

# Jewish Studies at Rutgers

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

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## We Mourn the Loss of Joan Bildner

**J**oan Bildner's vision to create a vibrant Jewish presence at New Jersey's state university focused not only on scholarship and research but also on community outreach. Her extraordinary commitment to promoting justice, equality, and diversity, and her strong advocacy of public education, informed this vision.

Joan wasn't just a dreamer, she was a doer. Joan and Allen, her husband of sixty-four years, founded the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers in 1996, stimulating a renaissance of Jewish life on campus and inspiring the development of Jewish studies at the university. In so doing, they created a lasting legacy.

► See **JOAN BILDNER** on page 9

## When Buildings Speak

### Shimon Attie Discusses Place and Memory in His Art

**I**n the years just after the fall of the Berlin Wall, one of Berlin's former Jewish quarters inexplicably drew visual artist **Shimon Attie** to its doorstep. He did not know the neighborhood's history, but the area that

had once been home to a vibrant Polish Jewish immigrant community soon became his window onto a lost world.

On the footprint of that historical Jewish quarter, Attie created his first major installation, *The Writing on the Wall*. His research in the city archives yielded photographic images from 1920s Berlin, which he

projected against the same buildings as they stood in the Berlin of the early 1990s. He then photographed the images to capture the gap between what he intuited about the past and what he could see before him.

At the **Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program** in March, "**Art and Memory: Moving Images**," Attie told a rapt audience of community members and Rutgers students at the Douglass Campus Center how the Berlin installation succeeded in physically reintroducing a forgotten community into the present architectural landscape and how it has continued to inform his artistic approach. Presented as part of the Bildner Center's ongoing series "**Art in the Public Space**," the program was funded by the **Karma Foundation** and cosponsored by the **Mason Gross School of the Arts**.

In his talk, Attie also referred to his works *Between Dreams and History (LES)*, in which he illuminated immigrant memories across building

► See **ATTIE** on page 5



Image courtesy of Jack Shaiman Gallery, New York

## Director's Desk



We tend to think about life as streaming forward: we create plans for future development, organize programs for the coming years, and worry about what the future holds. But then there are events that make us feel that a meaningful circle has closed and that take us beyond the flow of everyday life. They make us look back at the past and view the present from a different perspective.

Joan Bildner's sudden death brought about such a pause in time. Joan was the driving force behind the creation of the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers. She and her husband, Allen, participated in its development from a virtual idea to a full-fledged Center that offers a host of diverse educational programs and has a remarkable following from within and outside the Rutgers campus. With the insight gained during her service on the Rutgers Board of Governors, Board of Trustees, and Board of Overseers, Joan appreciated the rapid development of the Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies.

We will miss Joan and cherish the memory of her friendship, boundless energy, and remarkable strength. We are consoled that the Bildner Center continues her legacy as it impacts generations of students and faculty on campus, as well as the many community members who are affected by the Center's programs.

As this circle sadly comes to a close, the Center is embarking on a new initiative inspired by the Bildners' vision: a research group composed of Rutgers faculty and visiting scholars for the 2013–2014 academic year who will participate in an interdisciplinary seminar, "Contested Memories and the Politics of Change."

Writing this column in Israel, I am struck by the importance of our seminar's topic. As I revisited Masada, I noted again how this fascinating archaeological site continues to elicit different interpretations and practices. Now recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Masada attracts thousands of foreign visitors each year. A new museum displays scenes of ancient life at Masada in the context of its historical period, adding a new perspective.

Although the Masada narrative became an important Israeli national myth during the twentieth century, an older tour guide at the site shares with tourists his personal doubts about this interpretation, articulating its recent decline among Israelis. At the same time, an Orthodox Jewish organization now advertises Bar and Bat Mitzvahs at the site, embracing a tradition that first emerged among secular Israelis when some Orthodox scholars hotly debated the legitimacy of the suicide at Masada and its heroic interpretation.

This example, drawn from my own research, is one of many that demonstrate how the interpretation of the past is not merely an abstract academic concern but has direct relevance to the present. It presents the kind of issues that the Center's seminar will explore this year more broadly, in multiple contexts, and from different disciplinary perspectives.

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

## Chair's Desk



Humanities faculties throughout the country, whether researching and teaching at private colleges or in major public research institutions, faced a challenging year. A tough economy continued to induce students to focus on courses and majors that they hope will make them marketable when they graduate. Area studies programs that are not immediately associated with professional training have been put on the defensive. Terms such as "metrics" and "assessment" increasingly shape the discourse among university presidents and administrators. This challenging climate has produced reflection, a kind of collective *heshbon ha-nefesh*, in our department, where we have prided ourselves on our commitment to a broad humanities-based approach to the culture, history, texts, and languages of the Jews from the biblical period to the present.

The Jewish studies faculty is thinking creatively about developing new courses that will emphasize the experience of the Jews in a more comparative framework. At the same time, we are working with other area studies departments in the School of Arts and Sciences to underscore the value of a humanities education for a complex job market. Every potential employer seeks curious, thoughtful, and well-educated students who can think critically and write clearly. A globalized world makes foreign language proficiency a necessity. Requiring self-motivation, organization, and time management abilities, our honors program allows students to pursue independent research projects in depth. Current topics include a pioneer digital humanities project on the book of Ben Sira, exploration of the complex phenomenon of humor related to Nazism, and research—using primary source material in Yiddish—into the role of Jewish women in the General Jewish Workers Bund of Russia and Poland.

Jewish studies at Rutgers continues to educate students to excel at all of these above-mentioned skills. Our graduating seniors are setting out to work in social service and social justice fields, the rabbinate, medicine, and public relations.

The department continues to develop its M.A. program in Jewish studies, and our first student will graduate in fall 2013. Students have been awarded language acquisition grants to study abroad as well as to participate in graduate student seminars and workshops domestically. While exploring Jewish life in all its historical epochs, our current students' specializations range from the experience of Jews in Renaissance Italy to late eighteenth-century Berlin, interwar Poland, and postwar America.

As I end my time as department chair and move into a year of research and writing, I am deeply gratified that the academic excellence and intellectual integrity of the Department of Jewish Studies have not been compromised by the economic climate. The research agendas of our faculty are creative and vigorous, and our students' college experiences continue to be defined by intellectual curiosity, scholarly distinction, and personal growth. I look forward to the department's continued success under the stewardship of Professor Jeffrey Shandler, the incoming department chair.

—Nancy Sinkoff, Chair  
Department of Jewish Studies

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## DEPARTMENT NEWS

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### New Minor Immerses Students in Hebrew Language and Israeli Culture

Hebrew is a language deeply rooted in history. For recent graduates **Boaz Morris** and **Ariana Kalkstein**, however, it is one that is increasingly important to their futures. In today's ever-shrinking world, they believe that mastering a second language has taught them adaptability, a powerful tool for making vital connections with other peoples and cultures. But the study of Hebrew has also enabled them to forge a meaningful bond with their own heritage.

Boaz and Ariana, who graduated this past spring, were the first to complete the new minor in Hebrew offered by the Department of Jewish Studies. The program engaged them fully in both the language and its culture, requiring them to read selections from Israeli newspapers and to listen to conversational Hebrew in a specialized language lab. The rigorous course of study primed them for academic success across the board and for the next stage in their careers.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Hebrew Language Program offers individualized attention and small classes, both standouts within a large university. The instructors, who are deeply invested in student success, provide an enriching curriculum—both in and out of the classroom—that makes the program much more than a course of academic study. Hebrew becomes an integral part of the students' broader social experience at Rutgers.

The faculty invite guest speakers, including Israeli writers and performers, and assign students to view Israeli films at the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival. In addition, students have the opportunity to share their thoughts with their peers in a year-end literary magazine written exclusively in Hebrew.

The program takes a fresh approach to language acquisition, allowing for total language immersion from beginner level to proficiency. It also challenges students to view Hebrew from an Israeli perspective, regardless of their backgrounds—Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and secular, New Jersey residents and foreign students, Jewish studies majors to premed candidates. In fact, the 70 to 100 undergraduates enrolled annually in the program represent a microcosm of the diversity that exists across the university campus.

Although they have different, occasionally even conflicting, worldviews, the students “connect through a



**Orly Moshenberg, Boaz Morris, Ariana Kalkstein, and Edna Bryn-Noiman**

shared passion for Hebrew language and Israeli culture,” says **Orly Moshenberg**, program coordinator.

Moshenberg, who studied applied linguistics at Rutgers and earned master's degrees in learning cognition and development and in counseling, stresses that the program requires a significant investment of time and effort from each student. But the students gradually internalize the language and culture to the point that their studies feel like a completely natural part of who they are.

The faculty includes not only Moshenberg but one

additional full-time and one part-time instructor. “That we are all Israeli creates a unique cultural intimacy among us. That filters into the classroom to create a special bond with our students as they become more engaged with Hebrew language and Israeli culture,” says Moshenberg.

The full-time instructor, **Edna Bryn-Noiman**, who

teaches advanced Hebrew and literature, came to Rutgers from Princeton via Tel Aviv Open University. She praises the program's core value of continuity. Students have access to multilevel courses that take them directly from the process of language acquisition to an exploration of contemporary Israeli literature through the lens of literary theory and criticism.

“Our classes show just how dynamic the Hebrew language is and how complex Israeli culture is,” she says. “Through language, students gain access to the literature, and through the literature, they find a way to relate on a deeper level to modern Israeli life.”

Ultimately, the Hebrew Language Program demonstrates that Hebrew is a powerful way to discover the world. But Moshenberg adds that “Hebrew is essentially a means of communication—with family, with community, with Israel, but equally with the self.”

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“Through language, students gain access to the literature, and through the literature, they find a way to relate on a deeper level to modern Israeli life.”

—Edna Bryn-Noiman

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To read Boaz and Ariana's talk at the student awards ceremony, visit [JewishStudies.rutgers.edu](http://JewishStudies.rutgers.edu).



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## DEPARTMENT NEWS

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### Paola Tartakoff Awarded Presidential Fellowship



**P**aola Tartakoff, who was recently promoted with tenure to associate professor of Jewish studies and history, received the **Presidential Fellowship for Teaching Excellence** as one of the university's most distinguished young faculty members. The fellowship honors newly tenured Rutgers professors for stellar instruction and outstanding scholarly work.


The accompanying citation from Rutgers President **Robert Barchi** praised Professor Tartakoff's "thoughtful and interactive teaching style, which stimulates student participation and creates a productive and nurturing classroom environment."

Tartakoff's first book, *Between Christian and Jew: Conversion and Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon, 1250–1391* (The Middle Ages Series, University of Pennsylvania Press), was published last year. Her current research, for which the fellowship provides a one-year grant, explores Christian conversion to Judaism in medieval Europe, both as a reality and as a trope in Christian law and literature. She is presently also examining artistic representations of Jewish conversion to Christianity in medieval illuminated manuscripts.

As part of the Bildner Center's free, noncredit Jewish Studies Online program, Tartakoff created a new course, "The Inquisition and the Jews." The mini-course provides a historical overview of the medieval, Spanish, Portuguese, and Roman inquisitions, and addresses some of the legacies of the Inquisition in the modern era.

This year, Tartakoff is teaching "Development of Europe I" in the Department of History and "Jewish Society and Culture I: Antiquity through the Middle Ages" in the Department of Jewish Studies. She is also developing an honors seminar entitled "Muslims, Christians, and Jews: Conflict and Coexistence."

### Maurice J. Elias Wins Susman Award



**Maurice J. Elias** was a winner of the 2013 **Warren I. Susman Award for Excellence in Teaching**, which recognizes outstanding service in stimulating and guiding the intellectual development of students at Rutgers University. An affiliated faculty member in Jewish studies, Elias is a professor of psychology and the director of the Rutgers Social and Emotional Learning Laboratory. His concern for fostering Jewish education and identity has led him to work with Jewish communal organizations and to create the Jewish Identity Development Project.

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### Faculty Seminars, 2012–2013

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### The Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar

**Ruth HaCohen**, the Artur Rubinstein Professor of Musicology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, presented "The Subversive Power of the Funeral March in the Meeting of Music and Politics" to a diverse group of faculty and graduate students at the Bildner Center in the fall semester.

She characterized the genre as paradoxically involving the unified choreography of the collective while taming the mournful emotions of the individual, employing the theoretical framework about collectivism and individualism in music that she developed with political scientist Yaron Ezrahi. She traced diverse examples of subversive voices and sounds that went against the grain of official narratives and accepted norms, including pieces by Purcell, Wagner, and Mahler.

HaCohen used the case study of the "American Civil War trilogy," which was adapted by the late Israeli lyricist Haim Hefer as "Hare'el Battle," reading it as one of the first antiwar expressions in Israel.

#### Additional faculty seminars:

**Yaakov Ariel**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: "Messianic Jews and the Growing Challenge of Hybridity in Contemporary Jewish Identity and Culture." Respondent: Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University.

**Wulf Kansteiner**, Binghamton University, SUNY: "Nazi Crimes, German Television, and the Comforts of Visual Narration." *Cosponsored by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies.*

**Marjorie Lehman**, Jewish Theological Seminary: "Searching for Faith in the Talmudic Corpus: A Response to the Spanish Expulsion." Respondent: Paola Tartakoff, Rutgers University.

**Sasha Senderovich**, Aresty Visiting Scholar, Bildner Center: "Reb Zelmele's Courtyard: Mock Ethnography and the Soviet Jewish Imagination." Respondent: Carol J. Avins, Rutgers University.

*Landscapes of Memory—The Life of Ruth Kluger*, a documentary film by **Renata Schmidt-kunz**. Discussion with the director and **Ruth Kluger**, Professor Emeritus of German Studies at the University of California, Irvine. *Cosponsored by the Department of Germanic, Russian, and East European Languages and Literatures.*

## Master's Degree in Jewish Studies

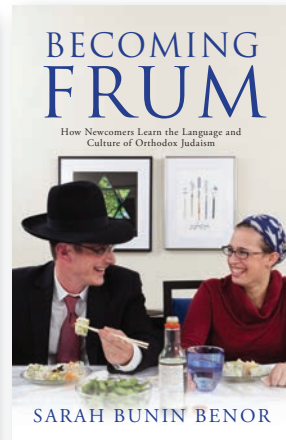
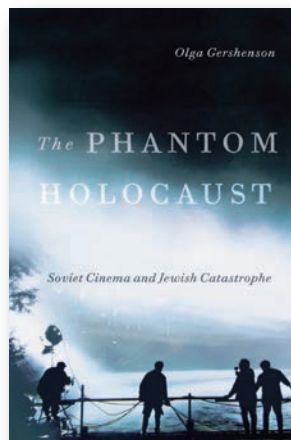
The master's in Jewish studies is designed for recent college graduates and nontraditional students seeking to advance their knowledge at the graduate level. The Rutgers program draws on the strength of its faculty in areas such as Jewish history, Bible, Jewish literature and cultural studies, religious studies, Yiddish, and Israel studies.

The program provides students with the necessary tools to understand the development of Jewish society from the era of the Bible to the present, to examine Jewish cultural production in its social, political, and historical contexts, and to read and analyze Jewish texts throughout the ages.

The program grew during its second year, further stimulating the intellectual life of the department and enhancing Rutgers' reputation in this field. Our students, who benefit from individualized attention and have regular interaction with faculty, are at various stages in their progress, ranging from taking courses to writing the capstone thesis.

For information, visit [JewishStudies.rutgers.edu](http://JewishStudies.rutgers.edu).

## Jewish Cultures of the World



Two new books have been published in the series Jewish Cultures of the World: *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism*, by **Sarah Bunin Benor**, and *The Phantom Holocaust: Soviet Cinema and Jewish Catastrophe*, by **Olga Gershenson**. The book series is edited by **Matti Bunzl** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and **Jeffrey Shandler** (Rutgers University), and published by **Rutgers University Press** in association with the **Bildner Center**.

### ► ATTIE from page 1

facades on New York's Lower East Side, and *Racing Clocks Run Slow: Anatomy*, which used video to portray the role of a closed racetrack in a Long Island town's communal memory. Both installations encouraged reflection on the relationships between memory, place, and identity.

Attie observed that regardless of their subject, his contemporary media works share the quality of "a peeling back of the wallpaper of today to reveal the histories buried underneath."

In *Attraction of Onlookers: Aberfan—The Anatomy of a Welsh Village*, Attie exposes the layers of mourning that followed a coal spoil-tip disaster, which demolished Aberfan's only elementary school, killing all but six students. The subsequent media frenzy further complicated the mourning process by stripping the village of its privacy and bestowing

upon it an enduring epithet, "the village that lost its children."

As the tragedy's fortieth anniversary approached, BBC Wales invited Attie to produce a contemporary artistic response that would provide a sense of closure. The only caveat precluded the use of archival material, an unusual departure for him. Ultimately, he created a multichannel video installation that rotated thirty-five iconic Welsh village types—from the minister to the fish-and-chips vendor—as if they were "floating in aspic."

"It gives visual form to the moving stillness of trauma," said Attie.

In his newest video installation, *MetroPALIS*, Attie explores the Arab-Israeli conflict through the voices of Israelis and Palestinians living in New York. The characters read from a document that blends their nations' separate declarations of independence, highlighting essential commonalities.

During his two-day visit to Rutgers, Attie made studio visits to Mason Gross M.F.A. students to critique their work and addressed **Yael Zerubavel's** graduate seminar, "Jewish Memory, Identity and Culture."

"Attie's visit created a wonderful opportunity for the students to discuss the challenge of representing the memory of a traumatic past in art," Zerubavel remarked. "They truly appreciated this personal engagement with the artist and his work."



Yael Zerubavel, Shimon Attie, and Sharon Karmazin

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## BILDNER CENTER PROGRAMS

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### Notes from Behind the Scenes

Last fall, our community faced enormous challenges as a result of Hurricane Sandy, and we know that many people are still recovering from this difficult ordeal. As the storm coincided with the planned opening of our annual Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to reschedule speakers and films and to accommodate hundreds of ticket holders. With no heat or power in many homes and businesses in New Jersey, the film festival provided a welcome outlet for warmth, community, and entertainment. Even with the unprecedented weather and our delayed opening, festival attendance was remarkable, and filmgoers had the opportunity to meet filmmakers, actors, and scholars.

The Center enjoys a close working relationship with

Rutgers faculty in Jewish studies and in other departments, many of whom have contributed their knowledge and expertise to the film festival and to our Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI). In particular, I would like to thank Professor Jeffrey Shandler, who has been the faculty adviser to the MTI for the past eight years. His innovative approach and breadth of knowledge have shaped the program's direction and been instrumental to its success. It has been my pleasure to work with him. Professor Paul Hanebrink from the Rutgers Department of History has taken on this role for the coming year, and we look forward to working with him. His talk "Nazi Policy and the Racist State" will launch our fall course, "Social Outsiders and the Holocaust," which will examine Nazi policy in relation to the disabled, homosexuals, and the Roma/Sinti population.

—Karen Small, Associate Director

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### Rutgers Jewish Film Festival

The thirteenth annual **Rutgers Jewish Film Festival**, the Bildner Center's largest public program, served up a rich cinematic slice of Jewish life to New Jersey filmgoers. The generous support of the **Karma Foundation** and a loyal circle of festival patrons made the event possible.

Each year, the festival screens films that explore elements of the universal human experience through a uniquely Jewish lens. At the core of the 2012 roster was the motif of family: parent-child conflict, sibling rivalry, the power of legacy, and the familial bond as metaphor.

In the documentaries *Life in Stills* and *The Flat*, which closed the festival, family legacy is a force that bridges the generation gap, bringing grandparents and grandchildren together through shared history and memory.

By contrast, in *Hitler's Children*, the legacy at play is the burden of a family name inextricably linked to the Holocaust. The film deftly chronicles how descendants of powerful Nazi figures cope with a history they cannot disinherit. Members of the Goering, Himmler, Hoess, and other families share the feelings of guilt and responsibility that shadow them in their daily lives.

The power of family also anchors the fast-paced thriller *Five Brothers*, set within France's tightly knit Algerian Jewish community. An estranged brother puts filial

loyalty to the test in this close-up look at the intimate world of sibling relationships.

Longtime festival supporters **David and Sylvia Steiner** sponsored the well-received screening of *Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment*, a look at the first 100 years of Israel's kibbutz movement.

Once again, the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival offered audiences the opportunity to see a moving selection of films that are rarely screened in local cinemas. From the heart-wrenchingly personal to broader moments in the Jewish national experience, the audience shared unique encounters that engaged them emotionally, intellectually, and culturally.

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### Perspective on the Film *Footnote*

Directed by Joseph Cedar and nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 2012, *Footnote* is a remarkable film, set in the relatively obscure world of academic Talmud scholarship. Its main focus is the relationship between a father and son, Eliezer and Uriel Shkolnik, respectively, both professors of classical rabbinic literature, whose emotional distance is exacerbated by Eliezer's disregard for Uriel's studies. It is Uriel, however, who enjoys greater popularity among the students, and whose scholarship is held in high regard by their colleagues. As the result of a bureaucratic error, Eliezer is notified that he has been awarded the prestigious Israel Prize for academic achievement, which was in fact intended for his son. When informed of the mistake, Uriel must decide whether to take the prize that is rightfully his and shatter his father's dreams, or allow his father to accept it.

Generational conflicts are a staple of Israeli literature and cinema, and *Footnote* does not break new ground in this regard. But like many powerful works of art, it takes a familiar theme and, in setting it against a new backdrop, offers unexpected insights. Cedar, who also wrote the screenplay, offers a masterful study of the way in which broad themes find expression in the minutiae of our daily lives, even as he casts a critical eye at the pomp and presumption of Israeli academics.

*Adapted from the film festival talk by Professor Azzan Yadin-Israel, Department of Jewish Studies, Rutgers.*



Karen Small, filmmaker Dorit Strauss, and Dina Elkins on opening night.



## Muslims and Jews in France: The Genealogy of a Conflict

The conflict that has long shadowed Muslim-Jewish relations in France was tackled by **Maud Mandel**, a professor of Judaic studies and history at Brown University, at the **Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program**, funded by **Leon and Toby Cooperman**. Mandel's current book project, *Muslims and Jews in France: The Genealogy of a Conflict*, is under contract with Princeton University Press and has been awarded fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Philosophical Society. A crowd of about 250 people packed the Rutgers Student Center on April 18 to hear her speak.

Although anti-Semitic violence began capturing international attention in 2000, Mandel argued that Muslim-Jewish tensions had, in fact, been the subject of commentary much earlier, as a diverse range of social actors, including international Jewish representatives, anti-Zionist Algerian nationalists, French police, and Jewish and Muslim student activists began to believe that Middle Eastern conflict was coming to France. She made two central claims regarding this emerging landscape of conflict.

First, Mandel argued that as a reductionist charged narrative of polarization took hold, it often obscured a

more complex interethnic reality. France houses the largest Jewish and Muslim populations living side by side outside Israel, as a result of migrations from North Africa following decolonization. Sharing certain linguistic and cultural traditions and a common experience of displacement, these newcomers also experienced similar pressures to assimilate while often feeling rejected by the nation seeking to integrate them. These multifaceted connections meant that Muslim-Jewish relations in France were never defined solely as a bitter war over Palestine and Israel, Islam and Judaism, or any other set of binary divisions.

Second, Mandel asserted that focusing *solely* on the Middle East in an effort to understand Muslim-Jewish politics in France misses key aspects of the story. In particular, Mandel examined three key turning points in French life that helped to shape the course of Muslim-Jewish relations: the decolonization of North Africa, the student uprisings in 1968, and the 1980s experiments in multiculturalism. In doing so, she traced the processes through which interethnic political boundaries hardened over time, erasing evidence of the more variegated landscape of Muslim-Jewish interaction.

### Program Highlights

#### The Zohar and Kabbalah

Supported by the

#### Sagner Family Foundation

**Daniel Matt**, translator of the Zohar, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

#### Body, Ritual, Text:

#### Judaism and Feminism in Israeli Art

#### The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Program

**Paula Birnbaum**, University of San Francisco

For further information, visit [BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu).



Toby Stolzer (fourth from left), family, and friends gather at the annual endowed Stolzer lecture in April to pay tribute to Herbert Stolzer.

#### Evangelicals, Jews, Israel, and the Messianic Times

#### The Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program

**Yaakov Ariel**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

#### Israeli Authors Forum

A conversation in Hebrew with **Ronit Matalon**, author of *Bliss* and *The Sound of Our Steps*

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## BILDNER CENTER PROGRAMS

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# Jeffrey Shandler Explores the Anne Frank Phenomenon

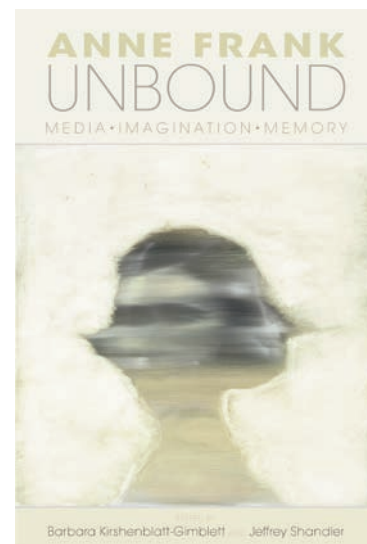
At a public program sponsored by the Bildner Center in February, Professor **Jeffrey Shandler** of the Department of Jewish Studies shared insights from his recently published book *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory*, which he coedited with **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** (Indiana University Press, 2012). An audience of approximately 300 gathered at the Douglass Campus Center to hear Shandler discuss the numerous ways people around the world engage with Anne Frank's life and work.

The most universally familiar victim of the Holocaust, Frank and her diary occupy a singular place in contemporary culture. The diary has been translated into scores of languages and is ranked as one of the most widely read books on the planet. Shandler's talk focused less on the diary itself than on the many different ways that people have responded to Frank's life and writing. In addition to officially sanctioned publications, artistic creations, and organizations dedicated to her memory, Frank's diary has inspired numerous works of literature, art, music, film, television, pedagogy, scholarship, religious ritual, and even comedy. These efforts by people around the world to express their own connections with the diary and its author are what Kirshenblatt-

Gimblett and Shandler term the "Anne Frank phenomenon."

According to Shandler, few publications have engendered responses as extensive and varied as has Frank's diary; they range from earnest documentation to outlandish fantasy, from veneration to irreverence. Even when they challenge official notions of Frank's significance, these works testify to the power of her life and writings. Indeed, as Frank's celebrity has grown over the decades, the symbolic importance of her life has expanded. She is variously embraced as an exemplary victim of Nazi persecution, a model young female writer, an archetypal adolescent, and an icon of universal human rights.

Shandler explained how the notion of *mediation* is key to understanding not only the great diversity of engagements with Frank's life but also the text at the center of the Anne Frank phenomenon. Her diary has a complex history of writing and redacting, which began before its first publication in 1947. Frank herself began reworking her first diary entries while in hiding, in hopes of seeing it published after the war, and the text was edited further by her father, Otto Frank, after the diary was given to him following confirmation of his daughter's death in a concentration camp during the war. Each example of



the "Anne Frank phenomenon" can be seen as a further mediation of the diary, articulating its creator's appreciation of Frank's life and artistry as well as producing an opportunity for new cultural creativity.

The lecture reflects the mission of the Bildner Center to bring the best of scholarship in Jewish studies to a diverse audience, including Rutgers students and faculty, public and private school teachers, and the general public. In addition to teaching and research, Shandler has served for the past eight years as the faculty adviser for the Bildner Center's Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI).

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## In Memoriam

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**Herbert Stolzer** was remembered in a tribute held before the Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program in April. Bildner Center director Yael Zerubavel recalled his enthusiastic support during the Center's critical first year, and the generosity with which he and his wife, Toby, supported the Center through the years. He was also a life member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, and he served on the Board of Trustees for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Foundation, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Middlesex County Community College in Edison, University Health System New Jersey, and the New Brunswick Cultural Center.

**Harriet Tabak**, a lifelong Highland Park resident and a graduate of the New Jersey College for Women (predecessor to Douglass College), was a generous supporter of the Bildner Center. Harriet and her husband, Joe, avid proponents of interfaith dialogue and cooperation, funded the Bildner Center's 2008 interfaith initiative: a public program on Jewish-Christian relations and a Jewish-Catholic student dialogue series. Harriet was a life member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, and she also held leadership roles with the Highland Park Conservative Temple and the Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged in Somerset.



## Donor Support Appreciated

### Leadership Gifts:

**The Marion and Norman Tanzman Charitable Foundation**, and its president, **Jeffries Schein** (RC '62), and trustee **Roy Tanzman** (RC '73), for its generous support of Jewish studies.

**The Karma Foundation**, led by **Sharon Karmazin** (DC '67) and **Dina Elkins**, for its commitment to Jewish culture through a grant to the **Rutgers Jewish Film Festival**.

**The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany** for its support of the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education.

**Eugene Gottlieb** (RC '56, RBSG '64, GSNB '71) and his wife, **Ruth**, for their support of the Bildner Center through a charitable gift annuity.

**Andrew J. Melnick** (RC '63, RBSG '70) for his support of Israel studies at Rutgers.

**The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation** for its continued support of the Department of Jewish Studies **Curriculum Enhancement Fund**.

### Additional Significant Gifts:

**Dr. Barry and Deborah Adler**  
**Sidney and Helene Amster**  
**Adele Meyer Brodtkin**  
**Shelley and Steven Einhorn**  
**David Greene**  
**Moshe Margolin**  
**Dr. Steven and Jodi Reich**  
**Dr. Daniel Rosenfield**  
**Betty and Arthur Roswell**  
**Toby and Herbert Stolzer**  
**Aaron Wasserman**  
**Lee and Judith Wasserman**  
**Donna and Steven Weiss**

**We are grateful for the generosity of all our supporters.**

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Gifts to Rutgers University can be directed to the Bildner Center through several venues, including grants, bequests, and charitable gift annuities. For more information, contact **Paul Kuznekoff** at 848-932-6457.

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### ➤ **JOAN BILDNER** from page 1

The Bildners' strong commitment to promoting understanding between different cultures and ethnic groups and to reducing prejudice has been one of the guiding principles of the Center's diverse academic programs and cultural initiatives. The founding of the Bildner Center was followed by the creation of a new program in Jewish studies, which later became the Rutgers Department of Jewish Studies. The Center's educational and cultural programs attract students, faculty, and community members from a variety of backgrounds and faiths, fulfilling the Bildners' vision.

Joan's affiliation with Rutgers started when she was appointed to the Board of Governors in 1994, and for the next twelve years she served

on all three of the university's governing boards. In 2006, while still serving on the Board of Overseers of the Rutgers University Foundation, Joan was elected a Rutgers Trustee Emerita in recognition of her distinguished service. The Bildners' foundation has supported more than twenty different initiatives at the university, and Joan and Allen's generosity and leadership were honored in 1999 when Rutgers bestowed on them its prestigious Medal of Philanthropic Excellence.

Joan's philanthropy and leadership were also evident in other spheres of life. She was the founding co-chair of the New Jersey-Israel Commission and served on many boards in the fields of health, education, and culture. She received numerous honors and awards recognizing her remarkable



**Building dedication ceremony, Bildner Center, 1999**

community service and was the recipient of honorary doctorates from Bloomfield College, Rowan University, and Rutgers University.

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life is honored to carry on her legacy for future generations.

## BILDNER CENTER PROGRAMS

### The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

Teachers learn to use the USC Shoah Foundation's iWitness program.



### Holocaust Education Impacts Thousands of Students

Eight years ago, the Bildner Center launched New Jersey's first **Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI)** at Rutgers. Designed to give middle and high school teachers access to the region's best resources in Holocaust education, in particular Rutgers faculty and other leading minds in the field, the program offers in-depth, advanced study of the Holocaust and its aftermath. There is no fee to take courses through the MTI, and teachers earn professional development credits.

Over the years, more than 115 teachers from across the state—from public, private, and parochial schools—have participated in the MTI, subsequently exposing thousands of students to Holocaust education. These educators form a cadre of experts in Holocaust studies who serve as resource providers in their schools, districts, and communities.

Each MTI session offers both a scholarly talk and a pedagogical workshop employing primary source materials related to that semester's theme.

Twenty-five teachers participated in the MTI's fall 2012 course, "**The Aftermath of the Holocaust**," which explored a variety of complex issues that arose after World War II. The circumstances of displaced persons, including their resettlement, were discussed by **Atina Grossman**, a professor of modern European and German history, and of women's and gender studies, at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art; **Lawrence R. Douglas**, the James J. Grosfeld Professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought at Amherst College, gave a lecture on war

crimes trials; and the topic of reparations was handled by Dr. **Brigitte Sion**, Center for International Research in the Humanities and Social Science in Paris.

Rutgers faculty rounded out the fall semester's curriculum. **Nancy Sinkoff**, chair of the Department of Jewish Studies, gave the talk "The Beginnings of Holocaust Studies"; **Jeffrey Shandler**, MTI faculty adviser and a professor of Jewish studies, presented the talk "American Jews Fighting Prejudice on the Airwaves."

The MTI's spring 2013 course, "**Holocaust Remembrance around the World**," explored memory practices and memorials, as well as Holocaust representation in film and literature, with a group of twenty-three schoolteachers. Jeffrey Shandler presented a session about Holocaust memory and representation in the United States; **Wulf Kansteiner**, a professor of history at Binghamton University, State University of New York, gave the talk "Germany and German Television"; the topic of Holocaust memory in Poland was addressed by **Natalia Aleksium**, a professor of modern Jewish history at Touro College; Bildner Center director **Yael Zerubavel** explored the ways in which the Holocaust and survivors are remembered in Israeli literature; and **Olga Gershenson**, a professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, presented a case study of Holocaust memory through Russian films.

Last June, the Center once again offered the one-week intensive course "**Introduction to the History of the Holocaust**" to give teachers a comprehensive historical background. In addition to ten lectures by **Jessica Anderson Hughes**, a visiting lecturer in the Department of History, the participants discussed how to use films and other resources in the classroom. **USC's Shoah Foundation** presented a two-part computer workshop that introduced teachers to its new iWitness program, which provides tools for educators and students to work with testimonies of survivors and others.



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

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

Additional support provided by:

**The Marjorie and Egon Berg Holocaust Education Fund**

For interviews with teachers about the MTI, visit [BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu).

## Center Launches Interdisciplinary Faculty Research Seminar

The Bildner Center is launching a yearlong faculty seminar during the academic year 2013–2014. “Contested Memories and the Politics of Change” will convene at the Bildner Center, where about twenty scholars will present and discuss their current research projects exploring this theme from a comparative, cross-cultural perspective. The seminar will include Rutgers faculty and other visiting scholars who engage in the study of memory, with a particular emphasis on humanities scholars and social scientists in the interdisciplinary fields of trauma and memory.

The twentieth century, with its global and regional conflicts, disintegrating empires and postcolonial national movements, new states and shifting boundaries, has led to an increasing interest in the study of memory. While governments establish their own version of the past through state agencies and quasi-official organizations, alternative interpretations are often created by opposition groups and political activists, intellectuals and artists, and

the media. These competing versions of the past introduce a multilayered collective memory that offers a fascinating topic of study.

The work will culminate in a two-and-a-half-day conference at the end of the academic year at which members of the seminar will be joined by other scholars to explore major themes and concepts in the study of memory. The Bildner Center's faculty seminar “Contested Memories and the Politics of Change” furthers the Center's mission to encourage faculty research and reinforces its broader educational mission in promoting Holocaust education as a paradigm for genocide studies and for the promotion of tolerance and the reduction of prejudice.

Through a generous matching grant from **Joan and Allen Bildner** in 2007, the Center is able to bring two additional visiting scholars to Rutgers. These Bildner Visiting Scholars will each join in the seminar for one semester. The Center's Aresty Visiting Scholar will also participate in the seminar.

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### The Bildner Visiting Scholars

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**Carol Zemel**, a professor of art history at York University in Canada, will serve as the Bildner Visiting Scholar in fall 2013. Zemel is an authority on issues of the Diaspora in modern Jewish visual culture and on the production of visual images under conditions of trauma. Her book *Looking Jewish: Visual Culture in Modern Diaspora* is forthcoming in 2013 from Indiana University Press. She is a cofounder and codirector of Project Mosaica, a web-based exploration of Jewish cultural expression in the arts. Zemel will discuss “Art at the Extreme: Witness and Memory” in the seminar.



**Galit Hasan-Rokem**, the Max and Margarethe Grunwald Professor Emerita of Folklore at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will be the Bildner Visiting Scholar in spring 2014. A specialist in Jewish folklore and proverbs, she has produced a diverse body of work including *Web of Life: Folklore and Midrash in Rabbinic Literature* (Stanford University Press, 2000); *Tales of the Neighborhood: Jewish Narrative Dialogues in Late Antiquity* (University of California Press, 2003); and *Jewish Women in Pre-State Israel: Life History, Politics, and Culture*, coedited with Ruth Kark and Margalit Shilo (Brandeis University Press, 2008). She is currently pursuing research on the iconic figure of the “Wandering Jew,” and she will discuss the Israeli transformation of this traditional European symbol in the seminar.

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### The Aresty Visiting Scholar

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**Natasha Zaretsky**, the Bildner Center's Aresty Visiting Scholar in fall 2013, earned her Ph.D. in anthropology in 2008 from Princeton University. Her publications include “Arriving in Jewish Buenos Aires,” in *Violence: Ethnographic Encounters*, edited by Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi (Berg, 2009); and “Child Survivors of the Shoah: Testimony, Citizenship, and Survival in Jewish Buenos Aires,” in *The New Jewish Argentina: Facets of Jewish Experience in the Southern Cone*, edited by Raanan Rein and Adriana Brodsky (Brill, 2012). She will discuss “Sites of Memory, Sites of Justice: Memorials and the Public Sphere in Jewish Buenos Aires” in the seminar. In spring 2014, she will teach the undergraduate course “Genocide, the Holocaust, and Legacies of Violence.”



## STUDENT NEWS

### Jewish Studies Graduates, 2013

#### Majors

Bryce Diamond  
Shira Galler  
Rachel Gross  
Samuel Hollander  
Joshua Jeffreys  
Hannah Johnson  
Kimberly Syvarth  
Rachel Waldorf

#### Minors

Benjamin Bayer  
Jonathan Benrimon  
Amy Bielory  
Dylan Elber  
Karen Hayardeny  
Samantha Kaul  
Jeffrey Krieger  
Neal Lang  
Alexander Leskowitz  
Daniel B. Levi  
Talia Ne'eman  
Yael Novick  
Megana Ohlsen  
Melissa Platt  
Allison Reiter  
Chana Rosenbaum  
Sarah Saba  
Aviva Shapiro  
Elan Sherman  
Alexander Zeldin

## Programs for Students

### Israel Film Series

Cosponsored by Rutgers Hillel

### Jewish-Catholic Student Dialogue

Cosponsored by the Rutgers Catholic Center and Rutgers Hillel

- Spiritual Connections: Past and Present, with a screening of the film *Torn*
- Interfaith Shabbat Dinner

## Student Discovers Interest in Museum Studies

When Rachel Wetter's grandmother came to the United States, she left behind both of her languages—French and Yiddish—and with them, a piece of her past. That inextricable bond between language and history fascinated Rachel, who grew up in New Jersey as a strongly identified, spiritual Jew.

It also inspired her to take Professor **Eddy Portnoy's** "Elementary Modern Yiddish" once she arrived at Rutgers in fall 2010. She found herself drawn to the language-heritage connection, and she "was immediately entranced by the story that Yiddish was 'the language of the Jews.'"

As a double major in history and Jewish studies, Rachel chose to focus on the Eastern European experience. She spent a summer in Warsaw, Poland, where she studied Yiddish at the Center for Jewish Culture. While mastering the language, she engaged with a dynamic student community that includes Jews who grew up speaking the language and non-Jewish Poles who view Judaism as intrinsically connected to their Polish identity.

Upon her return, she enrolled in Professor **Jeffrey Shandler's** seminar on Jewish museums and later interned at New York's Museum at Eldridge Street, filling roles that ranged from tour guide to translator. "The way museums portray messages really struck me," she remembers of the experience, which honed her budding interest in museum studies.

Meanwhile, she used primary Yiddish sources from the museum's archive to complete an independent study on the changing role of rabbis in America.

Recent courses have continued to shape Rachel's worldview. Professor **Nancy Sinkoff's** "Jewish Power, Jewish Politics" offered an invaluable



opportunity for in-depth exploration of Eastern European Jewry's relationship with politics. Ultimately, the course inspired Rachel's forthcoming departmental honors thesis, "Women in the Early Years of the Bund," which Professor of History **Melissa Feinberg** is supervising with input from Professors Sinkoff and Shandler.

Outside the classroom, Rachel has served as president of the Yiddish Club and was active in the Rutgers Shalom/Salaam group. She currently resides in the Women and Creativity House, a living/learning Global Village Program at Douglass College.

The 2013 recipient of the **Barry and Deborah Venezia Adler International Study Award**, Rachel traveled this past summer to Kraków and Prague with the Department of Art History's Program in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies (CHAPS), a six-week heritage and preservation experience. "Rachel is dynamic and engaged, curious about the world, about history, and about Jewish studies," observes Sinkoff. "It is so gratifying to be able to support student research in this fashion."

Looking ahead, Rachel plans to pursue opportunities in museum studies after her graduation this spring. "I want to achieve something that brings Jewish culture beyond the scope of the Jewish community," she says. "Museums are the perfect platform for sharing the message that Jewish life is interconnected with the broader heritage of the places where Jews have lived throughout history."

To see where our graduates have landed professionally, visit [JewishStudies.rutgers.edu](http://JewishStudies.rutgers.edu).

## Student Award Recipients, 2013

**Jacob Binstein, '14**  
Deborah S. and Herbert B.  
Wasserman Research Award

**Gabriel Cohen, '14**  
Louis Fishman Memorial Award

**Bryce Diamond, '13**  
Ruth Feller Rosenberg Award

**Nava Frankel, '14**  
Baruch S. and Pearl W.  
Seidman Award

**Karen Hayardeny, '13**  
Baruch S. and Pearl W.  
Seidman Award

**Samuel Hollander, '13**  
Maurice Meyer III and  
Irma Meyer Award

**Hannah Johnson, '13**  
Reitman Family Award

**Daniel Levi, '13**  
Harold and Betty Perl Award

**Ariel Lubow, '14**  
Leonard and Adele Blumberg Award

**Yael Novick, '13**  
Rudolph and Mary Solomon  
Klein Award

**Kimberly Syvarth, '13**  
Rudolph and Mary Solomon  
Klein Award

**Rachel Waldorf, '13**  
Betty and Julius Gillman  
Memorial Award

**Rachel Wetter, '14**  
Barry and Deborah Venezia Adler  
International Study Award

### AWARDS FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL

**Emily Bernstein,**  
Jewish studies M.A. student  
**Danica Precipe,**  
Graduate School of Social Work  
Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Award  
for Study in Israel



## Exceptional Students Honored at Awards Ceremony

On May 7, the Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies hosted its yearly awards ceremony to honor outstanding students in Jewish studies and to recognize graduating seniors in the field. Faculty, friends, and families gathered at Brower Commons as awards were presented for academic excellence, special research projects, and international study. Grants for study in Israel were given to undergraduate and graduate students in Jewish studies, the arts, and social work.

The festive program included inspiring remarks by **Dina Mann**, a 2005 Rutgers alumna, who spoke about how her experience in Jewish studies helped to shape her unique career path. Dina has integrated her diverse interests in the arts, writing, film, and television—"viewed through the lens of Jewish history and culture"—in her position as marketing and outreach coordinator for Reboot, a nonprofit that reimagines Jewish traditions and seeks ways to make them resonate in the twenty-first century for young unaffiliated Jews. She credited the Jewish studies department with helping her to "think critically about where we are as American Jews and where we are going."



**Ariana Kalkstein and Boaz Morris**, the first students to graduate with a minor in Hebrew language, were recognized at the event. The students spoke about the tremendous impact of the language program on their college careers. They reflected on the intimacy of the small classes, the emphasis on language immersion, and the myriad opportunities on campus for academic enrichment, including engaging with Israeli scholars, authors, and filmmakers.

Honor student and award recipient **Kimberly Syvarth** presented her honors thesis on the biblical character Michal and spoke about the invaluable opportunity to develop her writing and research skills under the guidance of Professors **Yael Zerubavel** and **Gary A. Rendsburg**. In fact, after graduating, she hopes to earn a Ph.D. in Bible and biblical interpretation.



Above: Alumna guest speaker Dina Mann

Left: Paola Tartakoff, Undergraduate Director, with Ariel Lubow

For photos and to learn more about our award winners, visit [JewishStudies.rutgers.edu](http://JewishStudies.rutgers.edu).

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## Jewish Studies Faculty, 2013-2014

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### Core Faculty

Jeffrey Shandler,  
Department Chair  
Jonathan Gribetz  
Gary A. Rendsburg\*  
Nancy Sinkoff  
Paola Tartakoff\*\*  
Azzan Yadin-Israelael  
Yael Zerubavel,  
Bildner Center Director

\*Graduate Director

\*\*Undergraduate Director

### Associated Faculty

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

### Visiting Scholars

Galit Hasan-Rokem  
Natasha Zaretsky  
Carol Zemel

### Instructor

Hilit Surowitz-Israel

### Part-time Lecturers

Edward Portnoy  
Elliot Ratzman

### Language Instructors

Orly Moshenberg,  
*Hebrew-Language  
Coordinator*  
Edna Bryn-Noiman  
Tamara Ruben

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## FACULTY UPDATES

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**Jonathan Gribetz** published “‘Their Blood Is Eastern’: Shahin Makaryus and Fin de Siecle Pride in the Jewish ‘Race’” in *Middle Eastern Studies*. He presented a paper, “Racing Jews and Arabs: Between British Egypt and the Ottoman Levant,” at the conference “Jewish History after the Imperial Turn” at Brown University, and a paper on Jewish-Arabic religious apologetics at the Middle Eastern Studies Association conference in Denver. At the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Chicago, he presented his pedagogical approach to teaching about the Arab-Israeli conflict, and he was invited to respond to papers about early Zionism and law at a conference at Princeton.

**Martha Helfer** organized a symposium at Rutgers in honor of Peter Demetz’s ninetieth birthday; she presented the paper “*Eckbert’s Secret*” at the symposium. With William C. Donahue, she organized the third German Jewish Studies Workshop at Duke University. She presented a paper, “Death Writes: Romantic Thanatopoetics,” at the Modern Language Association Convention.

**Gary A. Rendsburg** was a visiting scholar at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Yarnton Manor, England, from June to December 2012. He attended and presented talks at the Society of Biblical Literature international meeting in Amsterdam and the one-day symposium in honor of Frank Polak at Tel Aviv University. He delivered lectures at the University of Oxford; University of Nottingham; University of Birmingham; Trinity College Dublin; School of Oriental and African Studies, London; and Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society, London. In January 2013, he resumed full-time teaching at Rutgers, and he also delivered guest lectures at the University of Oregon and the University of Oklahoma. He

published “Late Biblical Hebrew in the Book of Haggai,” in *Language and Nature: Papers Presented to John Huehnergard on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday* (Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago); “Northern Hebrew through Time: From the Song of Deborah to the Mishnah,” in *Diachrony in Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns); and “*sāfiṅ* (Deut. 33:21),” *Hebrew Union College Annual*. He was elected to membership in the Society for Old Testament Studies, United Kingdom.

**Jeffrey Shandler** continued to serve as president of the Association for Jewish Studies, and he was a visiting fellow at the Shoah Foundation, University of Southern California, in spring 2013. He published the book *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory*, coedited by Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (Indiana University Press). (See page 8.) He published “Sanctification of the Brand Name: The Marketing of Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt,” in *Chosen Capital: The Jewish Encounter with American Capitalism, 1850–1960* (Rutgers University Press), and “Yiddish Goes Pop?,” in *Choosing Yiddish: Studies in Language, Culture, and History* (Wayne State University Press). He gave the following talks: “Viewing the Visual in Jewish Studies,” keynote address, Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration of the Masters Program in Jewish Art and Visual Culture, Jewish Theological Seminary; “Anne Frank, from Diary to Book,” Jewish Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, and the Anne Frank Center, New York; “Living Room Witnesses: Holocaust on American Television,” Roger Williams University, and Grand Valley State University; “Jewish Studies and the Public Sphere” plenary address, 44th annual Association for Jewish Studies conference, Chicago; “The Anne Frank Phenomenon,” Rutgers University;

To link to faculty discussing their research, visit [JewishStudies.rutgers.edu](http://JewishStudies.rutgers.edu).



“Greeting the Season: The ‘December Dilemma’ in American Jewish Popular Culture,” Grand Valley State University; “Interrogating the Index: Reading an Archive against the Grain,” Shoah Foundation, University of Southern California; “Queer Yiddishkeit: Practice and Theory,” University of California at Los Angeles; “Performing the Post-Holocaust Self: Testing the Limits of Postmemory,” International Conference on Creation and Postmemory, Columbia University; “Desire and Its Discontents: An Eye on the Jewishness of American Photographers,” French Association for American Studies Conference, Angers; and “‘Bruised Apple’ Moments: A Serendipitous Methodology for Studying Contemporary American Jewish Life,” the symposium “Juifs en Amérique du Nord: Histoires et Perspectives,” Université Sorbonne Nouvelle–Paris 3.

**Nancy Sinkoff** gave the following lectures: “Square Pegs in Round Holes: The Contradictions of the Jewish Neoconservative Critique of Postwar American Liberalism,” for the panel “Postwar Liberalism and Its Jewish Discontents,” which she organized, at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, where she also moderated a feisty roundtable, “Yiddish Is the New Black”: Yiddish Studies at the Crossroads of the Early Twenty-First Century”; “‘Fiction’s Archive’: The Literary Construction of Jewish Politics and Resistance in John Hersey’s *The Wall*,” Columbia University and SUNY–New Paltz; “Dubnow’s Other Daughter: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Beginning of Holocaust Studies in the United States,” Tel Aviv University’s Department of History; and “Lucy S. Dawidowicz: An American in Vilna, 1938–1939,” at the Naomi Praver Kadar summer Yiddish program at Tel Aviv University. She also gave a lecture, “The Holocaust Enters the Academy,” at the Bildner Center’s Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education. She published “From Left to Right: Lucy S.

Dawidowicz’s Political Life,” in the *Frankel Institute Annual*, and she entered the blogosphere with a post for *Lilith* magazine on the new film about Hannah Arendt: <http://lilith.org/blog/2013/02/whats-a-friend-to-do/>.

**Paola Tartakoff** was promoted to associate professor and awarded a Presidential Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. (See page 4.) She produced a free, noncredit online course, “The Inquisition and the Jews,” for the Bildner Center’s Jewish Studies Online program. She wrote a review in the *Medieval Review of The Jew in Medieval Iberia, 1100–1500*, edited by Jonathan Ray (Academic Studies Press). She served as the respondent at a Rutgers faculty seminar given by Professor Marjorie Lehman on her book, *The En Yaaqov: Jacob ibn Habib’s Search for Faith in the Talmudic Corpus*. She presented a paper, “Conversion across Medieval Ashkenaz and Sepharad: A Reassessment,” at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Chicago. She gave a talk sponsored by the Bildner Center on the range of Jewish attitudes toward Jewish converts to Christianity in fifteenth-century Spain, for the Rutgers alumni reunion weekend.

**Azzan Yadin-Israel** published “A Note on a Middle High German Calque in *Sefer Hasidim*,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, and “Concepts of Scripture in the Schools of Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Ishmael,” in *Jewish Theologies of Scripture*, edited by Benjamin Sommer (New York University Press). He continued to serve as coeditor of the book series *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*, on the editorial board of the *Journal of Ancient Judaism*, and on the advisory board of the Enoch Seminar.

**Yael Zerubavel** published, in Hebrew, “*The Bible Now*: Contemporizing, Political Satire, and National Memory,” a combined issue of *Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Folklore* and *Jerusalem Studies in Hebrew Literature*, in honor of Galit

Hasan-Rokem; and “Transforming Myths, Contested Narratives: The Reshaping of Mnemonic Traditions in Israeli Culture,” in *National Myths: Constructed Pasts, Contested Presents*, edited by Gérard Bouchard (London: Routledge). She gave the keynote address, “Israel, Cultural Memory, and the Transformations of a National Tradition,” at a conference on Israeli studies, Yeshiva University, New York; and two lectures: “The Bible Now: Folklore, Politics, and Historical Analogies,” annual meeting of the Israeli Association for the Study of Folklore, Jerusalem; and “Space, Memory, and the ‘Return to the Bible’ in Israeli Culture,” at the conference “The Spatial Turn in Jewish Studies,” Jewish Theological Seminary, New York. She also gave two presentations, “The Bible and Modern Jewish Identity: Contemporary Israeli Culture” and “Space Metaphors in Israeli Culture,” at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago. She was a discussant at the Graduate Students Colloquium, Center for Jewish History, New York; was a moderator of “Building Landscapes of the Past: Monuments, Myth and Memory,” the Sussman Conference for Graduate Students, Department of History, Rutgers; and is a speaker for the Association for Jewish Studies’ Distinguished Lectureship Program. She also gave a lecture, “Israel and the Holocaust,” for the Bildner Center’s Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education. She continues 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*. In addition, she still serves on Rutgers University’s Advisory Council on Jewish Student Life and on the NJ–Israel Commission of the State of New Jersey.

For a list of our faculty’s participation at the Association for Jewish Studies conference, visit [JewishStudies.rutgers.edu](http://JewishStudies.rutgers.edu).

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## UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Program**  
**Pipeline: How Oil Created the Modern  
Middle East and How Water Can Transform It**  
**Rachel Havrelock**, University of Illinois  
at Chicago  
October 1, 7:30 p.m.  
*Cosponsored by the Rutgers Center for  
Middle Eastern Studies*

### Memorial Tribute to Joan Bildner

Followed by

**Jews and Food:  
Tradition, Sustainability, and Health\***

**Nigel Savage**, Hazon

**Jennifer Berg**, New York University

**Jordan Rosenblum**, University of Wisconsin

October 8, 7:00 p.m.

### The Inaugural Richard D. Heffner / Open Mind Lecture

**Communications & Human Values**

**Elie Wiesel**, Nobel Peace laureate

October 23, 7:00 p.m.

### Rutgers Jewish Film Festival

October 24–November 3

Ticket sales begin September 30 online.

### Spirituality and Health\*

**David Ellenson**, Hebrew Union College

**Jeff Levin**, Baylor University

December 4, 7:30 p.m.

*Supported by the Sagner Family Foundation*

### Professional Development for Teachers

**Master Teacher Institute in  
Holocaust Education**

Fall Topic: "Social Outsiders and the Holocaust"

Spring Topic: "Media and the Holocaust"

For more information, visit  
[BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu).

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Taught by Professor Paola Tartakoff

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