



RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

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

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### From the Director's Desk...

The 2002–03 academic year demonstrated the continuing growth of Jewish Studies at Rutgers. Since the establishment of the academic program in 1998, a total of 256 students have graduated as majors or minors in Jewish Studies, and the number of students enrolled in Jewish Studies courses annually has reached 1,500. The rise of interest in Jewish Studies is a testimony to what can be achieved in a large public university where so many students stand to benefit from its development.

In fall 2002, Dr. Azzan Yadin joined the Department of Jewish Studies as Assistant Professor of Rabbinical Literature and has added important courses to the Jewish Studies curriculum. Currently, the department is engaged in an international search for the Laurie Chair in Jewish History, thanks to a generous gift from the Laurie Foundation. Our faculty continues to be actively engaged in teaching, research, and writing, and have received fellowships and awards in recognition of their work.

One of the areas of academic strength for Rutgers' Jewish Studies Department is Israel Studies. A number of our faculty members study and teach various aspects of Israeli history, society, culture, and politics, and the Bildner Center regularly hosts visiting professors from Israel who contribute to its activities through teaching, lectures, and faculty seminars. The Center also brings prominent scholars to Rutgers to speak at its public programs. The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff annual lecture this fall, presented by Professor Shlomo Avineri of The Hebrew University, attracted an overflow audience of community members, faculty, and students. In addition, the Center is sponsoring an ongoing series of informal lectures and discussions for faculty and students on a wide range of topics relating to Israel.

The public programs offered during the 2002–03 academic year focused on Jewish social and cultural history as well as contemporary issues, including antisemitism, democracy and security, and polemics over religious practices. Teachers'

workshops, under the auspices of the Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center, continue to be an important feature of the Bildner Center's mission, and the Center is planning to expand its public education in this area. Our Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, underwritten by the Karma Foundation, continues to enjoy great success and attracts hundreds of community members.

In the seven years that have passed since the Bildner Center was founded, it has established Jewish Studies as a viable and growing field at Rutgers. Its presence has made a significant impact on students' experiences as well as on the intellectual and cultural life of the community. We would like to welcome Rutgers' new president, Dr. Richard L. McCormick, who has participated in recent Center events and expressed the university's support and recognition of the Center's educational mission.

We look back with pride on the Center's major achievements to date, and we look forward to the continued growth of the Jewish Studies faculty and the further development of the Bildner Center's educational programs and initiatives.

—Professor Yael Zerubavel



**Yael Zerubavel with Rutgers' President Richard L. McCormick (See story on page 10.)**

## FACULTY PROFILE

### Maurice Elias

Professor of Psychology Maurice Elias has always been interested in using his scholarly research as a tool to improve community life. His orientation toward action has led him to assist educational institutions in implementing social and emotional learning programs that foster compassionate, caring, and nurturing environments. It has also led him to aid organizations within the Jewish community to create programs that nurture Jewish identity. With a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Connecticut, Elias brings varied perspectives and methodologies to his research that give his work a unique quality. His combination of a community psychology perspective, clinical training, a background informed by Judaism, and broad knowledge about identity development allows him to approach his research in different and exciting new ways.

Elias's research on social and emotional learning has had profound effects on both public and religious schools. Concerned by the fact that many youth have not developed social and emotional skills that would allow them to treat others with respect, compassion, and empathy, but instead turn to drugs, violence, and a life of underachievement, Elias began to search for the missing components. He applies this theory to Jewish education as well as to the public school classroom. Elias has therefore spent a great deal of time working with teachers and administrators in public schools, yeshivas, Jewish day schools, and supplemental schools to implement emotionally intelligent classrooms. Elias's concern for Jewish education, in particular, is reflected in his involvement with the Network for Research in Jewish Education and the Jewish Education Association.

Elias's research interest in Jewish identity development led him to explore why some Jewish youth embrace their Jewish roots while others disassociate

themselves from their Jewish identity as they mature. Fascinated by the overarching question of how to raise children in the United States so that they form a strong Jewish identity, Elias and Dr. Jeffrey Kress, a former Rutgers graduate student and current colleague at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, created the Jewish Identity Development Project. The project began by exploring differences in attitudes and beliefs among Jewish youth of different denominations, and more recently it has broadened its framework. One of Elias's recent research interests is the importance of social and emotional learning for Jewish educators, which converges with his interest in Jewish identity and is contained within the rubric of his Jewish Identity Development Project.

Elias has worked with Jewish youth organizations, such as United Synagogue Youth (USY), to strengthen their role in fostering Jewish identity. Recently, his research has shifted to include the importance of Jewish camping in helping to build a Jewish identity. Elias is currently seeking support for a research and action study to survey alumni of Jewish camps in order to explore the varying levels of Jewish identity with which they have emerged. The data can be used to inform the way the Jewish community approaches the development of informal educational programs for Jewish youth.

A psychology professor at Rutgers for twenty-four years, Elias brings a unique approach to his teaching in the Department of Jewish Studies. Teaching the seminar "Growing Up Jewish in America," he finds it fascinating to see how his students, who have varying levels of Jewish interest or identification, process and integrate the concepts discussed in the course in very different ways. He finds that his teaching can help to confirm or disprove some of his research findings and helps him generate ideas for further study.

Elias has become increasingly



involved with the Jewish Studies department, supervising Jewish Studies honors students and, for the first time this past year, supervising the internship of a Jewish Studies student with the United Jewish Communities. (Please see article on Aviva Kieffer on page 11.) Elias has offered help to the Jewish Studies department in develop-

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### Courses 2003–2004

Jewish Society & Culture I:

From Antiquity to the Middle Ages

Jewish Society & Culture II:

The Modern Experience

Classical Jewish Philosophy

Modern Jewish Philosophy

History of East European Jewry

History of the Holocaust

Holocaust Literature in Translation

Hebrew Bible: Formation and

Interpretation

Jewish Places, Jewish Spaces

Sociology of American Jewish

Religious Movements

Jewish Memory

Arab-Israeli Conflict

Israeli Politics

Israeli Culture

History of Zionism

American Jewish Experience in

Literature

History of Jewish Women

Remembering the Shtetl

Jewish-American Women:

Contested Lives

Vision and Visuality:

The Rabbis and the Image

Elementary Modern Hebrew

Intermediate Modern Hebrew

Advanced Modern Hebrew

Contemporary Hebrew Literature

and Media (in Hebrew)

Readings in Modern Hebrew

Literature (in Hebrew)

Introduction to Modern Hebrew

Literature (in Hebrew)

The Hebrew Novel (in Hebrew)

Elementary Modern Yiddish



**(Left to right) Laurie Foundation Executive Director Gene Korf, FAS Executive Dean Holly Smith, Yael Zerubavel, Laurie Foundation President Adelaide Zagoren, and Elliott Horowitz**

## The First Visiting Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History

Professor Elliott Horowitz served as the first **Visiting Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History** during the 2002–2003 academic year. Horowitz taught two courses that were new to the Department of Jewish Studies curriculum: “Jewish-Christian Relations” and “The Jewish Life Cycle in Historical Perspective.” He also enriched the Bildner Center’s community-outreach efforts by delivering the public lecture “Sabbath Pleasures in Medieval and Modern Times.”

Horowitz, an associate professor in the Department of Jewish History at Bar-Ilan University, is co-editor of *The Jews in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (Bar-Ilan University Press, 2001) and has published and lectured widely on themes such as Jewish culture in Italy; Jewish ceremonies, rituals, and leisure activities during the Middle Ages; and Jewish-Christian relations. Horowitz has held visiting professorships and received fellowships from Yale, Oxford, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard, among other universities.

The Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History was established by a major gift from the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation. The Department of Jewish Studies has opened a formal search for the permanent Chair.

### JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Yael Zerubavel, Chair, Jewish Studies; History  
 Myron Aronoff, Political Science  
 William Donahue, German  
 Maurice Elias, Psychology  
 Leslie Fishbein, American Studies  
 Ziva Galili, History  
 Judith Gerson, Sociology  
 Paul Hanebrink, History  
 Dina LeGall, History  
 Phyllis Mack, History  
 Alicia Ostriker, English  
 Barbara Reed, Journalism  
 Jeffrey Shandler, Jewish Studies  
 Nancy Sinkoff, Jewish Studies and History  
 Chaim I. Waxman, Sociology  
 Azzan Yadin, Jewish Studies

#### LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS

Orly Moshenber,  
 Hebrew Language Coordinator  
 Edna Bryn-Noiman  
 Eve Jochnowitz  
 Lily Levy

#### PART-TIME LECTURERS

Leonard Levin  
 Marc Miller  
 Rachel Neis  
 Daniel Oden  
 Moshe Sherman

#### VISITING FACULTY

Oren Soffer, fall  
 Eliezer Don-Yehiya, spring

### FACULTY SEMINARS 2003

**Rachel Elior**, the John and Golda Cohen Professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew University, presented a faculty seminar entitled “The Dispute on the Solar and Lunar Calendars in the Dead Sea Scrolls.” She addressed the ways in which the Dead Sea Scrolls preserve the ancient priestly calendar. The talk was based on her new book *The Temple and Chariot, Priests and Angels, Sanctuary and Heavenly Sanctuaries in Early Jewish Mysticism*.

**John Gager**, the William H. Danforth Professor of Religion at Princeton University, delivered a talk entitled “Jewish Scholarship in Early Christianity: The Case of David Flusser.” The talk surveyed Jewish scholarship surrounding the New Testament figure Paul, focusing on the work of the late-twentieth-century Israeli scholar David Flusser. Gager demonstrated a recent shift in Jewish scholarship about Paul, who historically had been represented negatively by Jewish scholars but has begun to be seen as a more legitimately Jewish figure.

**Josef Stern**, professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago, presented a talk entitled “Two Concepts of Holiness: Maimonides vs. Nahmanides.” The talk focused on the scriptural interpretations of Nahmanides and the philosophical writings of Maimonides and compared these two thinkers’ understanding of the concept of holiness.

**Steven J. Zipperstein**, the Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History and Taube Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at Stanford University, delivered a talk entitled “‘A Passion and a Conception of the World’: On Rereading the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.” He considered how this work, one of the most notorious of anti-Semitic literature, has endured in its appeal to a wide range of readers from the end of the nineteenth century in Russia, where it was created, to the present day.

**See Page 4 for Visiting Scholars from Israel**

### Exploring Democracy and Civil Rights in Israel

In February 2003, the Bildner Center sponsored several forums that explored democracy and civil rights in Israel. The Center brought Professor **Pnina Lahav** to Rutgers to lecture and lead discussions in this subject area with Rutgers faculty and students as well as with the larger community. A professor of law at Boston University, Lahav teaches constitutional law, political and civil liberties, and comparative law. She is the author of numerous journal articles and books, including the award-winning book *Judgment in Jerusalem: Chief Justice Simon Agranat and the Zionist Century*. Lahav delivered two talks entitled

“**Democracy in the Balance: Security and Justice in the Israeli Courts**”. The first, held on Rutgers’ College Avenue Campus, was designed for Rutgers faculty and students, and was co-sponsored by Rutgers Hillel and the Legow Family Israel Program Center of the United Jewish Communities (UJC) of MetroWest. The second, held at the Rutgers School of Law in Newark, was cosponsored by Rutgers School of Law–Newark and the Community Relations Committee of the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest. The talk drew members of the Rutgers faculty of law and law students, UJC leadership, and community members with special interest in the topic. Lahav examined the increasing pressure on the Israeli Supreme Court to mediate between principles of human rights and political and civil liberties on the one hand, and military and security concerns on the other, noting that the court’s decisions



**Pnina Lahav**

are affected by current social, political, and legal considerations.

Lahav also delivered the Raoul Wallenberg Annual Public Lecture, funded by Leon and Toby Cooperman, entitled “**Up Against the Wall: Women’s Legal Struggle to Pray at the Western Wall.**” Her talk documented the efforts by women of different religious backgrounds, including Orthodox women, to pray collectively at the women’s section of Jerusalem’s Western Wall for more than a decade. Lahav examined the women’s fight for the right to pray, the attitude of the Knesset and the public, and the legal opposition they have confronted.

### Center Explores Israeli Culture through Literature and Film

Best-selling Israeli author, filmmaker, and cartoonist **Etgar Keret** read from his short stories and spoke about the challenge of writing about contemporary Israeli society during a talk at Rutgers in January 2003. Born in 1967, Keret is one of the leading new voices in Israeli literature and cinema. His story collections, best-sellers in Israel, have been published in eight different languages, and his film *Malka Red-Heart* won the Israeli Oscar. His works include *Pipelines*, *Gaza Blues*, *Kneller’s Happy Campers*, *Jetlag* and *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to be God & Other Stories*. The event was sponsored by the Bildner Center, the Consulate General of Israel in New York, and the Rutgers Office of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Programs.

Award-winning Israeli authors **Michal Govrin** and **Ronit Matalon** participated in “Passages: Encounters with Jewish Writers,” a writers symposium presented by the Bildner Center in October 2002. (See article on page 8.) In addition, the acclaimed films *Late Marriage* and *Promises*, which explore various aspects of Israeli society, were presented at the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival in November 2002. (See article on page 9.)

### Jewish Studies Courses on Israel

#### Fall 2002–Spring 2003

- Trauma and Memory in Israeli Culture
- Israel in the 1950s
- Arab-Israeli Conflict
- History of Zionism
- Israeli Culture: Formative Years, 1920s–1940s
- Israeli Society
- Israeli Politics



## I S R A E L

### Visiting Scholars from Israel 2003

**Anat Helman** received a Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she is currently a lecturer in the Department of Jewish History and the Institute of Contemporary Jewry. Her dissertation, which focuses on the development of civil society and urban culture in Tel Aviv during the 1920s and 1930s, earned the Yitzhak Rabin Prize for outstanding doctoral thesis, and she has subsequently written and lectured extensively on the development of Tel Aviv as a modern city. At Rutgers during the spring semester, Helman taught the course “Israeli Culture: Formative Years, 1920s–1940s,” which examines Zionists’ efforts to consolidate a Hebrew national culture during the period of Jewish immigration to the British mandate of Palestine. She also delivered a public lecture, “Purim in 1920s–1930s Tel Aviv: Carnival or Festival?” exploring Purim

celebrations as major urban public events in early-twentieth-century Tel Aviv. Her publications in English include a chapter entitled “East or West? Tel Aviv in the 1920s and 1930s,” which appears in *People of the City: Jews and the Urban Challenge* (1999); the article “Even the Dogs in the Streets Bark in Hebrew’: National Ideology and Everyday Culture in Tel Aviv,” in the *Jewish Quarterly Review* (2002); and a forthcoming article, “European Jews in the Levant Heat: Climate and Culture in 1920s and 1930s Tel Aviv,” to appear in the *Journal of Israeli History*.

**Oren Soffer**, the *Aresty Visiting Fellow* for fall 2003, comes to Rutgers after undertaking a Halbert Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto’s Munk Center for International Studies. Soffer received his Ph.D. in political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, preparing a dissertation entitled “‘Hafzira’ Paper — Modernization of the Political-Social

Discourse in the Hebrew Language.” He also received a law degree from Tel Aviv University. Soffer has a primary academic interest in political communication, particularly Hebrew political journalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He is also interested in the interrelationships among law, politics, and communication. His publications include an article in Hebrew entitled “Judicial Review in a Polarized Society,” in the professional journal *Law Review* (2001), and another called “Convergence and Distance in the Relationship between the Center and the Periphery in the Journalistic Discourse,” for the journal *Qesher* (2000). He also has a forthcoming article in English called “Anti-Semitism, Statistics, and Scientization of Hebrew Political Discourse,” which will appear in *Jewish Social Studies: History, Culture, and Society*. As a visiting professor at the Bildner Center, Soffer will teach the undergraduate course “Israeli Culture” during the fall term.



**Norman Samuels, Alvin Rockoff, Dvora Hacoheh, and Ruth Rockoff**

### The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture

Over 200 people gathered at the Busch Campus Center on November 19, 2002 for the Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture. “**Israel in the Fifties: The Demographic Revolution**” was delivered by **Dvora Hacoheh**, the Bildner Center’s *Norman and Syril Reitman Visiting Fellow* during the 2002 fall semester. Hacoheh, professor of Jewish history at Bar-Ilan University in Israel and the author of numerous publications on immigration to Israel, discussed mass immigration to Israel during the early years of statehood and its effect on the demographic composition of the country. She focused on the sociopolitical effects of societal rifts between religious and secular Jews as well as between Jews from European and Islamic countries.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## From the Associate Director

The Bildner Center's community outreach programs continue to educate and enrich the community. Our public lectures bring large and diverse audiences to the Rutgers campus and the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival is now one of the major Jewish cultural events in the region. Due to the overwhelming success of the Jewish film festival we expanded the program for 2003 to include a vintage film, a special screening for teenagers and a double feature of shorter documentaries with a guest appearance by the director. The Center's public events, such as "Rediscovering Jewish Eastern Europe," a lecture and musical presentation, bring large numbers of community members to

campus and stimulate dialogue on a variety of topical Jewish issues.

The Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center continues to educate teachers throughout New Jersey. Last year, we sponsored our first conference for elementary school teachers which drew 65 educators to the Rutgers campus. Next spring the Center will host the State of New Jersey's Yom Hashoah commemoration sponsored with the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education and the Jewish Federation of Middlesex County.

We look forward to seeing you at our events and invite you to visit the Center next time you are on campus.

—Karen Small

## The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

### Programs for Educators

The Littman Holocaust Resource Center sponsored a variety of educational programs for teachers this year.

**"Teaching the Holocaust through Literature,"** a four-session mini-course, brought together high school teachers and Rutgers faculty to discuss Holocaust literature published in Yiddish, Hebrew, German, and English.

Finishing its second year, the **middle school teachers discussion group** included eighteen public school teachers who met four times over the course of the year. Led by Denise Coleman, the group addressed a wide

range of topics, including ways of preparing one's class for a visit by a Holocaust survivor, films on the Holocaust, and the incorporation of music and theater into the curriculum. Guest speakers brought new perspectives to the group and included Danny Tamez, educational director of the George Street Playhouse; Helen Simpkins, chair of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education's curriculum committee for grades K-4 and 5-8; and Hans Fisher, who gave a talk on the music of Theresienstadt. In addition, the group viewed a special multimedia presentation, "Through the Eyes of a Friend: The World of Anne Frank."

Sixty-five educators attended a one-day conference on **"Teaching the Holocaust in Elementary School: Focus on Friendship, Respect and Tolerance"** for teachers of grades K-4. Participants in the program came from across the state, including teachers from Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, Passaic, Bergen, and Hunterdon counties, as well as from Philadelphia. The conference featured Janice Cohn, author of *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*, who discussed how to foster compassion and

moral courage in children, and Helen Simpkins, who presented the revised elementary school curriculum guide. Gail Rosenthal, director of the Holocaust Resource Center at Richard Stockton College, gave a lively presentation about the video series "Different and the Same," which was created in conjunction with *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* to help children identify and prevent prejudice.

### Community Yom Hashoah

**Commemoration** The Bildner Center and the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County were co-sponsors of the community Yom Hashoah Commemoration. Held at the Rutgers Student Center on College Avenue, the program, which was attended by approximately 400 community members and survivors, featured a poignant talk by author and survivor Inge Auerbacher on her childhood experience in Theresienstadt. A highlight of the event was a series of musical selections performed by male singers from the community, who joined together under the artistic direction of Cantor Anna Ott of Temple Anshe Emeth for this solemn occasion.



Participants at the conference on teaching the Holocaust in elementary school

## Rediscovering Jewish Eastern Europe

In a number of remarkable new ways, Americans have been rediscovering the rich culture of Ashkenazi Jews that flourished in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust. The increase in tourism to Poland, the renewed interest in Jewish culture among non-Jews in Poland, and the flourishing of klezmer music were explored at "Rediscovering Jewish Eastern Europe," a special program presented by the Bildner Center's **Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center**. More than 350 people gathered for the event, which included lectures, slide shows, and live klezmer music. **Jeffrey Shandler**, an assistant professor in Rutgers' Department of Jewish Studies, moderated the program.

**Jack Kugelmass**, the Irving and Miriam Lowe Professor of Holocaust and Modern Jewish Studies at Arizona State University and co-author of *From a Ruined Garden: The Memorial Books of Polish Jewry*, examined the recent rise of Jewish tourist culture in Kazimierz, the traditional Jewish quarter of Cracow for generations before World War II. He discussed the flourishing of Jewish restaurants, Jewish folk art, and Jewish cultural events in Kazimierz since the 1990s and considered the ways in which they have appealed to both Jews and non-Jews. In a dynamic lecture accompanied by slides, Kugelmass probed the complexities of this resurgence of Jewish life, noting that many of those who have championed it and are reaping its benefits, such as restaurant owners and klezmer performers, are not Jewish, while the number of actual Jews living



**Jack Kugelmass, Yael Zerubavel, and Jeffrey Shandler**

in Cracow today remains very low.

**Mark Kligman**, associate professor of Jewish musicology at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and visiting professor in Rutgers' Department of Jewish Studies, was joined by **Michael Alpert**, a leading figure in the current renaissance of Eastern European Jewish klezmer music, to address the resurgence that klezmer music has enjoyed over the past twenty years. Through slides, audiotapes, and a musical performance by Alpert, the two demonstrated the development of klezmer, the traditional music of Eastern European Jewry, and its revival in the United States and Europe, which offers new ways for Jews to connect with their Yiddish and Jewish cultural heritage.

## BILDNER CENTER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2002-2003

### The Social History of the Bagel

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, New York University  
*The Inaugural Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Lecture*

### From the Urban Ghetto to the Suburbs: The Reshaping of the American Jewish Landscape

Jenna Weissman Joselit, Princeton University  
*The Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program*  
*A lecture sponsored by the Karma Foundation*

### Historical Reflections on Contemporary Anti-Semitism

Steven J. Zipperstein, Stanford University  
*The Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein and Edward J. Bloustein Memorial Lecture*  
*Co-sponsored by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy*

### Jewish Experience in the Catskills

Phil Brown, Brown University  
*A lecture co-sponsored by Rutgers' Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Passages: Encounters with Jewish Writers

Immigration is a wound of belonging... I found myself among those Israelis observing those wounds," said **Ronit Matalon**, a critically acclaimed Israeli author whose presentation on individuality, belonging, and identity in Israel was one of several by prominent authors featured during "Passages: Encounters with Jewish Writers," sponsored by the Bildner Center in October 2002. Made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and supported in part by the Sagner Family Foundation, this writers' symposium exposed an intergenerational audience to contemporary award-winning and multicultural Jewish writers. After presentations by each of the featured authors, the program culminated with a panel discussion during which the audience members were able to engage in lively discussion with the authors.

The symposium addressed the theme of "passages" and the ways in which the authors' journeys between cultural worlds and identities have affected them, both as Jews and as authors. These diverse, individual journeys were explored in relation to the passages theme ingrained in the collective Jewish experience of immigration, emigration, exile, and expulsion. Yael Zerubavel said, "The movements between various social, cultural, and political milieus introduce deep ruptures into the lives of individuals and transplanted communities, while also producing a creative tension that becomes fertile ground for exploring the constantly shifting and elusive categories of home and exile."

**Michal Govrin**, an award-winning Israeli poet, author, and theater director and the Bildner Center's Aresty Visiting Fellow and Writer-in-Residence, served as program moderator. The author of *The Name*, which received Israel's Kugel



Left: Allen Bildner, Yael Zerubavel, Joan Bildner, and Alan Sagner

Below: Ronit Matalon, Michal Govrin, Marjorie Agosin, Jonathan Rosen, Yael Zerubavel and Norman Manea

Prize, and other works, Govrin noted the diversity of the panelists and referred to them as witnesses of the passages that took place during the twentieth century, a period notorious for its mass migrations and wars. She further observed that this past century witnessed perhaps the greatest historical uprooting of the Jewish people, which is echoed in the writers' personal histories or the biographies of their family members and is articulated in various ways through their writings.

Among those joining Matalon, the author of *The One Facing Us* and *Strangers at Home*, was **Norman Manea**, the award-winning Romanian author of numerous works including *On Clowns: The Dictator and the Artist* and *The Black Envelope*. Manea addressed how moving among numerous languages and political ideologies has shaped his writing. He noted that although he has lived in numerous places and knows many languages, he has always been labeled a Romanian writer. Displeased by such a label, he explained that as a Jew he believes he has a broader identity. Nonetheless, he remarked, the label persists.

**Jonathan Rosen**, the award-winning American author of the novel *Eve's Apple* and the work *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey Between Worlds*, as well as an avid bird-watcher, made a compelling comparison between birds and Jews. He noted that both birds and



Jews always pass from one location to another, live in numerous places, exist as creatures of both earth and air, mediate between two worlds. While Jews constantly cross back and forth between two elements or worlds, between their religious tradition and the culture of the society in which they reside, he said, the Jewish experience in America and Americans' faith in happy endings make bringing these two worlds together possible.

**Marjorie Agosin**, the critically acclaimed Latin American poet and author of *Taking Root: Growing Up Jewish in Latin America*, among many other works, focused on her difficult childhood experiences as a Jewish girl in Catholic Chile. She said she felt she was an outsider or "visitor" in her own country. She remarked, "People would ask me, 'What are you? Are you a Chilean or a Jew?' I wanted to be both." Agosin's family moved to Georgia when she was fourteen, and she had to adapt to this new cultural environment, once again living as a minority within a community. Agosin indicated that her parents were instrumental in helping to mold her identity. "Through my parents, I came to understand my own Diaspora. Only then was I able to become a Jewish writer."



## Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, a much-anticipated cultural event in central New Jersey, offered an expanded selection of critically acclaimed international films, stimulating speakers, and festivities over an eleven-day period. The sold-out opening-night screening of *Focus* set the tone for the festival, which drew large to sold-out crowds. Robert Sklar, film historian, critic, and professor of cinema at New York University, offered insight into this dramatic feature film, which explores anti-Semitism and extreme social paranoia in a Brooklyn neighborhood toward the end of World War II. About 120 people gathered at the opening-night reception to enjoy a light supper and live music by Michael Alpert of Brave Old World, Margot Leverett, and Paul Morrissett of the Klezmatics.

The festival welcomed Rutgers students, high-school students, and youth groups to the documentary screenings. With the generous financial support of the dean of Rutgers College, one hundred students from Rutgers' "History of the Holocaust" course were



**Yael Zerubavel, Sharon Karmazin, Leslie Fishbein, Karen Small**

able to attend the screenings of Claude Lanzmann's acclaimed documentary *Sobibor, October 14, 1943, 4 P.M.*, which focuses on a successful uprising by Jewish prisoners in the Sobibor extermination camp during World War II. A class of fifty students from a high school on Staten Island attended this film as well. Many members of the audience were drawn by the opportunity to hear New Jersey's own Esther Turner Raab, an escapee from Sobibor, who offered moving testimony on her experiences during the war. In addition, a confirmation class from the Adath Israel Congregation of Lawrenceville attended a screening of the documentary *Promises*, which explores the Middle East conflict through the eyes of seven Israeli and Palestinian children living in Jerusalem after the Oslo Peace Accords and before the most recent *intifada* (Palestinian uprising).

The festival closed with the New Jersey

premiere of *Anna's Summer*, a visually stunning dramatic feature film about a woman exploring her husband's Sephardic Jewish ancestry. Rutgers' own American Studies and Jewish Studies Professor Leslie Fishbein discussed the Jewish themes featured throughout the film. Festival patrons enjoyed an exclusive reception at the conclusion of the event.

**The festival is made possible through the generous support of the Karma Foundation.** The Fourth Annual Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival will be held from Thursday, November 6, through Sunday, November 16, 2003.

### Fall 2002 Festival Films

#### Focus

USA, 2001, director: Neal Slavin

#### Promises

USA, 2001, directors: Justine Shapiro, B.Z. Goldberg, Carlos Bolado

#### Sobibor, October 14, 1943, 4 P.M.

(Central New Jersey Premiere)  
France, 2001,  
director: Claude Lanzmann

#### Leo and Claire

Germany, 2000,  
director: Joseph Vilsmaier

#### Silence

United Kingdom, 1998,  
directors: Orly Yaddin and  
Sylvie Bringas

#### Late Marriage

Israel, 2001,  
director: Dover Kosashvili

#### Anna's Summer

Germany, 2001,  
director: Jeanine Meerapfel

### ELIAS PROFILE

(Continued from page 2)

ing its internship program for students, and he hopes the department will be able to offer a master's degree program in Jewish communal service or Jewish education.

Elias's research on emotional intelligence is reflected in his numerous publications, which include *Social Problem Solving: Interventions in the Schools* (1996); *Emotionally Intelligent Parenting: How to Raise a Self-Disciplined, Responsible, Socially Skilled Child* (2000); and *Raising Emotionally Intelligent Teenagers: Parenting With Love, Laughter, and Limits* (2002). The two books on

parenting have been translated into Hebrew and published in Israel. Elias's most recent publication, with Jeffrey Kress, is entitled "A Comprehensive Skill Building Approach to Jewish Values: Social and Emotional Learning and Caring Early Childhood Classrooms," and is featured in the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education's most recent volume, *Jewish Values for Growing Outstanding Jewish Children*. In addition to his academic publications, Elias used to write one weekly column called "Parenting Matters" for the *Home News Tribune* and another called "Family Matters" for the *Star-Ledger*, dealing with the concerns of parenting.

## Outreach To Bergen County

In an initiative to broaden its outreach, the Bildner Center hosted a special gathering on April 30 for the leadership of the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson, which co-sponsored the event.

Organized with the assistance of the federation's executive vice president, **Howard Charish**, and president, **Dr. Len Cole**, the program included addresses by Rutgers' new president, **Richard L. McCormick**, and **Professor Yael Zerubavel**, followed by a question-and-answer period. Their presentations highlighted Rutgers' mission as a public university, the unique scope of activities of the Bildner Center, and the development of the Department of Jewish Studies. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with President McCormick at a reception held in advance of the formal program.

The event was an opportunity to further strengthen the relationship that the Bildner Center has developed with the Jewish federations throughout New Jersey during the two-year Think Tank program in 2000–2002.

### Campaign Leadership Committee Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to welcome **Arline Schwartzman** and **Roy Tanzman** to the Center's Campaign Leadership Committee. They join **Joan Bildner** and **Alvin Rockoff**, campaign co-chairs, and committee members **Bruce Freeman**, **Herbert Klein**, **Sima Jelin**, **Norman Reitman**, and **Adelaide Zagoren**. The committee is hard at work on raising funds for the Center's endowment campaign in support of the academic program and educational initiatives for school-teachers and the community.

### Friends of the Bildner Center at the Jewish Museum

Friends of the Bildner Center gathered in June at the Jewish Museum in New York City for a festive evening featuring an insider's look at the acclaimed exhibit

"Entertaining America: Jews, Movies, and Broadcasting." This exclusive event included a special tour of the exhibit and a reception at which participants enjoyed the unique opportunity to learn

more about this fascinating exhibit from Rutgers' Professor of Jewish Studies Jeffrey Shandler, who served as guest co-curator of the exhibit.

"Entertaining America: Jews, Movies, and Broadcasting" is an arcade-like setting of media installations, posters, vintage photographs, and memorabilia related to the history of American Jews and the media. The exhibit seeks to amplify and extend the conversation generated over the past century about American Jews and how they have made, responded to, and been perceived in motion pictures, radio programs, and television shows.



Harriet Tabak with Ellen and Herb Hersh



Left: Toby Stolzer and Arline Schwartzman

### MEETING THE BILDNERS' CHALLENGE GRANT

**Allen and Joan Bildner's** generous gift of \$2 million helped establish the Center for the Study of Jewish Life in 1996. Their support of the center has continued with a \$1 million *matching grant*, challenging others to support the growth of Jewish studies at Rutgers. The Center is halfway toward meeting this goal, but *we need your help*. Your gift will help us capitalize on the

potential of this challenge and contribute to the Center's endowment. When the challenge is met, the Bildners' \$1 million gift will support a faculty position; other gifts will help fund a broad range of activities that the Center offers. The process of meeting with very interested individuals to meet the goal. But, we still need your help because we need to maximize the potential of this grant.

### Center Appoints New Director of Development

Paul Kuznekoff was appointed director of development for the Bildner Center. He has worked in the field of development since 1975, most recently serving as director of development in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers. His prior experience in fund-raising includes serving as director of development for American ORT and as assistant director of development for the Anti-Defamation League. He has also served as the New York director of commerce and industry for the Development Corporation for Israel (State of Israel Bonds) and as the senior director for comprehensive fund development in the national office of the American Lung Association.

# STUDENT NEWS



## Ami Foger

When Ami Foger enrolled at Rutgers, he planned to become a Jewish history major. After taking his first course with Leonard Levin, an adjunct professor of Jewish studies and philosophy, his interests shifted toward studying Jewish philosophy in its historical context. Professor Levin's

course on classical Jewish philosophy sparked his interest in the relationships between general and Jewish philosophy, affirming his long-standing interest in Jewish philosophy while whetting his appetite for further research in the field of general philosophy. Ami, a recent graduate and recipient of the award of the Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund, became a double major in Jewish studies (with a focus on philosophy) and philosophy.

While at Rutgers, Ami undertook challenging independent research projects in the areas of Jewish philosophy and Jewish law. Ami's fascination with Maimonides' radical conception of prophecy led him to undertake an independent study on this topic, exploring the meaning of Maimonides' views and attempting to reconcile various scholarly works on the subject.

Soon after, Ami began work on his Henry Rutgers Scholars Honors Thesis. He had planned to write about the relationship between the Talmud and philosophy, a very broad topic. As he sought to narrow down his topic, he took a course on the Dead Sea Scrolls with Professor of Jewish Studies Azzan Yadin. During the semester, Professor Yadin introduced theories regarding the rabbinic method of formulating and transmitting law that broadened Ami's previous approach to the subject. Ami's profound interest in this area caused a shift in his research to a study of the methodologies used in the formulation of rabbinic law. Ami's thesis, "Evolution of Rabbinic Law—Tradition vs. Exegesis," was written under the joint supervision of Professor Levin and Professor Yadin, and it draws on a wide body of scholarship to demonstrate the ways in which Jewish law is based on both biblical and rabbinic authority.

Ami says that as an observant Jew, his research has been challenging and has carried both intellectual and emotional import. He believes that it is important to have a thorough understanding of his religion and is excited by how much his academic research has broadened his knowledge and understanding of Jewish law.

Ami is currently deciding whether to pursue a law degree or to work toward a Ph.D. in Jewish philosophy while simultaneously studying to become a rabbi. His interest in becoming a rabbi does not stem from the goal of serving as a rabbi, but rather is motivated by his wish to balance the secular, academic study of Judaism with religious learning. In this way, he hopes to gain as broad a knowledge of Judaism as possible.



## Aviva Kieffer

Raised in a home imbued with Zionism and a love of Israel, Aviva Kieffer developed a passion for Israel early in life. A recent Rutgers graduate and recipient of the award of the Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Endowed Student Support Fund, she spent her freshman year at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, gaining a

deeper understanding of Israeli society and grappling with questions about the role that Israel should play in her Jewish identity. When she arrived at Rutgers, Aviva became a Jewish studies major with a concentration in Israel studies.

Aviva was particularly influenced by her early course "Jewish Society and Culture I," which offered her insight into the social, economic, religious, and political experience of the Jews from biblical times through the fifteenth century. She later pursued major interests in modern Zionism and contemporary Israeli culture through her course work.

Through the Department of Jewish Studies and supervised by Maurice Elias, professor of psychology and Jewish studies, Aviva undertook an internship with the United Jewish Communities (UJC). This internship marked the culmination of her efforts as a campus activist in support of Israel and of strengthening the collective voice of Jewish youth on college campuses. As the UJC Rutgers campus intern, Aviva served as a liaison between the UJC and the Jewish students on campus with the goal of connecting these students to all aspects of the Jewish Federation system. As Aviva noted: "I did a great deal of networking so that Rutgers' rapidly growing, vibrant Jewish community will be able to access resources in the organized Jewish community. I also wanted to spread the message locally and nationally to Jewish organizations about how strong the Jewish community is at Rutgers."

The internship taught Aviva a great deal about issues facing Israel, American Jewry, and Jewish students on campus, as well as the ways in which the Jewish community addresses these concerns. Her final project included writing an op-ed piece about responses to anti-Semitic provocation on college campuses. Her research shows that the potency of Jewish students' responses to anti-Semitism has been underestimated, and that these students are helped tremendously by a multitude of resources provided to college campuses by organizations such as Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, on whose international board of directors Aviva sat for several years.

A Hebrew school teacher for many years, Aviva plans to earn a master's degree in education and begin a career teaching in a Jewish day school. She remembers her own experiences at Jewish day school fondly, but would also like to improve upon the current system of Jewish day school education to be inclusive of special needs students. Aviva has worked with special needs children in both a summer camp and a school setting, and she would like to be an instrumental force in promoting widespread special education programs in Jewish day schools.



# STUDENT NEWS

## Student Awards

### **Jonathan Kobrinski '03**

The Leonard and Adele Blumberg Student Award  
The Sandra and Stephen M. Greenberg Student Award Fund

### **Ami Yares '03**

The Louis Fishman Memorial Student Support Fund

### **Leo Brown '04**

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

### **Tatyana Knizhnik '03**

### **Leora Trub '03**

The Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Undergraduate Scholarship

### **Jeffrey Delle Chiaie '03**

The Norma U. and David M. Levitt Student Award

### **Deborah Gill '03**

The Bernice and Milton I. Luxemburg Student Award Fund

### **Aviva Kieffer '03**

The Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Endowed Student Support Fund

### **Sarah Cohen '03**

The Harold and Betty Perl Endowed Scholarship

### **Ari Corman '04**

The Reitman Family Student Award

### **Rebecca Leibowitz '04**

The Ruth Feller Rosenberg Endowed Student Award Fund

### **Rachel Berger '03**

### **Ami Foger '04**

### **Sara Kellerman '03**

### **Amy Weiss '05**

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

## THE STUDENT AWARD CEREMONY



**Sarah Cohen with Prof. Chaim I. Waxman**



**Above: Rachel Berger with Prof. Orly Moshenberg and Prof. Leonard Levin**



**Below: Amy Weiss with Theodore Metzendorf**

### **IN MEMORIAM: TRIBUTE TO BARUCH SEIDMAN**

The Bildner Center is deeply indebted to Judge Baruch Seidman, who generously supported the center during the crucial moments of its early development and who died in August of 2002. A Rutgers alumnus, Judge Seidman benefited from a Rutgers scholarship and wished to give back to the university by supporting students. Judge Seidman's multifaceted support included the endowment of an annual scholarship award for students majoring in Jewish Studies who demonstrate outstanding achievement. The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund will continue to provide annual scholarships that profoundly affect the lives of Jewish Studies students.



## JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATES MAY 2003

### Alumni News

**Sharon Green**, RC '01, is working in Washington, D.C., as a program instructor for the Close Up Foundation, a nonprofit organization that runs civic education programs for high school and middle school students, as well as new Americans and other groups. Sharon's responsibilities include planning and leading daily student workshops and mediating discussions between students and members of Congress with the goal of offering students greater knowledge of their government and current political issues. One of her most challenging experiences has been running a workshop on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Shoshana Kordova**, RC '00, made aliyah in June 2000 after completing her master's degree in journalism at Columbia University. She moved to Jerusalem and became acting associate editor for the *Jerusalem Post's* international edition. Subsequently, she wrote for *Ha'aretz's* English edition, where she was involved primarily with "Anglo File," the weekly section devoted to news and feature items of interest to English speakers. She is now doing freelance work for American and British newspapers while continuing to freelance for *Ha'aretz*.

**Ari Yares**, RC '99, is finishing a doctorate in school psychology at Temple University in Philadelphia. As part of the doctoral program, he taught an educational technology course to education majors at Temple and is currently interning in the Newark public school system as a school psychologist. Upon graduating, he plans to work as a school psychologist, but he hopes ultimately to enter academia and teach psychology at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also works for United Synagogue Youth as a religion/education field worker for Northern New Jersey, planning the educational curriculum for the region's conventions.

#### Majors

Rachel Berger  
Marisa Bernstein  
Robyn Bluestone  
Sarah Cohen  
Jeffrey Delle Chiaie  
Daniela Gross  
Sara Kellerman  
Aviva Kieffer  
Marissa Lieberman  
Raina Spivack  
Liliya Tanenbaum  
Mary Thomas

Leora Trub  
Allison Weinstein  
Ami Yares

#### Minors

Rebecca Baron  
Jonathan Berkowitz  
Orit Carmiel  
Sara Chvala  
Andrew Eis  
Davida Eisenberg  
Edythe Fineman  
Deborah Gill

Jackie Greenbaum  
Joshua Jacobs  
Michelle Klein  
Tatyana Knizhnik  
Rebecca Novick  
Justine Reuben  
Stephen Rosenberg  
Julia Roytburd  
Michal Schindel  
Renee Stein  
Elizabeta Tertychnaya  
Avital Yarmush  
Janette Zeligman

### Career Night: Post-College Opportunities

What do Jewish Studies students do with their B.A. degrees when they leave Rutgers? Students gathered at the Bildner Center learn about career opportunities in the Jewish community. Dr. Ilana Abramovitch, manager of curriculum at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, talked about careers with Jewish museums; Rabbi Uri Gordon, director of the Jewish Teacher Corps, spoke about post-college work in the field of Jewish education; Rabbi David Wise of Temple Beth El in Somerset talked about the rabbinate; Azzan Yadin, assistant professor in Rutgers' Department of Jewish Studies, spoke about academia; and Karen Small, the Bildner Center's associate director, talked about Jewish communal service.

#### HONORS THESES

**Sara Cohen** — "Modern Mikvah Use: Traditional Viewpoints and Contemporary Attitudes in the Conservative Movement" (Jewish Studies Honors Thesis)

**Ami Foger** — "The Evolution of Rabbinic Law: Exegesis or Tradition?" (Jewish Studies Honors Thesis; Rutgers College: Henry Rutgers Scholars Honors Thesis)

**Leora Trub** — "The Counselor Within: Exploring the Role of Counseling in the Rabbinic Identity" (Jewish Studies Honors Thesis; Rutgers College: Henry Rutgers Scholars Honors Thesis)

**Ami Yares** — "The Evolving Tradition of Contemporary Iraqi Jewish Music" (Jewish Studies Honors Thesis; Livingston College: Paul Robeson Honors Thesis)



**Authors of Jewish Studies Honors Theses with their advisors:**  
**Back Row** — Prof. Lenny Levin, Sarah Cohen, Prof. Phyllis Mack, Prof. Yael Zerubavel, Leora Trub, Prof. Azzan Yadin. **Front Row** — Ami Foger, Prof. Maurice Elias, Ami Yares

# FACULTY UPDATES

**Yael Zerubavel** continued to serve as director of the Bildner Center and was chair of the Department of Jewish Studies. Among her publications this past year are “The Mythological Sabra and the Jewish Past: Trauma, Memory, and Contested Identities,” *Israel Studies* 7, no. 2 (summer 2002); “Rachel and the Female Voice: Labor, Gender, and the Zionist Pioneer Vision,” in *History and Literature: New Readings of Jewish Text in Honor of Arnold J. Band*, edited by David C. Jacobson and William Cutter (Brown Judaic Studies Series, 2002), and “The Israeli War Widow in Fiction and Film,” in *Landscaping the Human Garden*, edited by Amir Weiner (Stanford University Press, 2003). Her professional activities included participation in an Institute for Teachers on Israel, at Emory University in summer 2002. She gave a presentation on “Language of Loss in a Landscape of Conflict: On War Widows, Bereaved Mothers and the Literary Imagination in Contemporary Israel,” in a conference sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem (December 2002) and was a guest lecturer at Hebrew University, Haifa University, and Alma College in Tel Aviv (December 2002). Zerubavel also presented “The Desert and the Settlement: The Construction of Space, Memory and Identity in Modern Israeli Culture,” in a conference on “Jewish Conceptions and Practices of Space” at Stanford University and “Major Themes in Israeli Literature” in a symposium on “The Jewish State and the Democratic Tradition” at CUNY, the Graduate Center (May 2003). She also participated in a panel discussion on “Building the Jewish Future: Jewish Life and the College Campus,” sponsored by the Trust for Jewish Philanthropy at the Jewish Federations’ General Assembly in Philadelphia in fall 2002. Zerubavel continues to serve on the editorial boards of *Israel Studies* (Indiana University Press), *Journal of Israeli History* (Tel Aviv University), and *Israel Studies Forum* (Association for Israel Studies).

**Myron Aronoff** published “Democratizations in Diversely Fissured Societies,” in *Democratizations: Complex Perspectives, Compound Contexts*, edited by J.V. Ciprut; and “Temporal and Spatial Dimensions of Contested Israeli Nationhood,” in *Exploitation and Overexploitation in Societies Past and Present*, edited by Brigitta Benzig and Bernd Hermann. In addition, he contributed entries in two encyclopedias: “Political Culture” in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes, editors in chief) and “Political and Legal Anthropology” in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Aronoff is listed in the sixth edition of *Who’s Who in American Education*, as he has been in previous years. He was a discussant of a panel at the meeting of the Association for Israel Studies, held in San Diego (April 2003).

**William Donahue** received the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for “The End of Modernism: Elias Canetti’s *Auto-da-Fé*,” *The Modern Language Association of America* (December 2002). During the past year, he delivered a number of lectures and papers: “Orientalism Reconsidered: Elias Canetti’s *Voices of Marrakesh*,” at the Rutgers Transliterations Conference (March 2003); “The Sacred & Secular in Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis*,” at Canisius College (March 2003); “The Holocaust in Fiction and History,” *Teaching Strategies from History, Literature, and Sociology, Lessons & Legacies*, Minneapolis (November 2002); “The Holocaust and the Postmodern: Recent German Literature,” Series on Teaching Holocaust Literature, at the Bildner Center (October 2002); “Old and New Worlds in Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis* and Elias Canetti’s *Auto-da-Fé*,” at the Chicago Vienna Symposium, University of Illinois—Chicago (October 2002); “The Popular Culture Alibi: Bernhard Schlink’s Detective Fiction and the Culture of Left-Liberal ‘Repression,’” at the German Studies Association Annual Convention, San Diego (October 2002); and “The Graying of the Red: The Repudiation of ‘68er Activism (and Beyond) in Bernhard Schlink’s *Der Vorleser*,” in “*Ich will anders sein*: *Difference in Contemporary Germany*,” conference, at Nottingham Trent University (July 2002). In addition, Donahue was named to the Advisory Board of the *Encyclopedia of Antisemitism and Anti-Jewish Prejudice*, edited by Richard Levy.

**Maurice Elias** published *Academic and Social-Emotional Learning*, Educational Practices Series, booklet no. 11 (International Academy of Education [IAE] and International Bureau of Education [IBE], 2003); He also wrote “Road Signs for Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Teenager,” *The Humor Connection* 16, no. 5 (2002). He co-edited with H.A. Arnold and C.S. Hussey, *EQ + IQ = Best Leadership Practices for Caring and Successful Schools* (Corwin Press, 2003). In addition, Elias co-authored the following: with J.S. Kress, “Creating Lasting Programming for Jewish Identity and Values: Keeping Initiatives Afloat in Rough Seas,” *Journal of the Jewish Educators Assembly* (winter 2003); with I. Cohen and J.S. Kress, “Classroom Climate in an Orthodox Day School: The Contribution of Emotional Intelligence, Demographics, and Classroom Context,” *Journal of Jewish Education* 68, no. 1 (2002). Elias gave the following keynote presentations, “Emotional Intelligence: The Missing Piece in Education,” at the Second International Seminar on Educational Trends for the 21st Century, at DUXX, the Graduate School of Business Leadership, in Monterrey, Mexico (October 2002) and “Exemplary and Promising Prevention Programs in the Schools: Key

Components and Implementation Strategies,” at the annual conference of the Middlesex County Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in Sayreville (October 2002). He presented “Parents Today Are Different: How to Work with Them with Emotional Intelligence” at the annual meeting of the N.J. Association for the Education of Young Children, in East Brunswick, (October 2002); “Be a Mensch, Raise a Mensch: How to Be an Emotionally Intelligent Parent and Raise Strong, Self-Disciplined, Responsible, and Socially Resilient Children,” to Jewish Family Services/Jewish Federation of Durham—Chapel Hill, North Carolina (November 2002); and “Parenting with Emotional Intelligence: Guiding the Way to Compassionate, Committed, Courageous Adults” at the annual meeting of the New Jersey PTA, Atlantic City (December 2002). Elias and J.S. Kress presented a paper, “Building Learning Communities of Character: How to Create Effective, Enduring Programs to Enhance Positive Values, Identity, and Academic Success,” sponsored by the Center for Applied Psychology, of Rutgers University’s Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, in Piscataway (January 2003).

**Leslie Fishbein** organized a session entitled “Too Jewish” at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Houston (November 2002), and presented a paper during that session entitled “So Jewish, Too Jewish, Not Jewish: The Intersecting Axes of Identity of Jewish-American Women in the Public Sphere.”

**Ziva Galili** spent the year pursuing her research on Zionism in Soviet Russia in the 1920s. After five years as Vice Dean of the Graduate School and before starting a three-year term as Chair of the History Department, Galili spent the year on sabbatical. She participated in a research group on the “Russian Context of Modern Jewish Culture” at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem (Spring 2003). During this time, she completed three chapters for a co-authored book, entitled *Prison or Palestine: The Immigration of Soviet Zionist Convicts, 1924-1937*, to be published by Kass Publishers of London. Galili also completed an article to be published in the *Journal of Israeli History* (Tel Aviv University) entitled “The Soviet Experience of Zionism: Importing Soviet Political Culture to Palestine.”

**Phyllis Mack** delivered the keynote address, “Women and John Wesley,” at a conference on John Wesley in Manchester, England (June 2003). She also presented papers on “Writing and the Construction of Emotion in 18th Century England,” at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies, Baltimore (November 2002); and on “Women, Writing, and

Religion,” before the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), at the University of California at Los Angeles (August 2003). In addition, she delivered lectures on “Religion, Feminism, and the Problem of Agency,” at the University of Michigan (April 2002); and on “18th Century Religious Dissenters,” at the University of Minnesota (February 2003).

**Alicia Ostriker** published “Psalm and Anti-Psalm: A Personal View,” *American Poetry Review* (August 2002); and “The Book of Ruth and the Love of the Land,” *Biblical Interpretations* (fall 2002). She also delivered several lectures: “The Nakedness of the Fathers: Feminism and Contemporary Midrash,” at the Brandeis University Center for Research on Women (April 2002); “A New Genre: Contemporary Midrash,” at the Frost Place Writing Conference (August 2002); “War and Peace in Biblical Texts,” part of a four-day workshop that she led at the National Havurah Conference, New Hampshire (August 2002); “A New Genre: Contemporary Midrash,” as the Bennington Writing Program Visiting Faculty Lecture (January 2003); and “Visions and Revisions in Allen Ginsberg’s ‘Howl,’” as the Bennington Writing Program Visiting Faculty Lecture. These last two lectures were also delivered at Bar-Ilan University in May 2003. In addition to numerous poetry readings, there were three performances of her cantata, *Jephthah’s Daughter* (set to music by Moshe Budmor): the premiere, at the College of New Jersey (March 2002); Detroit University’s Mercy College (October 2002); and West-Park Presbyterian Church (November 2002).

**Barbara Reed** presented a paper, on the (London) *Jewish Chronicle’s* coverage of the American Civil War, to the tenth annual symposium on “The Press, Civil War, and Free Expression in the 19th Century,” in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In addition, her book *Outsiders in 19th-Century Press History: Multicultural Perspectives*, co-edited with Dr. Frankie Hutton, was accepted by the University of Wisconsin Press.

**Jeffrey Shandler** is co-author and co-editor, with J. Hoberman, of *Entertaining America: Jews, Movies, and Broadcasting* (Princeton University Press/The Jewish Museum, 2003); he is also the editor of *Awakening Lives: Autobiographies of Jewish Youth in Poland before the Holocaust* (Yale University Press/YIVO Institute, 2002), for which he was a finalist for the 2003 Koret Jewish Book Award. In addition, Shandler wrote “The Testimony of Images: The Allied Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps in American Newsreels,” in *American and International Journalism*

*During the Holocaust*, edited by Robert Moses Shapiro (Yeshiva University Press, 2003); and “The State of Yiddish Studies: Some Observations and Thoughts,” *Conservative Judaism* 54, no. 4 (2002).

Shandler presented papers at numerous conferences and other events including “Audiences as Artifacts,” at the 2003 Council of American Jewish Museums Conference; “In Yiddish/On Yiddish: The Self-Reflexive Yiddish Poem,” at the 118th Modern Language Association Annual Convention; “Mirroring Evil: Reflections of Controversies Past,” at the 34th Annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference. “Autobiography and the Holocaust: Reflections on Oskar Rosenfeld’s In the Beginning Was the Ghetto,” at Deutsches Haus, New York University; “The Image of Isaac Bashevis Singer in American Films” (in Yiddish), at the Third International Advanced Seminar in Yiddish Studies; “The Jewish Mark Twain: Sholem Aleichem’s Life and Legacy in America,” at McGill University; “At Home on the Small Screen: American Jews and Television,” at Princeton University; “Post-vernacular Yiddish: Language as a Performance Art,” at Northwestern University; “Living Room Witnesses: American Television and the Holocaust,” at the University of Missouri; “The Virtual Rebbe: The Media Culture of the Lubavitcher Hasidim,” at the University of Maryland; and “Staging the Shtetl: The Memory Projects of Yaffa Eliach,” at the Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania. For the Bildner Center, Shandler presented “Yiddish Literature of the Holocaust” for public school teachers. In addition, he was the co-curator of a media exhibition, “Entertaining America: Jews, Movies, and Broadcasting,” at the Jewish Museum in New York.

**Nancy Sinkoff** wrote a chapter, “Strategy and Ruse in the Haskalah of Mendel Lefin of Satanow,” in *New Perspectives on the Haskalah*, edited by Shmuel Feiner and David Sorkin. (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization). Her manuscript *Out of the Shtetl: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands* was awarded a 2002 Koret Jewish Studies Publications Program subvention, and is forthcoming from Brown University Press Judaic Studies monograph series. Her article “The Maskil, the Convert and the Agunah: Joseph Perl as a Historian of Jewish Divorce Law” is forthcoming in the *AJS Review*; also forthcoming are “Haskalah,” an entry in the *Dictionary of Early Modern Europe*, edited by Donald Kelley (Scribner’s); and, in Hebrew, “Between History and Law: The Case of Joseph Perl in Austrian Galicia,” *Proceedings of the Second International Conference on the Enlightenment, Bar-Ilan University*. Sinkoff gave lectures on “1772: Polish Jews and the Transformation of

European Jewry,” at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (December 2002); and “Doing Jewish Women’s History in Austrian Galicia,” in Hebrew, at Bar-Ilan University.

**Chaim I. Waxman** served as acting chair of the Department of Jewish Studies in spring 2003. Waxman co-edited, with Uzi Rebhun, *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns* (Brandeis University Press/University Press of New England, scheduled for 2003). In addition, Waxman wrote “The American Mizrahi Organization, American Orthodoxy, and the American Jewish Community” (in Hebrew), *Hadoar* 82, no. 1 (September 2002); four entries in the *Encyclopedia of American Religion and Politics*, edited by Paul A. Djupe and Laura R. Olson (Facts On File, 2003); “The Jewish Identity and Identification Baby Boomers, Youth, and Children in the US,” in *Contemporary Jewries: Convergence and Divergence*, vol. 2 of *Jewish Identities in a Changing World* (Brill, 2003); “What We Don’t Know about the Judaism of America’s Jews,” *Contemporary Jewry* 23 (2003); and “Jewish Education Does Matter,” in *Knowing What: Jewish Culture, Identity and Language*, edited by David Zisenwine, Studies in Culture, Identity and Community (Tel Aviv University, School of Education, 2003). Waxman presented a paper, “The Impact of 9/11 on the American Jewish Community and Jewish-Muslim Relations,” at a conference in Hebrew on “September 11, 2002—One Year after: Dialogue or Tension?” at the Mosaica-Research Center for Religion, Society and State, in Jerusalem (September 2002). He was also a panelist-presenter on the topic “The Significance and Implications of the National Jewish Population Survey,” at the International Conference on Jewish Demography, in Jerusalem (December 2002).

**Azzan Yadin** published “4QMMT, Rabbi Ishmael, and the Origins of Legal Midrash,” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 10 (2003); “A Greek Witness to the Semantic Shift ‘lkh’-‘buy,’” *Hebrew Studies* 43 (2002); “‘Shnei ketuvim’ and Rabbinic Intermediation,” *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 33 (2002); and “Samson’s ‘Hida,’” *Vetus Testamentum* 52 (2002). In addition, his book, *Scripture as Logos: Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Midrash*, was accepted by the University of Pennsylvania Press. He is currently working on a new book on the halakhic interpretation of Rabbi Akiva. Yadin also gave scholarly talks on “Rabban Gamliel and Proclus in the Bathhouse,” at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and “The Rabbinic Biography of Rabbi Akiva,” at Swarthmore College; he also taught a community course at Bnai Tikvah in North Brunswick, consisting of five evening lectures serving as an introduction to the Zohar. Yadin continues as Rabbinics book review editor at *Prooftexts*.



**THE ALLEN AND JOAN BILDNER  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY  
OF JEWISH LIFE**

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