



RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

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

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER • NUMBER 3 • FALL 1999

## From the Director's desk...

On May 2, 1999, the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life celebrated the dedication of its newly renovated building at the heart of College Avenue. Over 200 guests, including the university administration and faculty, community leaders, friends and supporters attended this event. During the program, the Center held its first award ceremony recognizing outstanding students for academic achievement. The dedication was the culmination of the first stage of the Center's development. With its foundations firmly in place, we are now ready to enter a new phase.

During the 1998-99 academic year, the Jewish Studies program continued to expand through the initiative of its faculty, the addition of Nancy Sinkoff, an Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies, and two visiting fellows for the year. This past year we also welcomed the first group of students enrolled as Jewish Studies majors and minors. The Center initiated a study to assess the current Judaica collection at the Rutgers' libraries and is working with its staff on plans to strengthen the university's holdings in the area of Jewish studies.

One of the Center's major accomplishments during its third year was the establishment of a new Holocaust Resource Center. The Center offered workshops and mini-courses for schoolteachers on Holocaust-related topics and will continue to offer them on a regular basis. These workshops and courses provide teachers with the tools to teach about the Holocaust, which is mandated in public schools by the State of New Jersey. Another new initiative this year was a team-taught course on "Blacks and Jews in America," cross-listed with the History department. The Center sponsored a series of public programs devoted to the subject bringing together Jewish and Black

scholars and activists to meet with the students, faculty, and community members. The Center also worked closely with students to develop programs in response to their interests and initiatives and in cooperation with Rutgers Hillel.

We continue to pursue our commitment to strengthen Jewish Studies at Rutgers. This year the Center is sponsoring a seminar with the Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies at Rutgers exploring cultures of democracy which will compare Israel and Eastern Europe. As part of this year-long seminar, Rutgers is hosting a number of postdoctoral and predoctoral visiting fellows from Israel, Europe and the United States. Programs with guest speakers held in conjunction with the seminar will be open to the broader community.

The Center is fortunate to have a strong and dedicated volunteer leadership who have been a major force behind its growth and who will continue to be the key to the success of its campaign. This summer our new Director of Development, Naomi Adler, joined Karen Small and Arlene Goldstein as part of the Center's team. We welcome her on board and look forward to the next phase of the Center's campaign.

With the beginning of the academic year and the new Jewish year, I would like to extend my greetings to our students, faculty, colleagues, and friends with hopes for a year of learning and growth, peace and good health to all.

**Professor Yael Zerubavel**



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# JEWISH STUDIES

## Jewish Studies Majors:

Tahlia Abel, '00  
Michael Dorfman, '01  
Sarah Finkelstein, '01  
Erica Gross, '00  
Sari Hercky, '01  
Scott Lipson, '01  
Mollie Mandel, '00  
Sharon Markowitz, '01  
Jodi Mednick, '00  
Dara Papier, '00  
Jamie Simon, '01  
Laura Simon, '00  
Avinoam Slivko, '01  
Steven Springer, '01  
Jill Tanzman, '00

## Jewish Studies Minors:

Lyle Beck, '01  
Ishai Crane, '00  
Bradley Eckstein, '01  
Hannah Gutschow, '01  
Rachel Kellerman, '00  
Bryan Loew, '01  
Keren Rivlin, '00  
Ian Schwab, '01  
Mairav Shliechkorn, '00  
Elissa Winkelstein, '01

## 1999-2000 Courses

### Fall Semester

Jewish Society and Culture I:  
From Antiquity to the Middle  
Ages  
Nancy Sinkoff

Special Topics: American  
Jewish History  
Nancy Sinkoff

Special Topics: Israeli Culture  
Yael Zerubavel

Elementary Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy, Orly Moshenberg,  
Akiva Roth

Elementary Modern Yiddish  
Morris Moskowitz

Intermediate Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy, Akiva Roth

Introduction to Hebrew Style &  
Literature  
Orly Moshenberg

Post-Biblical Jewish Literature  
Moshe Sherman

Hasidic Tales  
Morris Moskowitz

Modern Israeli Literature  
Ruth Birnbaum

History of the Holocaust  
Omer Bartov

History of Zionism  
Israel Bartal

History of Jewish Women  
Melissa Klapper

Classical Jewish Philosophy  
Seymour Feldman

### Related Courses

Ancient Near East  
Jack Cargill

Special Topics: Identities and  
Communities (Honors course)  
Judy Gerson

Modern Middle Eastern  
Literature in Translation  
Paul Sprachman

### Spring Semester

Jewish Society and Culture II:  
The Modern Experience  
Nancy Sinkoff

Jewish Studies Seminar  
Omer Bartov

The Talmud and Jewish Law  
Steven Friedell

Special Topics: Politics, Power  
and Powerlessness in Modern  
Jewish History  
Nancy Sinkoff

Elementary Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy, Orly Moshenberg

Elementary Modern Yiddish  
Morris Moskowitz

Intermediate Modern Hebrew  
Lily Levy

Introduction to Hebrew  
Style & Literature  
Orly Moshenberg

Cycles of Jewish Life  
Though Literature  
Curt Leviant

Agnon's Themes and  
Variations (in Hebrew)  
Curt Leviant

Jewish Cinema and Fiction  
Curt Leviant

Jewish Women and  
Spirituality  
Alicia Ostriker & Phyllis Mack

The Development of Jewish-  
American Poetry: 1830 to 1998  
Daniel Harris

Special Topics:  
Modern Jewish Art  
Matthew Baigell

Special Topics:  
Jews and the Mass Media  
Barbara Reed

Sociology of American Jewish  
Religious Movements  
Chaim Waxman

Arab-Israeli Conflict  
Dina LeGall

History of the Holocaust  
TBD

Israeli Politics  
Ezra Kopelowitz

Modern Jewish Philosophy  
TBD

Special Topics:  
Bible Course

Special Topics: Growing Up  
Jewish in a Non-Jewish World  
(Honors seminar)  
Maurice Elias

### JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Myron Aronoff, Political Science  
Matthew Baigell, Art History  
Omer Bartov, History  
Michael Curtis, Political Science  
William Donahue, German  
Maurice Elias, Psychology  
Leslie Fishbein, American Studies  
Ziva Galili, History  
Judith Gerson, Sociology  
Daniel A. Harris, English  
Dina LeGall, History  
Curt Leviant, Hebraic Studies  
Phyllis Mack, History

Morris Moskowitz, Hebraic Studies  
Alicia Ostriker, English  
Barbara Reed, Journalism  
Nancy Sinkoff, History  
Chaim I. Waxman, Sociology  
Yael Zerubavel, History

### HEBREW INSTRUCTORS

Lily Levy  
Orly Moshenberg  
Akiva Roth

### AFFILIATED FACULTY

Steven Friedell  
Robert Steiglitz

# New Courses

**Special Topics: Israeli Culture**  
Yael Zerubavel

The course explores the formation of modern Israeli culture since the beginning of Zionist immigration to Palestine by examining its historical, social, literary, folkloric, and artistic expressions. Topics include the revival of Hebrew language and identity and the reinterpretation of traditional Jewish symbols and rituals; the construction of Israeli national tradition; the impact of life in a state of war on Israeli literature, film, and theater; ethnicity and multiculturalism; Israeli music, dance and food.

**Special Topics: Identities and Communities (Honors course)**  
Judith Gerson

This honors seminar begins with a brief overview of some of the most recent conceptual literature on identity and empirical scholarship on immigration to the U.S. The scope of the course is intentionally broad in order to address issues that are specific to and/or generalized about various immigrant groups.

**Special Topics: Politics, Power and Powerlessness in Modern Jewish History**  
Nancy Sinkoff

This course examines the emergence of modern Jewish politics and its relationship to the question of Jewish power. It explores select aspects of traditional Jewish politics, such as the concepts of *dina de-malkhuta dina* and the "royal alliance" as the basis for the study of continuities and challenges inherent in modern Jewish politics.

**Special Topics: Modern Jewish Art**  
Matthew Baigell

This course examines Jewish experiences and Jewish identity in modern art. It will include only artists (eastern European, Russian, Israeli and American) who have created works based on Jewish religious and/or secular themes or whose works encompasses Jewish experiences in the modern world.

**Special Topics: Jews and the Mass Media**  
Barbara Reed

This course examines the American media industries created and developed by Jews and mainstream American mass media employing and producing images of Jews. Selected mass media will be used to supplement lectures and class research

**Special Topics: Growing Up Jewish in a Non-Jewish World (Honors seminar)**  
Maurice Elias

There is no more central issue in psychology, in ethnic studies, and in Judaism than the development of identity. This course will explore identity development in the context of American culture, both now and historically, and will focus on Jewish children.

**Special Topics: American Jewish History**  
Nancy Sinkoff

This course surveys the history of the Jews in the New World, beginning in the middle of the 17th century, and then focusing on the United States, until the present. It focuses on the social, cultural, political, and religious development of the Jewish community in the context of U.S. history and modern Jewish history.

## Israel and East European Democracies Compared

A year long seminar on *Cultures of Democracy and Democratization: Israel and Eastern Europe Compared* will be offered this year in conjunction with the Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies at Rutgers. The goal of the seminar is to compare the role of various collective identities in the ongoing formation and reformation of political cultures in Israel and such democratizing states as Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. It will examine the cultural prerequisites for democracy in diverse political settings; the relationship between democracy-building and nationalism, religion, and socialism; and the impact of class, gender and race. It will also look at such questions as: under what conditions can democracy be consolidated and sustained in places such as Israel and the more recent democracies currently being constructed in post-socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe?

The coordinating staff for the seminar include Myron J. Aronoff, Professor of Political Science and Jewish studies, Jan Kubick, Director of the Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies, Joanna Regulaska, Director, Local Democracy in Poland and Chair of the Geography Department, and Yael Zerubavel. Two visiting faculty in Jewish studies, Israel Bartal and Ezra Kopelowitz, will participate along with other visiting scholars, Rutgers faculty, and advanced graduate students.

### Students Studying in Israel

Shira Arnow, RC '01,  
Hebrew University  
Fall 98 and Spring 99

Sherry Bergman, DC '00,  
Bar-Ilan University  
Fall 98 and Spring 99

David Berse, LC '00,  
University of Haifa  
Fall 98 and Spring 99

David Granoff, RC '00,  
Hebrew University  
Spring 99

Jodi Mednick, RC '00,  
Ben-Gurion University  
Spring 99

David Mysels, RC '99,  
Ben-Gurion University  
Fall 98 and Spring 99

Dara Papier, RC '00,  
Hebrew University  
Spring 99

Arelys Perez, CC '00,  
University of Haifa  
Spring 99

Maya Ravee, DC '01,  
Ben-Gurion University  
Spring 99

Jamie Segall, RC '01,  
Tel Aviv University  
Spring 99

Samantha Witman, RC '01,  
University of Haifa  
Spring 99

# FACULTY UPDATES

**Myron Aronoff** recently published *The Spy Novels of John le Carre: Balancing Ethics and Politics*. St. Martin's Press, 1999; "War as Catalysts of Political and Cultural Change," edited by Edna Lomsky-Feder and Eyal Ben-Ari in *The Military and Militarism in Israeli Society*. SUNY Press, 1999; "The Labor Party at Fifty," edited by Robert O. Freedman in *Israel at Fifty: Promise and Reality*. University Press at Florida, 1999; review essay of Neill Lochery, "The Israeli Labour Party in the Shadow of the Likud" in the *Middle East Journal* (1999); review essay of Ehud Sprinzak, "Brother Against Brother," *Israel Studies* (1999). He was a guest lecturer at the Middle East Seminar, Columbia University (March 1999) and the Executive Seminar, Columbia University (May 1999). Aronoff presented papers on "Security Dilemmas: Changes in State Security and the Onset of Political Violence" at the 40th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, Washington, D.C. (February 1999) and on "The Prospects of Jewish Terrorism in Light of the Likely Progress in the Peace Process" at a symposium sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations and the Office of Counterterrorism Coordinator, U.S. Department of State, at the Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C. (June 1999). Aronoff also moderated the Round-Table discussion of the Israeli elections at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Israel Studies, Washington D.C. (May 1999).

**Matthew Baigell** published *Artist and Identity in 20th Century American Art*. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2000; and co-edited with Milly Heyd of Hebrew University, *Jewish Experiences in Modern Art* to be published by Rutgers University Press in 2001. Baigell presented a paper on Ben Shahn and the Bible at "Scripture and Picture: The Bible in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Art," at The Center for Jewish Art, Jerusalem (June 1999). His forthcoming

article "Jewish American Artists and Kabbalah" will appear in *Tikkun* during summer 1999.

**Omer Bartov's** book, *Hitler's Army: Soldiers, Nazis, and War in the Third Reich* was recently translated into French (Paris: Hachette Littérature, 1999). Other recent articles include: "Trauma and Absence (II)," edited by H. Peitsch, C. Burdett, and C. Gorrara, in *European Memories of the Second World War*. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 1999, 258-71; and "Victimes et absences," *Les cahiers du judaïsme 4* (Printemps 1999): 103-114. Professor Bartov also gave the keynote address at the following conferences: "Molding the Memory of the Shoah," Haifa University, (May 1999); Representations of the Holocaust in Cinema, CUNY (March 1999); Geschichtsschreibung nach Auschwitz: Empirische und theoretische Probleme im Umgang mit Spuren und Perspektiven der Verfolgten, Guetersloh, Germany (January 1999); "Back to the Future: The History Boom on Television," Cologne Conference: Internationales Fernsehfest Koeln, Adolf Grimme Institut (June 1998) and presented papers at the following conferences: "From Holocaust History to Memory: Germany, Jews and the Future," Princeton University; "The Origins of Totalitarianism," Geneva, Switzerland (April 1999); and "Lessons and Legacies: Laws, Evidence, and Context," at The Holocaust Educational Foundation, Florida Atlantic University (November 1998). Bartov presented three public lectures as a Visiting Professor at Berkeley University (March 1999). He also delivered papers at St. Olaf's College, Vienna, Austria (September 1998); University of California, Irvine (October 1998); University of Chicago (November 1998); Madrid, Spain (December 1998); Brown University (January 1999); Fordham University (February 1999).

**William Donahue** published "If he's not a Jew, then he deserves to be one': Droste-Hülshoff's "The Jews' Beech and Religious Anti-Semitism" *German Quarterly* (Winter 1999); "The Real 'Tora Connection' in Barbara Honigmann's *Soharas Reise*," edited by Ursula Beitter, in *Schreiben im heutigen Deutschland*, forthcoming 2000. He received a fellowship to participate in a seminar for the Enhancement of University-Level Holocaust Courses (The Hilberg Seminar), Center for the Advanced Study of the Holocaust, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (June 1999).

Donahue lectured at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University (February 1999) and was a guest lecturer at the Department of Religion, Lafayette College (May 1999) where he presented a paper on "Jews and Judaism in Germany Today." He will be a fellow at The Erasmus Institute for the Humanities, The University of Notre Dame during 1999-2000. Donahue's research topic will be "Afterlives: The Reprise of the Secularization Narrative in Modern German Culture" (a study of the literary representation/reception of secularization, including the Christian use of Jews and Judaism to represent the abandonment of the religious worldview).

**Leslie Fishbein** served as the Humanities Scholar for the Monroe Township Public Library, a demonstration site selected for the From Rosie to Roosevelt: A Film History of Americans in World War II viewing, reading, and discussion project for public libraries sponsored by National Video Resources and the National Endowment for the Humanities, in collaboration with the American Library Association. She delivered a lecture series on Yiddish Literature at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, Edison, NJ. Fishbein gave a lecture on "The Tender Trap: Love, Sex, and the Quest for Jewish Identity in Literature and Film" at Temple Beth El, Somerset, NJ.

**Judith Gerson** presented a paper at a conference of scholars working on Post-Holocaust issues in Germany (July 1999). She also has an article on Post-Holocaust issues in the final stages of review at the journal of Political Psychology. Gerson has a grant request on the Sociology of Holocaust and Post-Holocaust Life pending at the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline of the American Sociological Association/ National Science Foundation.

**Daniel Harris** published "Hagar in Christian Britain: Grace Aguilar's 'The Wanderers,'" *Victorian Literature and Culture*, 27.1 (1999): 143-69. This was a commissioned article in a special issue on Jewish literature in Victorian Britain, guest edited by Professor Cynthia Scheinberg of Mills College. Through his program, JEWISH VOICES: 200 YEARS OF POETRY WRITTEN IN ENGLISH, Harris gave presentations and short courses at more than 30 synagogues and cultural Jewish sites during the year, on topics ranging from immigration poetry to Jewish women's poetry about the Shoah. He will be teaching a course on "Imagining Israel: Poetry by British and American Jews, 1830-1997" at the National Havurah Institute, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

**Phyllis Mack** organized a conference in Bellagio on "Religion and Modernity: Re-thinking Secularization" (May 1999). She published two essays, "Methodism and Motherhood" in *Culture and the Nonconformist Tradition*, eds. Jane Shaw & Alan Kreider, University of Wales Press, 1999, and "Giving Birth to the Truth," *Scottish Journal of Religious Studies* 19(1): 19-30.

**Morris Moskowitz** lectured on "Klezmer Music – Its History and Significance" at the annual Regional Hadassah Conference held at Rutgers University. He helped sponsor the annual Yiddish Mame Loshn Festival held at Rutgers, where he gave a lecture on "Musical Philandery" in Sholem Aleykhem's *Stempenyu* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

**Alicia Ostriker** lectured on "Jewish Feminism in America" at the Institute for American Studies in Rome and at the University of Florence (February 1999). Her most recent book of poems, *The Little Space, Poems Selected and New*, was a National Book Award finalist in 1998.

**Barbara Straus Reed**, presented a paper to the American Journalism Historians Association in Louisville, KY on a biographical treatment of Henrietta Szold with special reference to Shulamith, mirror of the age, her pseudonym for her correspondent work. She also delivered a paper on Henrietta Szold and her role as a reporter for a New York Jewish newspaper at a symposium on "the 19th-century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression." Reed wrote three chapters about the Jewish press in a forthcoming book about the Civil War (Transaction Press) and served as a judge for the American Jewish Press Association.

**Chaim Waxman** recently co-edited with Roberta Rosenberg Farber *Jews in America: A Contemporary Reader*. Hanover: Brandeis University Press/ University Press of New England, April 1999, and contributed the following three chapters to the book: "Center and Periphery: Israel in American Jewish Life," 212-225; "The Sociohistorical Background and Development of America's Jews," 7-15; "Postmodernity and the Jews: Identity, Identification, and Community," 395-407. He also published "Congregation, Community, and Continuity: Denominational Affiliation as an Indicator of Jewish Identity" [in Hebrew] *Gesher: Journal of Jewish Affairs* 44, 138 (Winter 1998): 41-54.

**Yael Zerubavel** published "Unsettling Present, Uncertain Future," in *Israel at 50, 1948-1998: A Symposium*, The American Jewish Committee, 1998: 88-93; "A Window Onto a 'Vanished World': Sephardic Salvage Fiction and the

Rhetoric of Commemoration," edited by Yedida Stillman, in *From Iberia to Diaspora: Studies in Sephardic History and Culture*. Leiden: Brill, 1998, 362-76; "Le héros national: un monument collectif. Tradition et politiques de commémoration" in *La fabrique des héros, La Mission du Patrimoine Ethnologique, Collection Ethnologie de la France, cahier 12*. Paris: Édition de la Maison des sciences de l'homme, 1998: 167-79. Her book, *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition* is being translated to Hebrew and will be published by Yad Yitzhak Ben Zvi Press. During 1998-99, Zerubavel participated in a lecture series on "The Art and Culture of Israel" in the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art (October 1988), and presented papers relating to her new research project on the desert as a cultural metaphor in Israel in the following conferences: "Myth in Jewish Culture" at The Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History, Jerusalem (December 1998); "Icon, Image, and Text in Jewish Culture" at Princeton University (March 1999); and "The Formation of Jewish National Identity: The Role of Hebrew Literature" at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (March 1999). She also served as a respondent to Yaron Ezrahi at an International Symposium sponsored by the Dorot Foundation, New York (October 1998) and a reviewer of Tamar Katriel's work in "Meet the Author" plenary session at the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies (May 1999). Zerubavel lectured at the Princeton Jewish Center (November 1998), Baltimore Hebrew University (February 1999) and the Central Queens YM & YWHA (March 1999). She continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association for Jewish Studies, has completed her term as the Vice President of the Association for Israel Studies, and has been re-nominated to its Board. She also serves on the editorial boards of the journal *Israel Studies* and the *Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Review*.

# FACULTY

“Throughout the history of the Diaspora, Jewish imagination has flowered through midrash – stories based on Biblical stories, composed not for a narrow audience of scholars, but for an entire community,” says Alicia Ostriker, professor of English and faculty member in the Jewish Studies Program. She continues this tradition by bringing new meanings to ancient texts.

Poet, feminist, literary critic and author of several books of prose, Alicia Ostriker has reinterpreted both men’s and women’s voices in the Bible. Pondering the silence of Job’s wife, whose ten children were killed to test her husband’s devotion to God, sparked Ostriker’s interest in religion and the Bible. Her book *The Nakedness of the Fathers: Biblical Visions and Revisions* re-examines the Hebrew Bible through the eyes of a Jewish woman, literary scholar and committed feminist. Lending her renderings and commentary to the traditional male reading of the Bible has added a new voice to the realm of biblical interpretation.

Brought up in a socialist Jewish household, Ostriker believes her secular upbringing gives her the freedom to examine biblical texts with fresh eyes. “Judaism in general, and the Bible in particular, is the source of both the values that I have struggled against all my life and the values that I hold most dear and attempt to live by—justice, resistance to authority, love of and praise of sexuality and the body—this is the Hebrew Bible.”



## Alicia Ostriker

Ostriker has been teaching English and creative writing at Rutgers since 1965. Through the English Department and the Rutgers’ Jewish Studies Program, Ostriker teaches a course on “Jewish Women and Spirituality” together with historian Phyllis Mack. She also teaches a graduate course on “The Bible and Feminist Imagination.” Author of many prize winning books of poetry, Ostriker’s *The Little Space: Poems Selected and New* was nominated for the National Book Award in 1998. She has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Arts Council, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Guggenheim Foundation. In addition to being a prolific writer and a professor, Ostriker teaches an advanced midrash writing seminar at The Institute for Contemporary Midrash at Camp Isabella Freedman in the Berkshire Mountains of Connecticut. Her seminar is attended by a wide range of students, encompassing lawyers, engineers, social workers, Jewish educators, rabbis and representatives of many other professions. She also teaches at the Jewish Renewal Kallah in Oregon. On the local front, Ostriker will give three public lectures based on readings and discussions of “The Nakedness of the Fathers” at Congregation Anshe Emeth in New Brunswick on January 31, and February 7 and 14. When she is not teaching seminars or at Rutgers, Ostriker resides in Princeton with her husband, Jeremiah, provost at Princeton University.

*“I write in American space and Jewish time. The space of my particular promised land. Sweet land of liberty. Land to which my grandfathers fled, with their socialist pamphlets. With their eyes of two thousand years sorrow. With their backs of the tired, the poor, the huddled mass yearning to breathe free. With Galician and Lithuanian villages burning behind them. In the village squares—it was nothing new—they were lining up the Jews. Pamphlets were being distributed declaring that Jews in obscene rituals killed Christian babies, the*

*newspapers printed cartoons of evil men with liverish lips and hook noses squatting on cities. The icon of a bulging moneybag signified a Jew. In the village squares stood blond soldiers who would take an old man by the earlock, hold a revolver to his neck, command him to spit on his Torah. My grandfathers with their fantasy, as it so happens, about universal brotherhood, withheld their hands from retaliation.*

*How do I know I am a Jew in Jewish time? I am in Budapest twenty years ago, a fine restaurant, as I am leaving the maitre d’ engages me in conversa-*

*tion for some reason, it is small talk, nothing. And you are American; yes, American. And your people. . .? My people, my grandparents came over all in the eighteen eighties from eastern Europe. Yes, he says, with his eyes of two thousand years which I have not noticed. We call them the glückliche kinder.*

*The lucky children.”*

—Alicia Ostriker,  
Excerpt from *The Nakedness of the Fathers: Biblical Visions and Revisions*

**Israel Bartal**, Professor of Jewish History, is the Chair of the Department of Jewish History, head of the Center for Research on the History of Polish Jews and academic head of the project on Jewish Studies in Russian at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He serves as the co-director of the Center for Jewish Studies and Jewish Civilization at Moscow State University. Bartal's areas of research include modern Eastern European Jewish history; pre-Zionist Jewish community in Palestine; Haskala (Jewish Enlightenment); and the emergence of modern Jewish nationalism. He is the founder of *Cathedra*, the leading scholarly journal on the history of the land of Israel and has served as its editor for twenty years. He has published many books and articles, among them *Poles and Jews, A Failed Brotherhood*, edited with Magdalena Opalski (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1992) and *Exile in the Land* published in Hebrew (Jerusalem: ha-Sifriyah ha-Tisyoni, 1994).

## VISITING FACULTY

**Ezra Kopelowitz** is a doctoral candidate in the department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is in the final stages of writing his dissertation on the changing role of the rabbinate within the American and Israeli ethnic Jewish communities. In both his doctorate and other published articles, Kopelowitz focuses on the difference between tolerant and intolerant religious ideologies. He is the recipient of the graduate student paper award granted by the Association for the Sociology of Religion in 1996, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in 1995. At Rutgers, Kopelowitz will participate in a research seminar on democracy in Israel and Eastern Europe, and will pursue post-doctoral research on changes occurring in the Israeli-Jewish political culture as reflected in the increasing conflict between religious and non-religious Jews. Kopelowitz will also teach a class on "Israeli Politics" and a comparative seminar on "Multi-Culturalism in Israel and the United States."

## The Center's First Open House, October 1998



Above: Myron Aronoff, professor of political science talks with Dina Le Gall, professor of history, at the Center's first Open House.



Above: Richard Foley (Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Dean of the Graduate School, New Brunswick), Dr. Norman Reitman (Vice-chair of the Center's campaign), Joseph Seneca (Vice-President for Academic Affairs), and Richard Levao (Chair, Rutgers University Board of Governors) join Yael Zerubavel in a toast at the Center's open house in October.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## From the Associate Director

Community outreach is a vital and dynamic aspect of the Center's activities. Conferences, lectures, and workshops on topics of Jewish interest are open to members of both the academic and the general community. The Center's programs touched on a broad spectrum of topics last year including Black-Jewish relations, Israel, the Holocaust, German-Jewish relations and Jewish literature. A major undertaking this past year was the opening of the Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) which carries out the Center's commitment to human rights and prejudice reduction. The HRC's primary mission is to teach future generations about the Holocaust by training educators and providing educational resources to teach-

ers, students and scholars. Teachers' workshops and a four week mini-course were the highlights of the HRC's first year. The Center is developing a new resource library that holds instructional materials and is open to educators and community members.

As we move into the Millennium our programs will continue to integrate our academic and public outreach missions as we address issues relevant to Jewish life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: spirituality, community building, Israel-Diaspora relations, democracy, human rights, and Jewish education. We look forward to strengthening our ties with other communal and academic organizations and enhancing our role as a community resource.

—Karen Small

## Holocaust Resource Center opens at Rutgers

**A** two day conference on "Remembering the Holocaust in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Memoirs, Oral Histories and Video Archives" was the opening event of the new Holocaust Resource Center at Rutgers. A multi-generational audience consisting of 150 students, educators and community members attended the public program on Sunday, November 1. Noted scholars Geoffrey Hartman, Sterling Professor Emeritus, and Project Director, Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University; Michael Berenbaum, President and CEO, The Shoah Foundation; and Joan Ringelheim, Director of Education and Oral History, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, focused on the role of written memoirs and taped interviews in preserving the memory of the Holocaust. The speakers emphasized the importance of documenting and preserving the testimonies of survivors, perpetrators and bystanders for future generations' understanding of the Holocaust.

At the program's reception Rutgers president Francis L. Lawrence, Joan Bildner, Steven Some, Chair of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education and Kenneth Gordon, Vice-president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex

County emphasized the importance of the new Holocaust Resource Center.

The following day, the inaugural teachers workshop was held at the Center. Attended by 40 public and private school teachers, the workshop focused on integrating personal testimonies into the classroom curriculum. Many teachers commented in their evaluations on the high quality of the program.

The mission of the Holocaust Resource Center at Rutgers is to teach future generations about the Holocaust by providing educational opportunities for teachers, students and scholars; enhance public awareness about the Holocaust, racism and genocide; and heighten sensitivity and awareness of discrimination by encouraging discussions about differences, prejudice and tolerance. The Holocaust Resource Center's educational programs for teachers help fulfill the New Jersey mandate to teach the Holocaust in the public schools.



Left to right: Omer Bartov, Joan Ringelheim, Geoffrey Hartman, Joan Bildner, Allen Bildner, Yael Zerubavel, Michael Berenbaum and Karen Small.

A variety of services and instructional materials are available to educators and the community at large. The new resource library is open to Rutgers students and faculty, teachers in public and private schools, and to community members. The collection includes Judaica reference and history books, journals, teaching materials, a computer station, and videotapes of documentaries and personal testimonies of Holocaust survivors. Programmatic assistance for students and teachers is also available



## Workshops for Teachers

### Remembering the Holocaust in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Memoirs and Oral Histories

November 2, 1998

- *Breaking the Silence: Historical and Methodological Issues* – Hanna Yablonka
- *Using Oral Histories as Teaching Tools* – Joan Ringelheim, Director of Education and Oral History, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- *Sharing Personal Memories* – Clara Isaacman, Holocaust Survivor and Author of *Clara's Story*
- *Using Oral Histories and Memoirs in the Classroom* – Toby Kansagor, Teacher, Hillsborough High School
- *Developing an Oral History Project in the Classroom* – Kurt Piehler, Director, Rutgers Oral History Archives of World War II

### Moral Dilemmas in the Post-Holocaust Era

May 17, 1999

- *Bystanders: Ethical and Historic Issues* - Victoria Barnett, Consultant, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- *Saved by Raoul Wallenberg - the Angel of Budapest* - Vera Goodkin, Director, Holocaust Resource Center, Mercer County College
- *Judging Jews as Collaborators: A Historical and Moral Debate* - Hanna Yablonka
- *Jewish Holocaust-Era Assets and the Question of Restitution* - Therkel Straede, Fulbright Visiting Researcher, CGES-Georgetown, Professor of Modern German History, University of Odense
- *Resources and Applications in the Classroom* - Mary Johnson, Senior Program Associate, Facing History and Ourselves

Clara Isaacman, Holocaust survivor, addresses teachers at a workshop



## Four-Week Mini Course

### Holocaust Survivors in America and Israel

Taught by Hanna Yablonka, February – March 1999

- "Defining the Term Survivor"
- "The Uniqueness of Jewish Refugees After the War"
- "America and the Survivors, Israel and the Survivors"
- "Shaping the Memory and Knowledge of the Holocaust"

## Visiting Professor Enhances Holocaust Studies at Rutgers

Hanna Yablonka, who was awarded the Raoul Wallenberg Visiting Scholar in Human Rights by the History department, taught a special course this year on *Holocaust Survivors in America and Israel*. The course was enriched by special events and programs. Playwright, psychologist and lecturer

from the University of Michigan, Henry Greenspan, presented a dramatic reading of his play "Remnants," a collection of six Holocaust survivors' stories. Mr. Greenspan's moving performance had a powerful impact on the students' understanding of Holocaust survivors. The entire class traveled to Washington, D.C. for a special visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Following the trip, Jeremy Wimpfheimer (Rutgers College '01) wrote: "The fact that hate could so easily lead to such drastic conclusions, seemed to be a major understanding with which, I believe, my fellow students and I, emerged from the trip. The importance of understanding the danger of hate is of supreme importance to the preservation of the principles of democracy and equality that we hold so dear."

Professor Yablonka participated in the Center's teachers workshops and taught a mini-course about survivors for schoolteachers. Her knowledge and experience in the area of Holocaust Studies were particularly helpful in developing the initial programs for the Holocaust Resource Center.

**Students of Professor Yablonka's course visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum**



## Black-Jewish Dialogue Permeates Rutgers

Three programs designed to facilitate discussion between the Black and the Jewish communities were introduced at Rutgers this past spring. The Center initiated a new course entitled “Blacks and Jews in America,” cross-listed with the History Department. The course was team taught by Professors Deborah Gray White, Professor of History and Africana Studies at Rutgers and Debra Schultz, Deputy Director of the Open Society Institute, Network Women’s Program in New York. Along with it, the Center sponsored a three-part lecture series with the Department of History, and a student dialogue on this issue was co-sponsored with Hillel, the Black Student Union, and the Paul Robeson section of Mettler Residence Hall.

The three public events planned in conjunction with the course brought together students, scholars, activists, and community members in a series of multi-ethnic, intergenerational discussions about the relationship between Blacks and Jews. According to Deborah



Deborah Gray White, Dorothy Zellner, Charles McDew, Yael Zerubavel, and Debra Schultz

Schulz who studied Jewish women in the Civil Rights Movement, it is important to have some genuine historical information shared and a forum for asking questions and discussing these issues. Student Howard Manson reported that “there was a lot of discussion that sometimes crossed bridges and boundaries” of students’ previously conceived ideas.

The first lecture, *Assimilation and its Discontents*, examined the cultural history of each of the groups. It featured noted historian Hasia Diner, the Paul S. & Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History in the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University, and Kevin Gaines, Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas,

Austin. In the second program, speakers Leon Bass, an educator and World War II Veteran, and Murray Goldfinger, a Holocaust survivor, engaged in a powerful and moving dialogue when they addressed the topic *Fighting on Two Fronts: Black Soldiers and the Holocaust*. This exchange exposed two very different types of persecution, the anti-Semitic policies of the Nazi regime and U.S. policies of segregation and racism. The third and final lecture, *The Civil Rights Movement and Its Legacy*, featured Dorothy Zellner, Director of Institutional Advancement and Publications, Queens College Law School, and Charles McDew, lecturer at Metropolitan State University and Chairman of the Mississippi Community Foundation. The speakers addressed the historical period which represents the closest cooperation between Black and Jewish activists and the communities at large.

Karen Small, Associate Director of the Center, noted that this lecture series is “the product of the Center’s mission to initiate and develop programs that promote intergroup relations and to reduce prejudice.”

In conjunction with the new course and Hillel’s Jewish Awareness Week, Shira Epstein, education vice president of Rutgers Hillel, set out to promote Black-Jewish relations on campus in the form of a student dialogue. The program included group exercises and activities that examined stereotypes and prejudice faced by both communities. This experiment proved that students of both groups could come together to discuss their common goals and history. “We were delighted to support the students’ initiative which is evidence of the Center’s influence on campus. The dialogue shows that the introduction of new courses can evoke interest beyond the classroom and contribute to the quality of intellectual life and social awareness for the students,” remarked Yael Zerubavel, the Center’s Director.

Contributed in part by Richard M. Romm

# Bloustein Lecture Features Michael Blumenthal

**T**he Second Annual Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein and Edward J. Bloustein Memorial Lecture, jointly sponsored with the Edward J. Bloustein School for Planning and Public Policy, was held on March 11, 1999. Featured speaker, W. Michael Blumenthal, president and CEO of the Berlin Jewish Museum, addressed an audience of 100 on the current and historical relationship between Germans and Jews and the reaction of the German people to the new Jewish museum in Berlin. The Bloustein Memorial Lecture Series was established to celebrate the Blousteins' interests, including the promotion of humane values, which they believed were woven in the fabric of Jewish tradition.



**Michael Blumenthal, Elise Bloustein (daughter of Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein and Edward J. Bloustein), Yael Zerubavel, James Hughes (Dean of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy), and Alvin Rockoff (Co-chair of the Center's campaign and Chair of Rutgers' Board of Overseers).**

Born in Germany, Blumenthal spent the war years in Shanghai and emigrated to the United States in 1947. In 1961, he was the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and served for four years as the President's deputy special representative for trade

negotiations under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. In 1979, Blumenthal returned to Washington as Secretary of the Treasury in the Carter administration. In the private sector, he has been chairman of the board of the Bendix Corp., the Burroughs Corp. and Unisys.

## LECTURES

*Train-the-Trainer program, ADL's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE INSTITUTE*  
September 14 – 18

Co-sponsored with the New Jersey Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League, at Rutgers University. Through the Train-The-Trainer Program, teachers and students learn techniques and strategies to challenge prejudice and discrimination. The Center hosted a reception for the program participants on Thursday, September 17, 1998.

*The Biography of Ancient Israel: Nation and Narration in the Bible*

November 18, 1998; Ilana Pardes, Professor of Comparative Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Origins: The Beginnings of Jewish Poetry in English, 1830-1918;*

November – December 1998; three-part Continuing Education course

Daniel Harris, Professor, Department of English and Jewish Studies Program  
Co-sponsored with the Division of Continuing Education, Rutgers University and Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple

*Joao Pinto Delgado's 'La Poema de la Reina Ester' (The Poem of Queen Esther)*

February 24, 1999; David R. Slavitt  
Co-sponsored with the Spanish-Portuguese Department

*Jews in American Sports*

April 12, 1999; Ira Berkow, Sports Feature Writer, *The New York Times*  
Co-sponsored with Hillel

*Yom Hashoah Remembrance*

April 13, 1999  
Co-sponsored the campus-wide Holocaust commemoration initiated and organized by students, which brought together members of the student body, faculty and the local community.

## CULTURAL PROGRAMS

*Screening of Jew in the Lotus and When I Was Fourteen: A Survivor Remembers* at the New Jersey International Film Festival  
June 6, 1999

Co-sponsored with the Rutgers Film Co-op, the New Jersey Media Arts Center, and the Rutgers program in Cinema Studies

*Veiled Time: Contemporary Artists and the Holocaust*  
May – July 1999;

Exhibition of contemporary artist's interpretations of the Holocaust. Co-sponsored with the Mason Gross School of the Arts, the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

# EVENTS

## Center Celebrates Official Dedication

Over 200 guests assembled at 12 College Avenue on Sunday, May 2 for the official dedication of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life. Those attending included the Center's supporters and friends, community leaders, the university's top administration and Jewish Studies faculty.

Special tours of the building were given by Jewish Studies students, and the guests were clearly impressed by the beautiful renovations to the building. The official part of the program was held in a large white tent located behind the Center. The ceremony included remarks by Rutgers President Francis L. Lawrence, U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, Joan Bildner, who together with her husband Allen gave the founding gift for the Center, Alvin Rockoff, Co-chair of the Center's campaign and Professor Yael Zerubavel. For the first time, the Center awarded merit awards for outstanding students who specialize in Jewish Studies. The audience was greatly moved by the eloquent speech by John Dizgun, award recipient and doctoral student, on the impact of the Center on his academic experience at Rutgers. One of the highlights of the event was a surprise award to Allen and Joan Bildner from President Lawrence of the *Rutgers University Medal for Philanthropic Excellence*.

**Right: Aileen Levine, Ruth Rockoff, Arline Schwartzman and Irma Rockoff talk with Rabbi Yaacov and Devorah Hilsenrath during the reception**



**Left: Allen Bildner, Yael Zerubavel, President Francis Lawrence, Joan Bildner, and Alvin Rockoff join together for the official ribbon cutting ceremony**

**Right: Senator Frank Lautenberg (center) congratulates Joan and Allen Bildner on receiving the Rutgers Medal for Philanthropic Excellence**



**Above: Adelaide Zagoren, Vice-chair of the Center's campaign arrives for the dedication.**



**Above: Sima Jelin Lichtman, Vice-chair of the Center's campaign, admires the plaque in the seminar room named in memory of her late husband, Martin Jelin, and her son, William Sloane Jelin**

## Norman Reitman

**R**ecurring themes run through Dr. Norman Reitman's life: identifying a need and filling it, being on the cutting edge of progress and giving back to the communities to which he belongs.

They appear in his half century as a noted physician, in his work for Rutgers, from which he was graduated in 1932 and which he served in many capacities including Chairman of the Board of Governors, and in his strong support for the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life.

Dr. Reitman serves as a vice-chair of the Center's Campaign Leadership Committee. His own \$100,000 gift established the Reitman Visiting Scholar program to bring young scholars to teach and do research.

"Dr. Reitman was part of the group that was involved with the initial plans for the Center," said Yael Zerubavel. "He has been active in attending the Center's programs, contributing ideas and developing community support."

"Norman is a very special person," said Alvin Rockoff, the Center's Campaign Co-chair, who calls Dr. Reitman his mentor and a friend of 50 years. "Norman uses his own money - his own time. It is very difficult for people to say no to Norman."

"We have responsibility to those who have molded our lives," Dr. Reitman said. "I feel we have a responsibility to support the educational institutions that give students the wherewithal to make their mark in the world."

That certainly applies to Rutgers where Dr. Reitman served 30 years on the Board of Trustees and 15 years on the Board of Governors. He is a trustee emeritus and an officer of the Rutgers University Foundation.



**DONOR PROFILE**

"I wanted to be an internist," he said. "Specialty boards (in medicine) were then new. I was one of the first in New Jersey to pass the boards" in internal medicine. Later, he realized there was a medical gap to be filled.

"The only electrocardiograph machine was in the hospital. There wasn't one in a doctor's office," he said. He remedied that — training in cardiology and obtaining an electrocardiograph which he would take into a patient's home. Dr. Reitman went on to specialize in cardiology and later established Cardiology Associates of New Brunswick

Dr. Reitman responded to another unmet need in 1993 when Dr. Francis L. Lawrence, Rutgers' President, initiated discussions about founding a Jewish Studies Center. Dr. Reitman was one of the first people enlisted," according to Mr. Rockoff, then Chairman of Rutgers' Board of Governors.

Dr. Reitman said he devoted so much effort because, "I think every public university should have a program in Jewish studies." Today, Rutgers has a major in Jewish studies, and, "I feel very proud about that. It is evidence we have earned the respect of the academic community."

Of the Center's three-pronged approach: teaching, research and outreach, Dr. Reitman said, "I am very much interested in outreach, which allows the Center to be a resource for the entire state."

Dr. Reitman's community commitment is also evident through his involvement at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple, New Brunswick, where five generations of his family are active. He is on the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the endowment campaign.

But his greatest achievement, Dr. Reitman said, "was marrying my wife (Syril, a Douglass College graduate) and having a lovely family and being a good

doctor." The Reitmans have three children and seven grandchildren. A son, Milton, and a grandson, Jeffrey Cartmell, followed them to Rutgers.

Watching Rutgers develop has given him great satisfaction. "Quality has grown exponentially, and the addition of the Center for the Study of Jewish Life has added another jewel to the crown."

### Campaign Leadership

*Campaign, Co-chairs*

Joan Bildner

Alvin Rockoff

*Campaign Vice-chairs*

Bruce Freeman

Herbert Klein,

Sima Jelin Lichtman

Harold Perl

Norman Reitman

Herbert Stolzer

Adelaide Zagoren



### Center Appoints New Director of Development

Naomi L. Adler was recently appointed as the Center's Director

of Development. Previously Naomi served as Assistant Counsel to the New York State Temporary Commission of Investigation. Prior to that position, she was the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton. In this position, Naomi was responsible for Major Gift and Planned Giving solicitation and increased major giving by 30%. Naomi has served on several Boards of Trustees and has extensive experience in the Jewish community.



## John Dizgun

**J**ohn Dizgun, a doctoral student in the Department of History at Rutgers University, intends to travel to Argentina in October to carry out his dissertation research on Argentine Jewry, particularly the large exodus of Jews from Buenos Aires in the period after World War II. Dizgun will examine Jewish and non-Jewish community,

university, and government archives in Buenos Aires basing his research on oral interviews as well as archival sources.

Thanks to a Foreign Government Award from the International Council of Canadian Studies, Dizgun recently spent five months in Colombia investigating that country's Jewish communities. In March, he spoke at the Latin American Jewish Studies Association 10<sup>th</sup> International Research Conference at Princeton and his recent article on "Rights of Passage: Jewish Inter-marriage and Conversion in Colombia" is forthcoming in the academic journal *Shofar*. This past spring, Dizgun taught an undergraduate history course at Rutgers on the "The Jewish Presence in Latin America" the first course of its kind at Rutgers. Through film, literature, biographies, music, photographs and monographs, the course aimed to broaden discussion about the Jewish immigrant experience and simultaneously serve as a periscope to deepen student understanding of Latin American history.

A native of Montreal, Quebec, Dizgun received his BA from Tufts University in Boston. As a graduate student, Dizgun selected Rutgers University on the strength of its Latin American and Comparative History departments, and the opportunity to work with Professors Michael Adas, Samuel Baily, and Yael Zerubavel. Upon receipt of the Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship for Jewish Studies, Dizgun gave a short speech at the Center's formal dedication in May, 1999. He noted that "The Center for the Study of Jewish Life, serving as an active and creative umbrella organization, has forged a remarkable degree of cooperation and interaction among political scientists, sociologists, folklorists, philosophers, historians and economists - all pursuing Jewish studies yet from diverse backgrounds and disciplines." Impressed with the interdisciplinary opportunities available at Rutgers and, particularly, at the Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Dizgun encourages students to "really get involved with the Center, recognize its unique promise, and use it to reach out to different groups throughout the Rutgers community."

## Student Awards for Academic Achievement

### The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship

- Jodi Mednick, Jewish Studies major
- John Dizgun, graduate student specializing in Jewish history in Latin America

### The Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Undergraduate Scholarship

- Jamie Simon, Jewish Studies major

### The Bernice & Milton I. Luxemburg Student Award

- Dara Papier, Jewish Studies major

### Louis Fishman Memorial Student Support Fund

- Melissa Klapper, graduate student, specializing in Jewish history and U.S. history
- Pierre Atlas, graduate student specializing in Israel Studies and Political Science

## Henry Rutgers Scholars' Theses

Shira Eve Epstein – *The Havurah Movement and Jewish Feminism: Preserving While Revisioning Judaism*

Leora Weiss – *The Acquisition of Hebrew as a Second Language*

Ari Shlomo Yares – *Ethnic and Religious Identity in Jewish and Non-Jewish College Students*

## New Voice for Jewish Students

**S**hoshana Kordova got the initial idea of starting a non-affiliated Jewish student publication during her junior year at Rutgers. The following summer Kordova started *Kolot: Rutgers University Jewish Voices* - *Kolot* means "voices" in Hebrew. "I was motivated to start the paper because I felt it was something lacking in a growing Jewish community at Rutgers. As with any community, I felt we could use a good newsletter to unify Jewish students, reaching out and covering diverse Jewish points of view," Kordova said. She did not want the paper to be affiliated with any one Jewish organization on campus. She successfully obtained funding from *The New Jersey Jewish News* to get the paper into production. *Kolot* covers items about religion, holidays, campus events, news, culture, different viewpoints on various issues, and student opinion on how issues affect the Rutgers student population. Dr. Yael Zerubavel and Professor Nancy Sinkoff served as advisors to the *Kolot* staff. Following Kordova's graduation, the leadership of *Kolot* has been passed on to Rutgers sophomore Eliza Sackonovitz.

Kordova has the following advice for Rutgers students: "Look for something you want to spend time on and be actively involved in, so that you can improve the world you live in and make your community better. Everyone is capable of making changes in this world."



## Seidman Scholarship Recipient Thanks Donor

Dear Judge Seidman,

You can imagine my surprise when I heard of your generous gift while reading my email in a small computer lab in the desert city of Beer Sheva, Israel. My interest in Jewish Studies has brought me to Israel for the Spring semester of my Junior Year.

Your generous gift is greatly appreciated and will surely be used in the acquisition, through my education, of the tools I need for a career in Jewish Communal Service. I have spent many summers working with children at the JCC of MetroWest's Day Camp, and this summer I will be taking on an administrative role that will hopefully provide me with much needed insight into the world of social work and Jewish Communal Service. The time that I have spent working for the JCC has probably been one of the most influential factors in my commitment to a career within the Jewish Community.

Upon my return from Israel, besides exploring Graduate School options, I will also be undertaking a thesis for the English Department at Rutgers that will focus on Contemporary Jewish Women's Literature. I am very interested in examining a sense of a Jewish female voice, and how this voice has been constructed over thousands of years of history, culture, and religion. Another goal of this thesis will be to explore the ways in which a Jewish female identity is distinct in relation to both the larger categories of Judaism and women. Please be content in the knowledge that your generous contribution is being put to good use by a young student who takes both her studies and her Judaism quite seriously. I really appreciate your generosity and want to thank you wholeheartedly.

—Jodi Mednick, Rutgers University

## Student Programs Co-Sponsored with Rutgers Hillel

### Four Week Mini-Course

*Jews on Love, Sex and Marriage* was the focus of a four week mini-course co-sponsored with Hillel in the fall of 1998. Over forty Rutgers students assembled at the Center for sessions with community rabbis and educators representing a wide variety of movements within Judaism. The discussions focused on diverse topics such as "Judaism and Sexuality," "Homosexuality and Pre-marital Sex," "Relationships, Family and Marriage: Building Interpersonal Relationships," and "Personal Choices: Facing Issues of Dating, Sex and Respect."

### Student-Faculty Discussion Groups

- *Capital Punishment: An American Lawyer's Look at Jewish Law*; November 9, 1998; Dr. Steven Friedell, Professor of Law, Rutgers University School of Law
- *Sexuality and Rabbinic Judaism*; October, 1998; Phyllis Mack, Professor of History and Director of Graduate Program in History
- *Reflections with an Israeli Historian on Israel and Its 50th*; February 3, 1999; Hanna Yablonka, The Raoul Wallenberg Visiting Professor in Human Rights

## Upcoming Programs 1999-2000

*Cultures of Democracy and  
Democratization: Israel and Eastern  
Europe Compared*  
Year-long seminar

*The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual  
Lecture*

Speaker: Yaron Ezrahi  
October 10

Hebrew School Teachers Workshop  
co-sponsored with Hillel  
October 12

*The Nature of Community in Judaism*  
Conference, co-sponsored with The  
Jewish Education Association of  
MetroWest  
October 24

*Kabbalah and Literature*  
Moshe Idel and Michal Govrin  
October 26

*Prayer, Poetry and Spirituality*  
Chava Weissler, Galit Hasan-Rokem,  
Shirley Kaufman  
November 7

Teachers Workshops on the Holocaust  
Fall and Spring

*Revival of Jewish Life in Poland*  
Konstanty Gebert  
The Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein  
and Edward J. Bloustein Memorial  
Lecture  
December 7

*Art of the Holocaust*  
Ziva Amishai-Maisels  
February

*The Problem with Evil in the Bible*  
Edward Greenstein  
March 2

*A Cross and A Star: Growing up  
Jewish in Latin America*  
Marjorie Agosin  
The Raoul Wallenberg  
Annual Public Lecture  
March 30

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

Director: Professor Yael Zerubavel • Associate Director: Karen Small  
Development Officer: Naomi L. Adler • Assistant to the Director: Arlene Goldstein

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