topic of anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism during the Middle Ages, led by **Paola Tartakoff**, an associate professor of Jewish studies and history at Rutgers. Blood-libel accusations, pogroms, and anti-Semitism in Russia and the Soviet Union were the focus

for **Elissa Bemporad**, an assistant professor of history and the Jerry and William Ungar Chair in Eastern European Jewish History and the Holocaust at Queens College of the City University of New York. Dr. **Eddy Portnoy**, senior researcher and exhibition curator at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, discussed images of Jews in Nazi Germany, as seen in propaganda posters, cartoons, and caricatures.

On May 4, **Jonathan Judaken**, a preeminent scholar of European history, met with educators in the MTI and delivered the public lecture **"Reckoning with Post-Holocaust Anti-Semitism in Europe,"** cosponsored by the **Center for European Studies**. Judaken, the Spence L. Wilson Chair in Humanities and professor of history at Rhodes College, Memphis, discussed racism and the Holocaust with the teachers. Afterward, an audience of about 200 attended his lecture at the Douglass Student Center.

The final session, on the impact of the Protocol of the Elders of Zion, was led by **Paul Hanebrink**, an associate professor of history at Rutgers and the MTI's faculty adviser. After each scholarly presentation, educational consultant **Colleen Tambuscio** led pedagogical sessions to help teachers process the information for classroom use.



Educators from across the state participated in the MTI's free summer mini-course on the history of the Holocaust, taught by Rutgers adjunct professor Joanna Sliwa (second row, far right).



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.*

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We are grateful for the generosity of our donors

Leadership Gifts

- **The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation** for a grant that funded Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks's visit to Rutgers.
- **The Israel Institute** for funding a visiting scholar in Israel studies for one year at the Bildner Center.
- **The Karma Foundation**, led by **Sharon Karmazin** DC'67, SC&F'69, and **Dina Elkins**, for its commitment to Jewish culture through a multiyear grant to the **Rutgers Jewish Film Festival**.
- **Andrew J. Melnick** RC'63, RBS'70, for his ongoing support of Israel studies at Rutgers.

Pacesetter Gifts

- **Shelley and Steven Einhorn** RC'70 for sponsoring a film in the **Rutgers Jewish Film Festival**.
- **The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation** for its continued support of the Department of Jewish Studies **Curriculum Enhancement Fund**.
- **Marcel and Hana Rozenzweig** for sponsoring a film in the **Rutgers Jewish Film Festival**.

Gifts to Rutgers University can be directed to the Bildner Center.

For more information, contact **Paul Kuznekoff** at 848-932-6457, or visit our website, <http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu/contribute>.

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Norman and
Marion Tanzman

Dedication of the Tanzman Hall of Jewish Learning

We are proud to announce the formal dedication of the **Marion and Norman Tanzman Hall of Jewish Learning** on September 18, 2016. Located within Miller Hall, adjacent to the Bildner Center, the new hall has been endowed in perpetuity by the **Marion and Norman Tanzman Charitable Foundation**. It will enhance the Bildner Center's educational mission by serving as a dedicated space for Jewish studies classes, seminars, small conferences, and other activities of the Center and the Department of Jewish Studies.

Student Looks to Rabbinate and Public Service

Alex Hamilton always felt at home in Oklahoma City's Conservative synagogue. He enjoyed the services and the chance to learn from the older congregants, many of them Jewish studies professors at the University of Oklahoma. His synagogue experiences nurtured his career ambitions, but it was his high school United Synagogue Youth mentor, now a Rutgers alumnus, who ultimately influenced his decision to attend Rutgers.

After spending a gap year in Israel, where he studied at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem and taught English at two schools in the southern development town of Yerucham, Alex concentrated on Middle Eastern studies in his first semester at Rutgers. Steadily, his interests shifted toward ancient history and the Bible. His Jewish studies classes with Professor **Gary Rendsburg** had the greatest impact, and he credits them for helping him "to conceptualize the ancient world."

Rendsburg notes that as a Jewish studies major, "Alex brings enthusiasm to his studies and has taken a wide variety of courses, ranging from the Dead Sea Scrolls to ancient Judaism. He is totally immersed in the convergence of these many avenues of exploration and in the world of ancient Israel and early Judaism."

Alex, who is also working toward a double minor in political science and religion, values how the diversity of his chosen disciplines gives him unique insight into each. For example, he might look at biblical figures through a political lens or, in a class discussion about electoral politics, share why American Jews vote overwhelmingly Democratic.

In his final semester at Rutgers, Alex is now focusing on



Mishnah and Hebrew language. A self-described "big meat eater," he is eager to know what Judaism says about ritual slaughter, a subject he is exploring in an independent study with Rendsburg. Together, they are examining Tractate Hullin, reading the text as preserved in the Kaufmann Manuscript, available online through the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest.

Alex received the **Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award** this past spring. He will graduate at the end of the current term and looks forward to attending the Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York next September. He plans to serve as a military chaplain before moving into the pulpit.

"I want to have impact in a broad way, helping individuals embrace Judaism while making the world a better place," he observes. "Being a rabbi will put me in the best position to do all of that."

Alex credits his father, a diplomat and former Marine, for influencing him to live a life of giving back. He adds that his political studies as well as his service on the Rutgers Hillel board and his year as Hillel president will prove helpful primers for the rabbinate and for navigating within a small Jewish community.

Reflecting on his years at Rutgers, Alex says he has found satisfaction in "being a Jew and adding to the discourse on one of the most diverse campuses in this country." He also praises his Jewish studies courses for strengthening his connections with Judaism: "They helped me find holiness in the history and traditions that evolved out of the Bible."

"I want to have impact in a broad way, helping individuals embrace Judaism while making the world a better place. Being a rabbi will put me in the best position to do all of that."

First Graduate Certificate in Jewish Studies at Rutgers

Lincoln Richman is the first student to earn a graduate certificate in Jewish studies and a master's degree in social work from Rutgers. He is the program manager at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County in Edison. "The joint degree program has given me the opportunity to work with every age group in the Jewish community—everyone from little kids to senior citizens—living the value of Tikkun Olam," says Richman. (For more information on the certificate in Jewish studies—open to students in master's and doctoral programs at Rutgers—visit JewishStudies.Rutgers.edu.)



Year-End Celebration

Graduating seniors and student award winners gathered with faculty and family members on May 3 at Brower Commons to celebrate and honor academic excellence and diverse achievements in the interdisciplinary field of Jewish studies.



Noa Rabin
in Israel

Ten students received awards, which included several travel grants to study in Israel or in Poland.

Noa Rabin, who studied at Hebrew University, reflected on the small classroom settings there, which gave her “the opportunity to meet and learn from people of many different nationalities, religions, and cultures, helping to make it a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Grants were also given to students in the School of Social Work who participated in its winter study session in Israel. In addition, an international study award helped make it possible for **Elisheva Rosen** to participate in the global field trip to Poland led by Professor **Nancy Sinkoff** (see page 3).

A live musical performance by Rutgers alumnus **Ami Yares** LC’03 and his band made the annual end-of-year celebration in Jewish studies particularly festive. The band played a combination of original and traditional folk songs, steeped in both Middle Eastern and American culture.

Ami also spoke to the group about how the foundation of his career in music, education, and Middle East peace advocacy was formed largely as an undergraduate in Jewish studies at Rutgers, where he wrote his thesis on Iraqi Jewish musical traditions. Shortly after graduating, he moved to Israel and began studying Middle Eastern music with Yair Dalal, an Israeli of Iraqi Jewish origins, and learned about Bedouin culture by studying with the Israeli-Bedouin musician Muhammed Abu Ajaj. (For more on Ami, see page 13.)

A Graduate Reflects on his Experience:

My time in the Jewish studies department was beyond what I could have ever expected. I was able to explore my Jewish heritage from an academic perspective in a way that I wasn’t able to do before. Even more important, I actively participated in small classes with top academics in the field, attended events with leading scholars, and was part of a tight-knit community that always pushed me to engage in deep thought on some of the most pertinent issues in Jewish studies today. As a modern Hebrew language minor, I learned the language and engaged head-on with some of the most important texts in Israeli literature in an intimate setting that encouraged personal and intellectual growth.

—*Michael Guggenheim*

For photos and to learn more about our award winners, visit
JewishStudies.Rutgers.edu.



Jewish Studies Graduates 2015–2016

Samantha Abrams
Jessica L. Gorman
Michael M. Guggenheim
Arie J. Gutman
Mark A. Izrailev
Brielle E. Landis
Robben H. Levine
Emily S. Orr
Isaac J. Possible
Rachel B. Shafir
Alisa B. Tajfel

Graduate Certificate
Lincoln Richman

Student Award Recipients, 2016

Michael Guggenheim ’16
Harold and Betty Perl Award

Alex Hamilton ’16
Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award

Elisheva Rosen ’17
Barry and Venezia Adler International Study Scholarship

Peter Shamah ’17
Dr. Benjamin F. Glasser and Lillian Glasser Award

AWARDS FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL
Supported by Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein
2016 Spring Semester at
Hebrew University
Noa Rabin

Supported by Herbert and Jacqueline Klein
Rutgers School of Social Work
Program in Israel, Winter 2016
Elizabeth Binstein
Shana Herman

2016 Spring Semester at
Hebrew University
Shoshana Benjamin
Rebecca Weiner

ALUMNI NEWS



Rebecca Leibowitz Engel '04 returned to her hometown of Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015 after spending nearly a decade in the Jewish communal world in New York. She now serves as director of strategic initiatives at the Charleston Jewish Federation, where she “aims to honor her

grandparents’ legacy and love for the local Jewish community every day.” She is married to Aaron Engel, whom she met three weeks after moving back to Charleston.



Jordan Kutzik '11 is a staff writer and social media coordinator at the *Yiddish Daily Forward*. He received a Translation Fellowship for 2016 from the Yiddish Book Center, located in Amherst, Massachusetts. With this award, Jordan will work on translating a collection of short stories by Boris Sandler, former editor of the

Yiddish Forward. Some of Jordan’s articles for the paper can be found at <http://forward.com/author/jordan-kutzik/>.



Sara Lewis Sideman '08 spent six years as the director of teen services at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades in Tenaflly. During that time, Sara also completed her master’s degree in social work with a certificate in Jewish communal service, graduating in 2013 from the Wurzweiler School of

Social Work at Yeshiva University. Sara is currently the assistant director of the JCC Camps in Medford. She lives in Cherry Hill with her husband, David, and son, Benny.



Ami Yares '03 became involved in 2008 with Paideia: The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden, which is dedicated to rebuilding Jewish life and culture in Europe. The result was the Shuk,

an ensemble of musicians and educators who travel throughout Europe using music to teach about Israeli and Jewish culture. In 2012, Ami founded FocUS Music, a project through which Arab and Jewish students in Israel learn about American folk and popular music that has been inspired by America’s social history and struggles. Ami also directs Heartbeat, a Palestinian and Israeli youth music ensemble.

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

► JEWISH SCHOLARS AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

from page 8

In the late 1800s, the Hungarian scholar Ignatz Goldziher published many works on Muslim traditions, law, and poetry. He forged a strong connection to Islam during his travels in the Middle East, socializing and even praying with Muslims, despite remaining an observant Jew.

Heschel laments the loss of such interconnectedness. That feeling was shared by several Muslims in the question period that followed.

Aysenur Guc, a freshman philosophy major, said she attended the lecture because she had taken two courses in Jewish philosophy and had read some of Rabbi Heschel’s work.

“Muslims must engage with Jewish studies and Jews in Islamic studies to achieve a connection,” she said. “I found this talk insightful, but it is just the first step.”

Adapted from the New Jersey Jewish News (4/4/16), “Scholars Enhanced Islamic-Jewish Relations: Dr. Susannah Heschel Said Century of Studies Led to Interfaith Harmony,” by Deborah Rubin.

FACULTY UPDATES

Maurice Elias published *The Other Side of the Report Card: Assessing Students' Social, Emotional, and Character Development*, with Joseph J. Ferrito and Dominic C. Mocerri (Corwin), and "Social-Emotional and Character Development and Jewish Parenting: Exploring the Spiritual, Research, and Practice Synergy," with Marilyn Gootman, in *Growing Jewish Minds, Growing Jewish Souls: Promoting Spiritual, Social, and Emotional Growth in Jewish Education*, edited by Jeffrey S. Kress (URJ Press/Behrman House). He gave the keynote presentation, "Creating the Emotionally Intelligent / Binat Halev School: Evidence-Based Practice in Implementing Social-Emotional Competence + Character," at "Education in a Different Spirit: The Tel-Hai College Education Conference," Tel-Hai, Israel; and the talk "The Role of Education and Higher Education in Creating a Sense of Noble Purpose" at the 37th Annual Lecture Honoring Brother Vincent Grimes, La Salle University, Philadelphia. He also presented the Distinguished Lecture "The Enduring Importance of Character and Its Support," at the Military Child Education Coalition's 17th National Training Seminar, Washington, D.C. He was awarded the following grants: 2016–2018, principal investigator, "Scaling Up Credentialing Program in Direct Instruction of SEL and Character Development Competencies for Children and Youth," funded

by the NoVo Foundation, \$407,492; and 2015–2017, principal investigator, "Enhancing Student Purpose with the Middle School Ambassador Program: A Collaborative Action-Research Study," funded by the John Templeton Foundation, \$1,062,307.

Gary A. Rendsburg was on sabbatical during the fall of 2015, spending most of his time at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); there he made further progress in a commentary he is writing on the book of Samuel, based in part on research he conducted the preceding summer in Cambridge, England, while affiliated at both the University of Cambridge and Tyndale House. In 2015–2016, he delivered lectures at UCLA, the State University of New York at Purchase, and Renaissance Weekend. He also published the following articles in various journals and monograph collections: "The Nature of Qumran Hebrew as Revealed through 1QpHab"; "Style-Switching in Biblical Hebrew"; "Tefilla le-David"; "Repetition with Variation in Legal-Cultic Texts of the Torah"; "Literary and Linguistic Matters in the Book of Proverbs"; "Marking Closure"; "Notes on 2 Kings 9:36–37"; and "The Literary Unity of the Exodus Narrative." He also coedited the book *"Did I Not Bring Israel Out of Egypt?": Biblical, Archaeological, and Egyptological Perspectives on the Exodus Narratives* (Eisenbrauns).

Jeffrey Shandler published the following: "Behold a Vanished World," in *Roman Vishniac Rediscovered* (International Center of Photography / DelMonico Books–Prestel); "Le procès Eichmann à la télévision américaine," in *Le moment Eichmann* (Éditions Albin Michel); "An Ethnographer in Poland: On Experience as a Mode of Engaging Jewishness," *Contemporary Jewry*; and "What Makes a Film Jewish?" an online essay published on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the New York Jewish Film Festival (Jewish Museum / Film Society of Lincoln Center). He gave the following presentations: "Speaking of the Past: Yiddish in Video Interviews with Holocaust Survivors," University of Vienna; "The Museum Effect in Jewish Life" at the symposium "Curating Culture, Making Memory," Graduate Theological Union, University of California, Berkeley; "Seeing as Believing: Watching Videotaped Interviews with Holocaust Survivors," the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, American University of Paris; "Anne Frank as a Jewish Icon" at the symposium "Icons and Anne Frank," Anne Frank House, Amsterdam; "Keep Talking!: A Celebrity Holocaust Survivor's Life Story Retold," keynote address at the international conference "Bearing Witness More Than Once," Humboldt University of Berlin; "An Ethnographer at the Museum in Poland (and Beyond)," 47th annual Association for Jewish Studies conference, Boston; and "And Now I Have to Read in Jewish Something: Yiddish Performances by Holocaust Survivors," YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York.

Nancy Sinkoff completed her second year as director of the Center for European Studies and oversaw several interdisciplinary programs, including "Africa, Europe, and the Mediterranean Migration Crisis," with Carolyn Brown (history, Center for African Studies), Ousseina Alidou (Africana studies), and Rhiannon Noel Welch (Italian); "The Cold War at Camp Kilmer: Hungarian '56ers, Cubans, and US Refugee Policy in New Jersey"; and "David Ohannessian and the Armenian Ceramics of Jerusalem," among others. She continued to teach in Jewish studies and history, initiating four new courses: "The History of Jewish Women" (mini-course); "The Zionist

Jewish Studies Faculty, 2016–2017

Core Faculty

Gary A. Rendsburg,
Graduate Director
Jeffrey Shandler,
Department Chair
Nancy Sinkoff
Paola Tartakoff
Azzan Yadin-Israel,
Undergraduate Director
Yael Zerubavel,
Bildner Center Director

Affiliated Faculty

Debra Ballentine
Ethel Brooks
Maurice J. Elias
Leslie E. Fishbein
Ziva Galili
Judith Gerson
David Greenberg
Charles Haberl
Paul Hanebrink
Martha Helfer
Michael G. Levine
Emma Wasserman

Visiting Scholars

Yakir Englander
Joshua B. Friedman

Language Instructor

Orly Moshenberg,
*Hebrew-Language
Coordinator*

Idea" (mini-course); "Exile under Nazism and Communism"; and "A Tale of Two Uprisings" (global field experience in Poland; see page 3). She took part in a panel, "Unpacking 'Ultra-Orthodoxy': Historical and Sociological Perspectives on Haredi Jewry," at "Dissent and Dissension: Approaching Ultra-Orthodoxy," the spring conference of the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center, Baruch College, New York; and also presented the following papers: "Sara Levy's World" at the panel "They offer their hands to one another as sisters': Fortepiano-Harpsichord Duos in the Circle of Sara Levy (1761–1954)," at the 47th annual Association for Jewish Studies conference, Boston; "Gershom G. Scholem, Lucy S. Dawidowicz, and Nathan Birnbaum: A Transnational Postwar 'Conversation' Contesting Jewish Secularism" at "SEE NEXT: East European and North Eurasian Crosstalk," University of Illinois at Chicago; "How to Make Diasporas Meet: Pedagogical Approaches" at the 3rd annual International Polish Jewish Studies Workshop, "Dokeyt, Diaspora, Borderlands: Imagining Polish Jewish Territories," University of Illinois at Chicago; and "Enlightened Poland, Enlightened Jews? A Historiographical Reassessment and Its Popular Representation," Institute for Jewish Studies and Religious Studies and Institute for Slavic Studies, University of Potsdam, Germany. She published "From the Archives: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Restitution of Jewish Cultural Property," *American Jewish History*, and her interview with journalist Paweł Smoleński, "Żyd Jego Książęcej Wysokości / The Jew of His Royal Highness," appeared in *Gazeta Wyborcza*,

<http://history.rutgers.edu/docman-docs/faculty-profiles/1473-faculty-profiles-sinkoff-gazeta-wyborcza-interview-in-polish-and-english/file>.

Paola Tartakoff received a fellowship from the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies to spend the academic year 2016–2017 in Jerusalem as part of a research group on the history of Jewish women. She also received a fellowship from the European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS). She continued to work on her book in progress, "Conversion, Circumcision, and Ritual Murder in Medieval Europe," and she published "Testing Boundaries: Jewish Conversion and Cultural Fluidity in Medieval Europe, 1200–1391," *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies*, as well as a review of *Neighboring Faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Middle Ages and Today*, by David Nirenberg (Chicago, 2014), in the Association for Jewish Studies' *AJS Review*. She presented a paper, "From Conversion to Crucifixion: Circumcision's Connotations in Christian Europe," at the Jewish History Colloquium, Yale University, and a lecture, "The Deacon and the Jewess: Conversion to Judaism in Medieval Spain and Beyond," at Harvard University. She also gave the following talks: "Circumcision and Identity Change in the Wake of Lateran IV" at the Concilium Lateranense IV conference, Rome; and "Apostates' Children and the Jewish Community in Medieval Europe" at the 47th annual Association for Jewish Studies conference, Boston.

Azzan Yadin-Israel published *The Grace of God and the Grace of Man: The Theologies of*

Bruce Springsteen (Lingua Press), a book that grew out of a Byrne Seminar titled "Bruce Springsteen's Theology" (see below). He published "For Mark Was Peter's Tanna: Oral Tradition versus Eyewitness History in Papias," *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, and a revised edition of *Intuitive Vocabulary: German*. He continued to serve as coeditor of the book series Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism, and on the advisory board of the *Journal of Ancient Judaism*.

Yael Zerubavel delivered a lecture, "Antiquity in the Modern Israeli Imagination," at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and the keynote address, "History, Myth, and Counter-Narratives in the Construction of Mnemonic Traditions," at the conference "The Power of the Past: Myth, Tradition and History," Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University. She participated in "Israel-Palestine, Lands and Peoples," a workshop at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, and presented a paper, "Negotiating Difference: Contested Narratives and Exchanged Identities within the Israeli-Palestinians Conflict," at "Rethinking Peace Studies," a conference sponsored by International Christian University, Tokyo. She continued to serve on the advisory boards of the academic journals and presses *Israel Studies*, *Israel Studies Review*, *Journal of Israeli History*, *AJS Perspectives*, and *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*; the Rutgers University Press series Jewish Cultures of the World; and the Academic Studies Press series Israel: Society, Culture, and History.

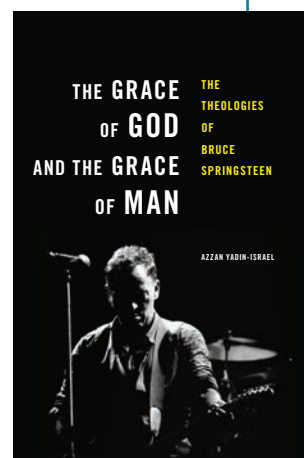
New Book on Bruce Springsteen's Theologies

Professor **Azzan Yadin-Israel** has published the first comprehensive scholarly study of the biblical and theological motifs in the lyrics of Bruce Springsteen. The idea for the book originated in the Byrne Seminar that Yadin-Israel developed and taught at Rutgers in 2013–2014, "Bruce Springsteen's Theology." Approaching Springsteen's songs as one would a poem, *The Grace of God and the Grace of Man: The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen* (Lingua Press, 2016) sheds new light on this important American artist.

The book begins with Springsteen's early work, in particular his criticism of traditional religious institutions, offering instead an earthly salvation through romantic love

and the open road. This approach culminates in *Born to Run*, only to be systematically torn down in his next album, *Darkness on the Edge of Town*. The next section examines Springsteen's reworking of the concepts of sin, grace, and the struggle within, arguing that Springsteen casts them in relation to the struggle to remain true to our better selves. Sin is the failure to do so, grace is the blessings that accrue to those who succeed, and both are a result of the struggle within.

The last section, "Springsteen's Midrash," examines songs that explicitly interpret biblical passages, including "Into the Fire," "Adam Raised a Cain," and "Jesus Was an Only Son."



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PUBLIC PROGRAMS, FALL 2016–SPRING 2017

FALL 2016

*The Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program
funded by Leon and Toby Cooperman*
**John Demjanjuk and the
Last Great Holocaust Trial**
Lawrence Douglas, Amherst College
September 14, 7:30 p.m.

*The Toby and Herbert Stolzer
Endowed Program*
**Uncovering American Jewish Life:
1766, 1866, and 1966**
Laura Arnold Leibman, Reed College
Annie Polland, Lower East Side
Tenement Museum
Tony Michels, Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison
September 25, 3:00 p.m.

Rutgers Jewish Film Festival
October 30–November 13
Ticket sales begin September 25.

**Scripture and Tradition in Judaism:
The Challenge of Modernity**
Benjamin D. Sommer,
Jewish Theological Seminary
December 5, 7:30 p.m.
Supported by the Sagner Family Foundation

SPRING 2017

**Post-Holocaust Ultra-Orthodox Theology:
A New Perspective**
Yakir Englander, Bildner Visiting Scholar
February 28, 7:30 p.m.

The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture
Golda Meir: A Biographical Sketch
Pnina Lahav, Boston University
March 27, 7:30 p.m.

*The Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program
funded by the Karma Foundation*
All Who Go Do Not Return
Shulem Deen, Author
April 26, 7:30 p.m.

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