



RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

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

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER • NUMBER 9 • FALL 2005

From the Director's Desk...

Jewish studies at Rutgers has made a major leap forward with important developments occurring at the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life and the Department of Jewish Studies. Professor Gary Rendsburg has joined the faculty as the new Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History, and the investiture of this significant chair was marked by a university-wide ceremony last fall. Professor Rendsburg, who now serves as the department chair, reports in this issue on other exciting faculty news that has been a source of great pride for Jewish studies at Rutgers. The Bildner Center has launched new and important initiatives that further enhance its dual educational mission for the Rutgers academic community and the general public.

The Center extended its outreach to New Jersey educators by offering workshops on Israel in two different locations in the state. Drawing on our faculty's distinct strength in the area of Israel studies these workshops were designed to expand schoolteachers' knowledge of Israel's political, social, and cultural history and offer various approaches to teaching about Israel. In addition, the Center sponsored extracurricular educational programs for students and faculty as well as a broad range of lectures and cultural events open to the general public.

The Center has also ended a two-year planning process for a major new program for teacher education, offered under the auspices of our Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center: *The Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education*. Professor Jeffrey Shandler, who served as the acting director of the Bildner Center during my sabbatical leave, and Karen Small, the Center's associate director, developed this two-year educational program, which will bring thirty New Jersey schoolteachers to Rutgers beginning this fall.

The Center's ability to meet new educational needs has been made possible through generous gifts by community members and foundations. The Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar is an example of a new annual forum. The Schwartzman Seminar allows us to bring a distinguished visiting scholar to present new research in the field of Jewish studies to Rutgers faculty and graduate students, and we look forward to its inauguration this fall.

Back at the Bildner Center after an intensive, yet refreshing, time conducting research in Israel, I look forward to teaching and to meeting new challenges for Jewish studies at Rutgers.

—Professor Yael Zerubavel



"Gavriel" by Jewish studies minor and visual arts major Rachel Rosen (See profile on page 12.)

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

From the Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies

The academic year 2004–2005 was a most exciting and productive one in the Department of Jewish Studies. The highlight of the year was the promotion of both Azzan Yadin and Jeffrey Shandler to associate professor with tenure. This achievement means that Jewish studies at Rutgers has reached a major milestone, as the department now has a core faculty of five tenured members: Yael Zerubavel, Nancy Sinkoff, and myself in addition to Yadin and Shandler.

In addition, Professors Yadin and Shandler both were awarded Rutgers' prestigious Board of Trustees Research Fellowships for Scholarly Excellence. It was a proud moment for me to join them at a special ceremony held at the President's House in early May, where we learned that never before in the history of the university had one department garnered two of these coveted awards in a single year.

Our course offerings were enriched this year by several visiting faculty members and part-time lecturers, most of whom taught new courses. Among these were Naama Sheffi, the Aresty Visiting Fellow, who taught "Israeli Culture"; Mark Kligman, "Jewish Contemporary Music"; and Rebekah Klein-Pejsová, "The Jews and the State in Central Europe." These offerings—when combined with our regular courses on Jewish history, religion, and literature—attest to the breadth of Jewish studies courses available at Rutgers.

One new course that drew a great deal of public attention—it was featured in the local media, both Jewish and general—was Professor Yadin's "Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah." The large number of students enrolled in the course was further evidence of the current popularity of this subject, though the students learned very quickly that there is more to this abstruse topic than the popular fascination might suggest.

Our Hebrew-language program continues to grow, both in the array of courses offered and the number of students enrolled. Our dedicated staff teaches the full range of levels, from elementary Hebrew to a series of advanced courses in which modern Hebrew literature is read in the original.

Due to the generous support that we enjoy from numerous benefactors, the number of student awards that we are able to distribute continues to grow. The awards ceremony in May 2005 was the largest one to date, with sixteen of our majors and minors receiving commendations for their academic achievement.

The above represents only some of the highlights from the last academic year in the Department of Jewish Studies. Our faculty and staff look forward to participating in the department's ongoing development, as we continue to meet the growing needs of our students in the years ahead.

—Professor Gary Rendsburg

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

Jeffrey Shandler and Azzan Yadin have both been promoted to associate professor with tenure. In addition, both have received Rutgers' Board of Trustees Research Fellowships for Scholarly Excellence, which recognize faculty members who have recently been promoted to associate professor with tenure and whose work shows exceptional promise. The fellowship includes a citation and a research grant.

The awards cited Shandler for outstanding scholarship in the field of modern Jewish studies, particularly his influential work in the area of American Jewish popular culture, and Yadin for original scholarship in rabbinic literature and his impressive ability to integrate the study of ancient Jewish literature into the study of religion, culture, and the humanities in general.

RETIRING FACULTY

Alicia Suskin Ostriker, an award-winning poet, feminist, literary critic, and author of several books of prose, has retired after nearly forty years as a professor in the Department of English as well as a faculty member in Jewish studies. Ostriker taught the courses "Jewish Women and Spirituality" and "The Bible and Feminist Imagination."

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Core Faculty

Gary A. Rendsburg, Chair,
Jewish Studies; History
Jeffrey Shandler,
Jewish Studies
Nancy Sinkoff,
Jewish Studies &
History
Azzan Yadin,
Jewish Studies
Yael Zerubavel,
Jewish Studies &
History

Associated Faculty

Myron J. Aronoff,
Political Science &
Anthropology
Maurice Elias, Psychology
Leslie Fishbein,
American Studies
Ziva Galili, History
Judith Gerson, Sociology
David Greenberg, Journalism
Paul Hanebrink, History
Martha Helfer, German

Dina LeGall, History
Phyllis Mack, History
Barbara Reed, Journalism
Chaim I. Waxman, Sociology

Language Instructors

Orly Moshenberg,
Hebrew Language
Coordinator
Edna Bryn-Noiman
Pearl Gluck
Lily Levy

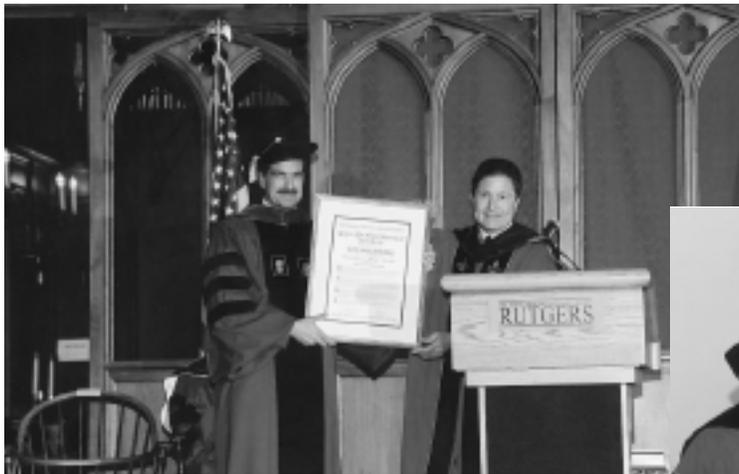
Part-Time Lecturers

Mark Kligman
Jonathan Mendilow
Nina Redl
Mordecai Schwartz
Moshe Sherman
Lance Sussman

Visiting Faculty

Warren Hoffman,
Reitman Visiting Fellow
Hanna Yablonka,
Aresty Visiting Fellow

INVESTITURE



Left: Gary Rendsburg, the Laurie Chair holder, with Rutgers President Richard L. McCormick

Below: Gary Rendsburg (center) with Laurie Foundation board members Gene Korf, Adelaide Zagoren, Ruth Marcus Patt, and Laura Zagoren Master



The Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History

On October 14, 2004, in an elaborate ceremony, Professor **Gary A. Rendsburg** was formally installed as the inaugural holder of the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The Laurie Chair is the first named professorship in the Department of Jewish Studies and was established by a very generous gift from the **Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation**.

Rutgers administration and faculty members, as well as friends and supporters of the Bildner Center, filed into Kirkpatrick Chapel to witness the investiture ceremony for Dr. Rendsburg. The proceedings included remarks by Rutgers President **Richard L. McCormick**, who praised Dr. Rendsburg's accomplishments and noted the importance of the new chair for the young Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers. **Adelaide Zagoren**, president of the Laurie Foundation, remarked on the significance of the occasion for both the Bildner Center and the university. She offered encouragement to Dr. Rendsburg in the tremendous task of bringing Jewish history into perspective for new generations of students and faculty.

Professor Rendsburg spoke about his long-standing fascination with Jewish history and his love of teaching. "The journey of Jewish history . . . 3,200 years in the making . . . is one that never ends," he said. "And the members of the Laurie Foundation board have seen fit to participate in that process, ensuring that Jewish history will be taught at Rutgers in perpetuity."



Joan Bildner, Gary Rendsburg, Yael Zerubavel, and Allen Bildner

Rendsburg Delivers Public Lecture on the Genesis of the Bible

In October 2004, community members as well as Rutgers faculty, students, and staff were introduced to Professor **Gary A. Rendsburg** when he delivered his first public talk as the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History. More than two hundred community members were in attendance at the Douglass College Center for "The Genesis of the Bible," which examined the theological, ideological, sociological, and political factors involved in both the creation of the biblical books and the biblical canon in ancient Israel. Rendsburg also explored the Bible's literary style and the intellectual tradition from which it arose.

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

FACULTY SEMINARS 2004–2005

Rakefet Sela-Sheffy, a senior lecturer in the Unit of Culture Research at Tel Aviv University, delivered the talk “**Integration through Distinction: German Jewish Immigrants, the Legal Field, and Patterns of Bourgeois Culture in British-Ruled Jewish Palestine.**” Dr. Sela-Sheffy analyzed the complex social and cultural engagement of German Jewish newcomers with the more established Jewish community in Palestine during the 1930s and 1940s, focusing on their involvement in the legal profession.

Joseph Rosenstein, a professor of mathematics at Rutgers, presented “**The Making of a Prayer Book,**” a discussion of his new siddur, *Eit Ratzon*, a traditional prayer book designed for those who seek spirituality and meaning beyond what they have found in conventional prayer books. He was joined by Professors Gary Rendsburg, Chaim Waxman, and Azzan Yadin of the Rutgers Department of Jewish Studies and Rabbi Esther Reed of Rutgers Hillel, who discussed the significance of siddurim from the perspectives of the history of redaction of siddurim, the challenges of translating devotional texts, and contemporary Jewish ritual practice.

Alicia Ostriker, a professor of English at Rutgers, delivered the talk “**Jonah: The Book of the Question.**” Her interpretation-in-progress was a reading of the Book of Jonah as a children’s tale, as case history, and as a story central to the politics of our time.

Leora Batnitzky, a professor of religion at Princeton University, presented the talk “**Leo Strauss and the German Jewish Discovery of Islam.**” She discussed Strauss’s conception of Islam in order to consider more broadly the political implications of the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century German Jewish interest in Islam.

Isaac Gottlieb, a professor in the Department of Bible at Bar-Ilan University, presented “**Purim as Paradox: When Midrash Meets the Megillah.**” He discussed the seriousness with which the Talmud treats the Megillah, equating it in law and lore (Halakha and Haggadah) with the Torah itself.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Fall 2004

Na’ama Sheffi, the Aresty Visiting Fellow for fall 2004, is a senior lecturer in the School of Communication at Sapir College, in Ashqelon, Israel. Her area of expertise is German cultural influences on Hebrew and Israeli culture, and her most recent book, *The Ring of Myths: The Israelis, Wagner and the Nazis*, has been published in Hebrew, English, and German. Sheffi’s current research project examines Israeli children’s literature, magazines, and school textbooks from 1948 to 1967. In her study, she explores the ways in which heroes reflect Israeli perceptions of the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict. At Rutgers, Sheffi taught the course “Israeli Culture,” which explored the early development of the State of Israel. She also spoke about Israeli cinema before the screening of the drama *Yossi and Jagger* at the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival. In December, Sheffi gave a talk in Hebrew about Israeli cinema (See page 7).

Announcing the Visiting Scholars for 2005-06

The Aresty Visiting Fellow

Hanna Yablonka is an associate professor in the Department of Jewish History at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, where she also serves as head of the Rabb Center for Holocaust and Redemption Studies. Her area of expertise is the history of the Holocaust and the post-Holocaust period in Israel.

In 2002, Yablonka was awarded Yad Vashem’s Buchman Memorial Prize for her book *The State of Israel vs. Adolf Eichmann* (Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi and Yedioth Aharonot, 2001). This book was published in an English translation by Random House in 2004. Yablonka is a member of the Public Council of Yad Vashem.

Lorraine and Jerome Aresty’s generous gift to increase the Aresty Visiting Fellow Fund allows the Bildner Center to bring Professor Yablonka to Rutgers for the entire academic year. She will serve as scholar-in-residence for the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education and will teach the course “The Holocaust in Israeli Life and Society” in the spring semester.

The Norman and Syril Reitman Visiting Fellow

Warren Hoffman is an adjunct assistant professor at Hunter College of the City University of New York and the book review editor of *Judaism*. Hoffman earned his Ph.D. in American literature from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2004, writing the doctoral thesis *Gay-Valt: Queer Performance and Identity in Twentieth-Century Jewish American Literature, Theater, and Film*. His major areas of expertise are nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, Jewish American literature, and musical theater. A fellow at Rutgers for Fall 2005, Hoffman will teach the course “Queer Jewish Culture in America,” which will be cross-listed with English, comparative literature, and American studies.

FACULTY PROFILE

Yael Zerubavel

Yael Zerubavel spent most of her sabbatical last year doing research in Jerusalem and the Negev desert for her next book, *Desert in the Promised Land: Nationalism, Politics, and Symbolic Landscapes*, which is under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

"I'm intrigued by the duality in the Israeli attitude toward the desert, which can be traced to the early days of Zionist immigration to the land," she said in a recent interview. "Historically, the desert was a very important and meaningful space for Jews: it was the place where the patriarchs wandered, the site of the exodus and the giving of the Torah, and the birthplace of the nation. The study of modern Israeli culture reveals a profound ambivalence in Israelis' perceptions of the desert."

In many ways, Zerubavel's current research stems from her exploration of Israeli collective memory and the creation of a distinct Hebrew culture in her award-winning book, *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition*. This time, though, she is focusing on the cultural construction of space rather than the cultural construction of time.

"My point of departure is looking at the desert as a symbolic landscape," she said. "On the one hand, the romantic view of the land emphasizes its eternal and spiritual qualities, and links it with biblical images and the ancient national past. One can find evidence of the strong



PHOTO: SMADAR DANZIGER

emotional attachment to this primordial landscape in early Hebrew songs and dances or in accounts of

youth treks in the desert. On the other hand, the powerful Zionist settlement ethos promoted an agenda of 'making the desert bloom,' which implied a negative view of that space and a desire to transform it both physically and culturally."

Zerubavel's research involved combing through personal narratives, folk songs, poetry, fiction, films, tourist publications, and educational materials. In spring 2004, she spent several months in Israel as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and during her sabbatical year she conducted ethnographic research and interviews while staying at the Ben-Gurion Research Center of Ben-Gurion University at Sde Boker.

"The Negev was the space where settlement efforts focused most rigorously during the 1940s and the first decades of the state," she explained. "I was interested in learning more about recent settlement and development initiatives in that desert territory, which receives less attention than the politically charged territories of Gaza and the West Bank. I found that the ambivalence toward the desert has not disappeared: the Negev is seen as a neglected periphery in a country with a high population density at its center, and

as the region with the greatest potential for future growth." But ecological concerns about the protection of Israel's natural sites and open spaces often clash with development initiatives and the pressing need to resolve the settlement issues of the Bedouins.

Zerubavel studies Israeli culture from a broad multidisciplinary perspective and is particularly interested in examining both its continuity with Jewish tradition and its unique responses to the complex realities of the Middle East. A recent study cited her as being among the top ten scholars whose publications are assigned in courses on Israel in American universities. Zerubavel's work has been widely read in various academic disciplines, and she is a frequent participant in interdisciplinary forums in the United States and abroad. This coming year, she will address biblical scholars on theoretical aspects of the study of memory, historians on the topic of nationalism and collective identities, and political scientists and sociologists on the reconstruction of national pasts.

Reflecting on her nine-year tenure as the founding director of the Bildner Center, Professor Zerubavel said she is gratified to see the Center's programs flourish and to have helped shepherd the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers into an internationally known program. After that long haul, she said, the retreat to the desert came as a welcome respite. This fall, she returns to directing the Bildner Center and to teaching, and she plans to incorporate her new research into her courses.

Faculty Updates

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Zerubavel presented a paper on "Antiquity, National Memory, and the Construction of Symbolic Bridges in Modern Israel" at an interdisciplinary colloquium on Memory at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem (April 2005), and participated in a panel on "Literature and

Imagery of Land Settlement in the Jewish World" at the conference "To the Land: 200 Years of Jewish Agricultural Settlement" at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (June 2005). She gave lectures at "Poetry in the Desert" in Sde Boker (December 2004), a teachers' workshop on "Maintaining Democracy in a Time of Terrorism in America and Israel," sponsored by the Bildner Center in Teaneck, NJ (May 2005),

and on Israeli culture at the conference "Hadesh: Israel Engagement," sponsored by the United Jewish Communities in Philadelphia (May 2005).

Zerubavel recently became a member of the scientific board of the Ben-Gurion Research Center at Ben-Gurion University and continues to serve on the editorial boards of *Israel Studies*, *Journal of Israeli History*, and *Israel Studies Forum*.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From the Associate Director

It was with a great sense of accomplishment that we announced the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI) this year. Involving a multiyear planning process, the MTI was formulated by the Littman Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) advisory committee with the goal of providing comprehensive education on Holocaust history and remembrance. The MTI offers a unique opportunity for educators to learn from major scholars and to engage with their peers. It has been a special privilege to work with so many scholars and Holocaust educators to plan and implement the program.

A new Bildner Center initiative was a workshop for educators on teaching about Israel. We hope to offer additional programs in this much needed area. Professional development credits were granted to more than 100 teachers who participated in our

workshops on Israel and on the Holocaust.

The Center's lectures explored a wide range of topics such as the response of American Jews during the Holocaust, the origins of the Bible, and the multiple film versions of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Current issues and the Jewish community's response were discussed in two select forums. The first, a talk by James Young, brought to bear his expertise in Holocaust memorials on the selection of the World Trade Center memorial; the second convened a panel discussion around the responses evoked by the film *The Passion of the Christ*.

Two cultural programs were offered: the annual Jewish film festival, which continues to attract large audiences; and a performance of Sephardic dance and music, which brought an unusual cultural dimension to the university community.

—Karen Small



Karen Small with Karma Foundation Executive Director Dina Karmazin Elkins

filmmakers made appearances throughout the festival, including **Jonny Persey**, producer of *Wondrous Oblivion*, who flew in from London and **Menachem Daum** and **Oren Rudavsky** (*Hiding and Seeking*). **Ron Rotem**, co-director of *No. 17*, joined the festival from Israel. He also served as the documentary's cinematographer, which lent a unique perspective to the post-screening discussion.

Another distinctive feature this year was a women filmmakers' forum. Directors **Deborah Dickson** (*Ruthie and Connie*) and **Faye Lederman** (*A Good Uplift*) interacted with the audience and engaged in a lively dialogue after their films were screened.

A feature of the festival was the mini-Israeli film festival, showcasing Israel and its burgeoning film industry. Three Israeli movies were featured: the dramas *Yossi and Jagger* and *Broken Wings* and the documentary *No. 17*. A number of teen groups attended the screenings of *No. 17* and had the opportunity to meet Ron Rotem. A special talk, "Israeli Cinema and Cultural Transformation," provided insight into Israel's flourishing film industry over the last ten years.

The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival is made possible through the generous support of the **Karma Foundation**. The Regal Entertainment Group is also a partial sponsor of the festival.

Jewish Film Festival Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival celebrated its fifth anniversary in November 2004 with award-winning dramatic and documentary films from the United States, Argentina, Britain, and Israel, as well as gala receptions that marked the occasion. The films dealt with a range of topics including the pressures of Israeli military life, two sons' vastly different searches for their mysterious fathers, forgiveness after the Holocaust, and the investigation of an unidentified victim of a suicide bomber in Israel. Three films had their New Jersey premieres at the festival: *Wondrous Oblivion*, *Lost Embrace*, and *No. 17*. These films depicted stories of Jewish life in London, Argentina, and Israel.

Festival Films

Wondrous Oblivion, England, 2003
Director: Paul Morrison

Lost Embrace, Argentina, 2004
Director: Daniel Burman

Yossi and Jagger, Israel, 2002
Director: Eytan Fox

Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance after the Holocaust USA, 2003; Directors: Menachem Daum and Oren Rudavsky

No. 17, Israel, 2003
Directors: David Ofek and Ron Rotem

Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House, USA, 2002
Director: Deborah Dickson

A Good Uplift (short), USA, 2002
Directors: Faye Lederman, Cheryl Furjanic, and Eve Lederman

Broken Wings, Israel, 2002
Director: Nir Bergman

My Architect: A Son's Journey, USA, 2003
Director: Nathaniel Kahn

Israel Studies

Teacher Workshop on Israel

Rutgers faculty developed “**Maintaining Democracy in a Time of Terrorism: America and Israel**,” a workshop for high school teachers focused on teaching about Israeli society and democracy as part of an initiative of the New Jersey–Israel Commission. This new effort seeks to educate public school teachers about Israel beyond the headlines. The workshop was offered at the Bildner Center in New Brunswick and at Teaneck High School last spring. Professors **Yael Zerubavel**, Department of Jewish Studies; **Mike Aronoff**, Departments of Political Science and Anthropology; and **Chaim I. Waxman**, Department of Sociology, discussed the diversity of Israeli society and the challenge of living in a democratic society under siege. Exploring the American and Israeli democracies from a number



Workshop participant Stephanie Cook with presenters Yael Zerubavel and Mike Aronoff

of perspectives, they compared the two countries' responses to terrorism while preserving civil liberties.

Participating teachers earned professional development credits for attending and were given resource materials about Israel to use in their classrooms. This free workshop was made possible by a generous grant from Mrs. **Helen Eisenberg** of Bergen County and was co-sponsored by the Bildner Center, Rutgers' Departments of Political Science and History, and Rutgers' Center for Historical Analysis.

Talks in Hebrew: Israeli Literature and Cinema

In October 2004, the Bildner Center's ongoing Israeli Authors Forum featured **Michal Govrin**, an award-winning author and formerly the Center's Aresty Visiting Fellow and writer-in-residence. More than fifty community members, students, and faculty gathered for Govrin's talk, “**Who's Afraid of Jerusalem**.” She shared her thoughts about living in Jerusalem with her family during these difficult times. After the talk, audience members were able

to speak informally with Govrin at a dessert reception. Govrin has published both fiction and poetry and received the Israel Prime Minister's Award for Literature.

In December, **Na'ama Sheffi**, the Center's Aresty Visiting Fellow, delivered a talk in Hebrew titled “**Israeli Cinema and Cultural Transformation**.” Her talk and film-clip presentation explored the roots of Israeli cinema from the establishment of the state through the 1970s. It also examined Israel's flourishing film industry over the last ten years, focusing on the use of documentary film as a vehicle to critique Israeli society.



Yoel Ben-Simhon, Sarah Aroeste, and Judith Brin Ingber, with dance professor Jeffrey P. Friedman, at a performance of Sephardic dance and music co-sponsored with the Rutgers dance department, Mason Gross School of the Arts, funded in part by the Sagner Family Foundation



Ruth and Alvin Rockoff with Michael Stanislawski (left) who delivered the annual Rockoff lecture, “From Cosmopolitanism to Zionism: Jewish Intellectuals and the Turn to Nationalism”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

Workshops for Teachers

■ “How Germany Remembers the Holocaust”

More than forty-five high school teachers gathered for this workshop co-sponsored with Rutgers' Department of Germanic, Russian, and East European Languages and Literatures. It marked the first time that the Littman Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) had brought together German-language teachers and general studies teachers. The different backgrounds and disciplinary perspectives of the participants enhanced the group discussions during this dynamic program.

The program opened with an overview of German history and remembrance by Rutgers professors **Bill Donahue** of German languages and literatures and **Jeffrey Shandler** of Jewish studies. Art historian **Noam Elcott** of Princeton University used visuals to augment his presentation “**Holocaust Counter-Memorials.**” **Mary Mills**, a German-language educator, asked participants to write poems in response to Holocaust images. The program concluded with a portrayal of the Holocaust on-screen by **Tom Doherty** of film studies at Brandeis University.

■ “From Museums to Comic Books: Images of the Holocaust in the Public Sphere”

Subsidized by a gift from Drs. **Theodore and Eva Stahl**, this workshop focused on recent portrayals of the Holocaust on television, in films, in museums and monuments, and in various other forms of popular culture, including comic books, advertising, and video games. Presenters included Professor **Jeffrey Shandler**, who discussed the Holocaust on television; **Norman Kleeblatt**, the Susan and Elihu Rose Curator of Fine Arts at the Jewish Museum in New York, who showed slides of the works of contemporary artists; **Laurence Roth**, a professor of English and Jewish studies at Susquehanna University, who talked about images of the Holocaust in comic books and graphic novels; and **Ilana Abramovitch**, manager of curriculum



Participants view images of the Holocaust at workshop.

at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, who presented visual displays from the museum. The presentations were followed by discussions on classroom implementation.

■ “America, Its Jews and the Rise of Nazism”

This workshop was presented by **Gulie Ne’eman Arad**, professor of American and European history at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Arad’s message to teachers was to use the lessons learned from the Holocaust to inspire students to become socially active.

The Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Lecture

Gulie Ne’eman Arad delivered the public lecture “**An Unsettling Past: American Jews during the Nazi Era,**” which addressed the challenges faced by American Jews who, confronted with Nazism and the Holocaust, were caught between their desire to be accepted by American society and their emotional commitment to their European brethren.



Workshop Inspires Innovative High School Program

In December 2003, Howell High School art teacher Dorene Schwartz-Weitz attended “Looking at Barbarity in Modern Society,” a professional development workshop for New Jersey high school teachers offered by the Bildner Center’s Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center. Inspired by the workshop and the need to combat bigotry and intolerance in society, Schwartz-Weitz developed an interdisciplinary educational program in her school, which educated students about the Holocaust. She arranged for her students to meet Holocaust survivors, in order to draw their portraits and record their experiences. The students’ efforts culminated in a schoolwide art show, bringing together students, survivors, their families, and guests.

Portrait of Holocaust survivor Gerard Blumenthal by Eric Wan, Howell High School

Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education Opens at Rutgers

Thirty New Jersey middle and high school teachers have been selected to participate in the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI), the newest initiative of the **Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center**. The MTI is a two-year study program to develop expert teachers in Holocaust studies, who will serve as resource providers in their schools, districts, and communities throughout New Jersey.

The MTI was initiated by the HRC advisory committee in response to the need for a comprehensive approach to teacher education on the Holocaust. The program was developed in consultation with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, the county school superintendents, and educators from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Bildner Center Acting Director **Jeffrey Shandler** and Associate Director **Karen Small** developed the program curriculum.

The institute fulfills a vital component of the HRC's mission offering a comprehensive study program and providing an important response to the State of New Jersey's mandate to include Holocaust education in the public schools. The MTI

engages teachers in a wide-ranging study of the history of the Holocaust and its remembrance, and it addresses the complex methodological issues involved in teaching about this subject. The program is also designed to introduce the Holocaust within the broader framework of other instances of genocide, prejudice, and intolerance.

Held monthly on Rutgers University's College Avenue campus, the program includes presentations by leading Rutgers and guest scholars in the field of Holocaust studies. Experienced educators will facilitate group discussions on pedagogical approaches to this difficult subject. In addition, the program includes guided trips to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. Participants will have the opportunity to work with Rutgers faculty on research projects and to earn graduate credit through the institute.

School administrators are invited to participate along with the teachers in the opening and closing sessions, and updates will be sent to them throughout the course of the institute. September 14 marks the opening of the MTI.

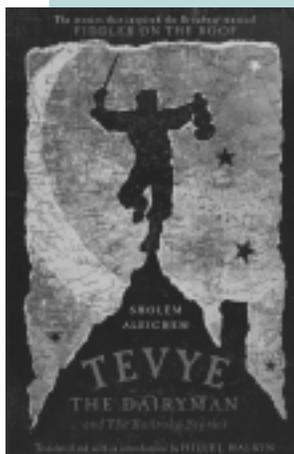
The program is offered free of charge to participating teachers, who have made a commitment to attend the two-year program with their school's support. The Master Teacher Institute is subsidized by the **Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany—Rabbi Israel Miller Fund for Shoah Research, Documentation and Education**.

Center Co-Sponsors Symposium with George Street Playhouse

On April 3, the Bildner Center and George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick co-sponsored a symposium following a public performance of the play *Address Unknown*. The play chronicles the friendship between a Jewish art dealer living in the United States and his former business partner, who has returned to Germany in the 1930s. Professor **Leslie Fishbein** of Rutgers University; **Ilene Karp**, a Holocaust educator; and **Paul Griminger**, a professor emeritus at Rutgers University, participated in the symposium.

High School Students Share Insights from Holocaust Study Trip

On June 1, the Littman Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) hosted students from Hunterdon Central Regional High School and New Milford High School who recently returned from separate trips to Germany and Eastern Europe, where they participated in Holocaust study at memorials, former concentration camps, and other historic sites. Teachers were eager to bring their student groups together, as these two are the only public high schools in New Jersey that offer such a trip. Students and teachers shared their experiences and insights in a group discussion and through multimedia presentations of film and photographs. Students were encouraged to think about how they might be able to share their experiences and knowledge with the broader community.



The Avram Matlofsky Memorial Program

Sholem Aleichem's beloved story "Tevye the Dairyman," made famous by the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* and adapted for stage and screen in various other languages and countries, was discussed on February 28 by **Anita Norich**, associate professor of English and Judaic studies at the University of Michigan. "**How Tevye Learned to Fiddle**" was the 2005 Matlofsky lecture funded by the **Karma Foundation**.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CENTER EXPLORES CONTEMPORARY ISSUES



Professor James Young delivers the Bloustein Memorial Lecture.

“Memory, Countermemory, and the Meaning of Monuments after 9/11”

The Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein and Edward J. Bloustein Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by the Bildner Center and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, brought Professor **James E. Young**, one of the foremost scholars of Holocaust remembrance, to Rutgers in December 2004. In his lecture, Professor Young addressed the challenge of creating monuments to commemorate human tragedies in the wake of World War II. Examining what he has termed “counter-monuments” to the Holocaust erected in Germany in the last decades of the twentieth century, he demonstrated how designers have challenged conventional expectations of memorials. In order to call attention to the problems of public remembrance, they often remind the public of how selective and elusive memory can be. Professor Young also discussed the process of memorializing and selecting a design for the monument to the victims of the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. He noted how the sensibility of Holocaust remembrance has informed those involved in designing and erecting this and other such monuments today.

Dr. Young is a professor of English and Judaic studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he currently serves as chair of the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies. He is an internationally recognized expert on the memory of the Holocaust in literature, film, art, architecture, and, in particular, monuments and other public memorials. He has written several landmark publications, including *The Texture of Memory*, for which he received the National Jewish Book Award in 1994. Professor Young is also directly involved in creating works of public memory, having been invited to bring his depth of knowledge and analytic insights to bear on these processes by communities that are creating memorials. For example, Professor Young was appointed by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to the jury for the World Trade Center Site Memorial competition, which selected the design for this memorial in 2004.

“The Passions Surrounding *The Passion: A Look Back at a Controversial Film*”

Few works of culture have generated so wide-ranging and intense a public discussion as Mel Gibson’s controversial film *The Passion of the Christ*, which opened to exceptional box-office success and extensive public debate in the spring of 2004. The subject of considerable attention even well before its first public screenings, Gibson’s film raised a wide array of issues in the public sphere—as a work of cinema, as a religious experience, as a cultural watershed, and as a political statement. These issues were heatedly debated in the press, houses of worship, classrooms, and homes across America and, soon thereafter, internationally. For the **Raoul Wallenberg Annual Lecture**, supported by the **Leon and Toby Cooperman Fund**, the Bildner Center convened a panel discussion in March 2005 to explore the responses to the film.

One year later, as the film returned to theaters in a new version, the Bildner Center invited a panel of experts to offer their insights into the discussions of *The Passion* and to consider its implications for contemporary religion, cinema, and public culture. The panel included **Elizabeth Castelli**, an associate professor in the religion department at Barnard College; **Stuart Klawans**, film critic for *The Nation*; and **Jeff Sharlet**, editor of the web magazine *The Revealer: A Daily Review of Religion and the Press*. The panel was moderated by Professor **Jeffrey Shandler**, acting director of the Bildner Center. Among other issues, Professor Castelli addressed the film’s presentation of the story of Jesus’ death in light of its long and complex history of representation in Christian texts over the centuries. Klawans reflected on the film’s box-office success in the context of other popular films of the same year. Sharlet discussed the reception of *The Passion* in evangelical Protestant circles, noting that it demonstrated important shifts in relations among conservative Christians of different denominations in America. The panelists also addressed the concerns of many Jewish viewers regarding the film’s potential to foster anti-Semitism, and they considered the implications of the film’s reception as a bellwether of the nation’s current political climate.



Jeff Sharlet, Jeffrey Shandler, Elizabeth Castelli, and Stuart Klawans

STUDENT NEWS

The Student Awards Ceremony

Following is an excerpt from the speech delivered by **Dina Mann**, a recipient of the **Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Undergraduate Scholarship**:

"I'd like to conclude my speech with a little dvar torah, words of torah. . . . "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" The donors in the audience exemplify this statement. They have taken the time and the effort to show that a continuation of Jewish scholarship and creativity is important to them in the present. I personally would like to thank Mr. Rudy Klein for the award that he, and his late wife, Mary, established to support the continuation of Jewish studies. Some people invest in the stock market, some people invest in real estate . . . people invest in many different things. But your choice, all of the donors, to invest in Jewish education has the potential to make a lasting effect on Jewish history."



Jacqueline and Herbert Klein with student **Rena Gutholc** (center), the first recipient of the Klein Award for Study in Israel

NEW AWARDS FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL — The **Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Fund** and the **Margolin Family Award** have been established at the Center for study in Israel and are distributed through the Department of Jewish Studies. Full-time undergraduates are eligible to apply for these one-time monetary awards, which are based on academic merit and are intended for study or research at an accredited Israeli university.

JEWISH STUDIES HONORS THESES

Danielle Orron — "Contributions and Controversies: A Study of Shlomo Carlebach's Impact on World Jewry"

Amy Weiss — "Orthodox Olim: An Analysis of American Jews Who Make Aliyah"*

*Rutgers College: *Henry Rutgers Scholars Honors Thesis* and *Sociology Department Honors Program Thesis*

Student Awards

Rivka Falk '05

The Leonard and Adele Blumberg
Student Award

Elan Gorshein '05

The Louis Fishman
Memorial Student Support Fund

Aliza Silk '06

The Betty and Julius Gillman
Memorial Student Support Fund

Melanie Winer '05

The Sandra and Stephen M. Greenberg
Student Award Fund

The Bernice and Milton I. Luxemburg
Student Award Fund

Danielle Orron '05

The Gertrude and Jacob Henoch
Memorial Student Support Fund

Rena Gutholc '07

The Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Fund
for Study in Israel*

David Corman '06

Dina Mann '05

The Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein
Undergraduate Scholarship

Rachel Rosen '05

The Norma U. and David M. Levitt
Student Award

The Harold and Betty Perl
Endowed Scholarship

Richard Shusteris '07

The Margolin Family Award
for Study in Israel*

Joshua Beil '06

Elizabeth Davis '06

The Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer
Endowed Student Support Fund

Deborah Toplansky '07

The Harold and Betty Perl
Endowed Scholarship

Shlomo Aronoff '06

The Reitman Family Student Award

Ariela Robinson '06

The Ruth Feller Rosenberg
Endowed Student Award Fund

Jesse Mandell '05

Arthur Meirson '05

Amy Weiss '05

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman
Scholarship Fund

*New Awards for Study in Israel

STUDENT NEWS

Amy Weiss

"I am interested in how Jews relate to Judaism, culturally and religiously," noted Department of Jewish Studies major **Amy Weiss**, a recipient of the **Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award** in Jewish studies for two years in a row. "I particularly enjoyed the Jewish studies course 'American Jewish Experience in Literature,' which demonstrated a variety of ways in which authors relate to Judaism, whether through ritual observance, writing and speaking in Hebrew, or celebrating holidays and festivals." Amy's concentration in Jewish culture within the Jewish studies curriculum complements her second academic major, sociology, in which she has focused on how religion affects groups of people.

After returning from her first trip to Israel, Amy entered Professor **Chaim I. Waxman's** course "Sociology of American Jewish Religious Movements." Fascinated by Israel, Amy decided to write her term paper on American aliyah, in order to better understand why Jews, and in particular Orthodox Jews, move to Israel. In her senior year, Amy decided to elaborate on her research and, with the guidance of Professor Waxman, undertook the Jewish studies honors thesis "Orthodox Olim: An Analysis of American Jews Who Make Aliyah," in conjunction with the Henry Rutgers Scholars Program and the sociology honors program.

Incorporating Jewish studies texts and sociological theories of migration and identity, Amy interviewed twenty former and current Rutgers students who were considering making aliyah, focusing on the influence of both formal and informal Jewish education in their decisions. Amy discovered that the majority of her subjects were interested in moving to Israel for religious reasons, all having had Jewish educational experiences that promoted doing so, or having a support system in place in Israel. In most cases, aliyah involved many years of preparation and seemed to be a natural progression in her subjects' lives.

Amy has undertaken a great deal of community service. She was a program assistant and resident adviser for the Urban Mitzvah Corps, a residential community service program for Jewish high school students under the auspices of the Union of Reform Judaism's North American Federation of Temple Youth. In this role, she planned religious, social, and cultural programs and served as a liaison to community service job sites where the students volunteered. She also worked with Habitat for Humanity, refurbishing homes in Baltimore with members of Rutgers' National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

This fall, Amy will enter a master's program in Jewish studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary and hopes ultimately to earn a Ph.D. in the field and become a university professor with a specialty in modern Jewish history. She would also like to work in other areas of Jewish education, such as directing Jewish summer camps and serving as a programming and outreach director for a university campus Hillel.



Rachel Rosen

"The most interesting thing to me about the Jewish experience is the diverse and evolving culture," remarked **Rachel Rosen**, a visual arts major and Jewish studies minor, who has a passion for the arts and education. A painter, Rachel has particularly enjoyed studying the creative expression of Jewish artists in courses on modern Jewish art and through trips to art galleries in Israel, finding that it has deepened her understanding of Jewish identity.

Jewish themes are also woven into the body of Rachel's artwork, and they have helped her to better understand her relationship to Judaism. For example, she created a painting about the angel Gavriel (on cover page), who, according to mystical tradition, inspires creativity. When asked about the piece, Rachel said, "Judaism and its symbolism are a big part of my life, and it seems natural that some of my work uses this background as a point of departure."

In speaking of her experience in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers, Rachel said, "I came from a Jewish background and wanted something familiar, so I started taking Jewish studies courses. Becoming a Jewish studies minor was my way to be a part of the Jewish community at a time when I wasn't very religiously observant." She added, "Rutgers is so big and the Jewish studies department is so warm. In this huge university, it is wonderful that you can still be among people who are interested in Jewish learning, both Jews and non-Jews." Her ongoing interest in Jewish studies is also demonstrated by her spending the summer of 2004 at Pardes, the Jewish Institute of Higher Learning of Jerusalem.

Rachel is the recipient of this year's **Norma U. and David M. Levitt Award** and the **Harold and Betty Perl Scholarship** for outstanding work in Jewish studies. In fall 2004, at the art opening of Rutgers' bachelor of fine arts program, one of Rachel's paintings received an award. Rachel's artwork and poetry have been featured in *Objet d'Art* and *Mosaic*, two of Rutgers' literary arts magazines, where she also served as an editor during her time at the university.

Rachel will be an intern this summer at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where she will help to teach a portfolio building class for teenagers. In the fall, she will volunteer as a teacher for Americorps, working with children at a school in Oakland, California. Ultimately, Rachel hopes to earn a master's degree in fine arts, in painting, and also to earn the credentials to be a teacher or an art therapist. She envisions one day working as an educator within the Jewish community.

(See artwork on cover page.)



Alumni News

Rebecca Novick, RC '03, made aliyah in 2003 and lives in Kiryat Moshe in Jerusalem. While undertaking Torah studies at Midreshet Rachel V'Chaya, she also works with a nonprofit organization, ATZUM (Avodoth Zedaka Umishpat, or Justice Works), which supports social justice projects in Israel.

Leora Trub, RC '03, has spent much time in Israel, serving as a group leader of the United Synagogue Youth's (USY's) Poland-Israel Seminar and as an intern for the Joint Distribution Committee, for which she led a mission of American and Israeli Jews to St. Petersburg. Leora is currently studying toward a degree in clinical psychology at the City University of New York while also working with Jewish youths at the Highland Park chapter of the USY. At the annual Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA) conference this year, she presented research conducted as a Rutgers undergraduate on the pastoral counseling practices of American rabbis. She is also preparing articles based on her research that will address pertinent issues in pastoral counseling and the implications for rabbinical education and the lay community.

Sarah Grunstein, RC '01, resides in Highland Park with her husband, Gabi. Having worked for a year as the multigenerational programs coordinator at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life outside Philadelphia, Sarah returned to central New Jersey to complete her master's degree in fine art education at Kean University. She graduated in May and was recently hired as the middle and high school art teacher for the Highland Park School District. Sarah continues to create Jewish ritual items, basing much of her artwork on knowledge gained through her coursework in the Department of Jewish Studies.

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

JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATES 2005

MAJORS

Rebecca Falk
Lauren Freestone
Caryn Liebman
Arthur Meirson
Danielle Orron
Ella Perlis
Ariel Port
Scott Roland
Neshama Rosenstein
Joseph Soria
Hana Suberi
Amy Weiss

MINORS

Noam Aron
Robert Berger
Yael Bitran
Matthew Cohen
Jill Dinitz-Sklar
Talia Fine
Jeffrey Goldfine
Zachary Goldstein
Elan Gorshein
Adam Mandelbaum
Jesse Mandell
Dina Mann
Scott Matison

Daniel Meir
Asher Monchar
Heather Nabozny
Bonnie Nowakowski
Jeffrey Organ
Wendy Pfeffer
Anna Pomeranets
Rachel Rosen
Elliot Safar
Stanislav Shapiro
Jeremy Sklarsky
Daniel Wenger
Allison Yanofsky
Nava Yasgur

Programs Co-sponsored with Rutgers Hillel

- **Israeli Culture Festival**
- **"Reporting from Jerusalem"** with Etgar Lefkovits, a reporter for *The Jerusalem Post*
- **"Movin' on Down to the Lower East Side,"** A tour of the Eldridge Street Synagogue led by Professor Jeffrey Shandler
- **"From Baghdad to Bombay: Jewish Weddings around the World"**
- **Douglass College Middle East Coexistence Project;** Speakers: Prof. Yael Zerubavel and Alma Abdul-Hadi Jadallah, a conflict resolution practitioner

Courses 2005-2006

Jewish Society and Culture I
Jewish Society and Culture II
Seminar: Jewish Memory
History of Zionism
Israeli Politics
Israeli Culture
Arab-Israeli Conflict
Sephardic History, Culture & Music*
East European Jewry
History of the Holocaust
Holocaust Literature in Translation
The Holocaust and Israel*
History of Jewish Art
Queer Jewish Culture in America*
Sociology of American Jewish Religious Movements
Ethnography of Contemporary Jewish Life*
History of Jewish Women
Women and Jewish Law*

Jewish Law and Modern Medicine*
Readings in Biblical Hebrew Prose (*texts in Hebrew*)*
Rabbinic Literature (*texts in Hebrew*)
Talmudic Literature*
Classical Jewish Philosophy
Modern Jewish Philosophy
Elementary Modern Hebrew
Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Advanced Modern Hebrew
Contemporary Hebrew Literature and Media (*in Hebrew*)
Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature (*in Hebrew*)
Readings in Modern Hebrew Literature (*in Hebrew*)
The Hebrew Novel (*in Hebrew*)
Elementary Modern Yiddish
Modern Yiddish Literature and Culture

* new courses

FACULTY UPDATES

Gary Rendsburg was installed as the inaugural holder of the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History at Rutgers University in October 2004. (See page 10.) He also served as the Mandelbaum Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney (July-August 2004).

Rendsburg's investiture address and inaugural lecture were published by the Bildner Center in a separatum. Rendsburg also published an article entitled "The Vegetarian Ideal in the Bible," in the volume *Food and Judaism*, edited by L. J. Greenspoon, R. A. Simkins, and G. Shapiro (University of Nebraska Press, 2005).

Rendsburg delivered a talk called "The Bible and Beyond: Cyrus Gordon and Broad Horizons," at a special session of the Society of Biblical Literature's (SBL) annual meeting in San Antonio entitled "To Commemorate the 350th Anniversary of Jews in North America: American Jewish Bible Scholars and Their Scholarship." (November 2004). He also delivered a paper called "And the woman took the two men and she hid him" (Joshua 2:4): On Translating Difficult Biblical Passages," at the Association for Jewish Studies annual meeting in Chicago (December 2004). In addition, Rendsburg participated in a conference hosted by Florida Atlantic University entitled "Reading the Bible in the 21st Century," at which he presented "Israel Without the Bible" (February 2005).

Rendsburg gave a talk entitled "Into the Wine-Dark Sea," at a one-day symposium organized by the Smithsonian Institution called Beginnings: The Jewish Communities of the Mediterranean (March 2005). He spoke at the Mary Douglas Seminar Series hosted by University College London (May 2005).

Myron J. Aronoff continues to serve on the board of the Association of Israel Studies. As part of his research, Aronoff interviewed Israeli and Palestinian leaders and peace negotiators about Camp David and the Intifada (June-July 2004). He gave presentations entitled "Democracy: An Overview" and "Preserving Democracy Under Siege" for two workshops on "Maintaining Democracy in a Time of Terrorism: America and Israel" (April/May 2005) sponsored by the Bildner Center. He was also a discussant on two panels at the 2005 annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies in Tucson. In addition, he delivered a talk on "Contested Visions of Israeli Nationhood" at Princeton University (June 2005).

Maurice Elias published "A 5765 Resolution: Honor Thy Children" in *The Jewish Journal* (2004). Elias serves as the Associate Editor of *Journal of Jewish Education* published by the Network for Research in Jewish Education.

Elias presented papers at several conferences and other events, including "A Problem Solving Approach to Behavior and Behavior Problems: General and Judaic Perspectives" co-presented with M.B. Shure at the annual conference of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) at Hofstra University in Long Island, NY (August 2004). He gave workshops entitled "Educating for Character and Living Jewishly in Middle and High Schools: If Not Us, Who? If Not Now, When?" and "Social-Emotional Learning and Caring, Moral Classrooms: A Cornerstone of Jewish Education and Identity" at the annual Statewide Teachers' Institute sponsored by CAJE in Miami, FL (February 2005); delivered a paper on "Emotional Intelligence, Life Skills, and Violence Prevention in the Schools: What We Have Learned, and What We Must Do Next" at the Israeli Ministry of Education conferences on "Violence Prevention in the Schools" in Rosh Pina and Herzliya, Israel (March 2005); delivered the keynote address "It takes a Kehilla to Raise a Mensch" at the 29th Annual Early Childhood Conference sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York in Great Neck, NY (May 2005); and gave a presentation with Leora Trub called "The Counselor Within: Exploring the Role of Counseling in the Rabbinic Identity" (Trub's Jewish studies honors thesis from spring 2003) at the annual conference of the Network for Research in Jewish Education at Brandeis University (June 2005).

Leslie Fishbein chaired a session called "Educational Crossroads" at the American Studies Association annual meeting in Atlanta (November 2004). As a member of the Women's Committee of the American Studies Association, she organized two sessions on mentoring of and by women of color. Fishbein presented an invited paper titled "The History of Sexual Scripts: Suppressing, Distorting, and Listening to the Life Narratives of Prostitutes and Madams," at the Columbia University Seminar on "Women and Society" (March 2005). As a member of the Horizon Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, she lectured at various venues on the following topics: "The Tender Trap: Love, Sex, and the Quest for Jewish Identity in Literature and Film," "From Shtetl Tochtters to

Ghetto Girls: The Transformation of Jewish Women on the Lower East Side," and "Anzia Yezierska and her Invented Life." Fishbein served on the Kerr Article Prize Committee of the New York State Historical Association to judge the best article published in 2004 in *New York History*.

Ziva Galili continues to serve as chair of the Department of History. She published "The Soviet Experience of Zionism: Importing Soviet Political Culture into Palestine" in the *Journal of Israeli History* (March 2005). The fourth and final volume in her Russian-language documentary edition, "The Mensheviks in Bolshevik Russia," co-edited with A. Nenarokov, was published in Moscow (Rospen Publishers, 2004). Galili serves as co-director (with Joanna Regulska) of a three-year educational partnership between Rutgers University and Kazan State University in Russia. Supported by a grant from the Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs at the State Department, the partnership will foster faculty exchange and curricular development in Russia in four fields of study, including Jewish Studies.

Barbara S. Reed served as a judge, for the tenth year, of the American Jewish Press Association's annual Rockower awards.

Jeffrey Shandler was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. He published "Anthologizing the Vernacular: Collections of Yiddish Literature in English Translation," in *The Anthology in Jewish Literature*, edited by David Stern (Oxford University Press, 2004); World War II in the American Imaginary, (German), in *Mythen der Nationen: Arena der Erinnerungen*, edited by Monika Flacke (Deutsches Historisches Museum (Berlin, 2004); and "American Jewish Popular Culture," in *From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America*, edited by Michael Grunberger (Library of Congress / George Braziller, 2004).

Shandler presented papers at numerous conferences and other events including "Queer Yiddishkeit: Practice and Theory," Conference on the Legacy of Eastern European Jewry Today, Schloss Elmau in Germany (July 2004); "Visions of Israel in American Film" at University of Cincinnati (October 2004); "Remembering the Shtetl: Isaac Bashevis Singer, Before and Beyond" at Moravian College (October 2004); "On the Frontiers of Ashkenaz: Translating into Yiddish, Then and Now" at the Yiddish Conference in Honor of Janet Hadda at UCLA

(October 2004); "Singer on the Screen: The Image of Isaac Bashevis Singer in Film and Television" at the Jewish Museum in New York (December 2004); "Jews/Media/Religion: Mapping a Field, Building a Resource" (co-convener), annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Chicago (December 2004); "Living Room Witnesses: American Television and the Holocaust" at Albright College (February 2005) and Queensborough Community College (March 2005); "Encounters in Yiddishland: Language, Place and the Imaginary in Modern Jewish Life" at Temple University (April 2005); "A Young Girl and Her Diary: The Afterlife of Anne Frank," and co-convener of colloquium on "Mediating Anne Frank" at the Center for Religion and Media, New York University (May 2005); "American Responses to the Holocaust," conference on 350 Years of American Jewry at the Akademie für politische Bildung in Tutzing, Germany (May 2005); "Rites of the Beholder: 'Home Movies' as Witness in American Jewish Life-Cycle Rituals," conference on "Icons, Idols, and Ideologies: Visual Cultures in the U.S. and Israel" at the University of Haifa (June 2005). Shandler also gave a presentation on "The Jewish Museum of Berlin" at the Rutgers in Berlin program (July 2004).

This past year, Shandler served as the acting director of the Bildner Center and as a faculty advisor for the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education. He also gave presentations at the Holocaust Resource Center's workshops for teachers.

Shandler continues to serve as a co-convener of a working group on Jews, Media, and Religion at the Center for Religion and Media, New York University. He is also co-administrator of MODIYA, an open-source Internet resource on the study of Jews, media, and religion for researchers and teachers, scheduled to launch in fall 2005. He was appointed as a member of the editorial board of *Prooftexts* (2005).

Nancy Sinkoff's book *Out of the Shtetl: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands* (Brown Judaic Studies 336) appeared in September 2004. She presented a paper, "The Law of the Gentile Hosts is the Law: Lucy Dawidowicz and the Writing of Modern Jewish Politics" at the workshop "Borderlands: Ethnicity, Identity, and Violence in the Shatter-Zone of Empires since 1848" (May 2005) and gave a lecture, "Against Imagination: The East European Haskalah's Critique of Hasidic Piety," (in Hebrew) at the

Hebrew University (May 2005).

Sinkoff was a scholar-in-residence for the Abraham Joshua Heschel Wilderness Program for High School Students (July 2004), where she led an exploration of texts related to the topics, "Biblical Israel's Revolt Against Nature" and "Apprehending God the Creator through the Study of Nature."

Sinkoff gave a series of lectures on "Jews as Comrades: Labor Activism and Radicalism in the American Jewish Community, 1880-1940," at Temple Beth-El, Great Neck, NY (March 2005) and directed an on-site tour of the exhibit, "Radicals in the Bronx," at the Museum of the City of New York (February 2005). She was elected to the board of the Women's Caucus of the Association for Jewish Studies (December 2004).

Chaim I. Waxman published 34 entries in the *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East & North Africa*, 2nd Edition, edited by Phillip Mattar (Macmillan Reference, 2004). He also published "The Enduring Significance of Denomination" (in Hebrew), in *Gesher: Journal of Jewish Affairs* (Winter 2004); "American Jewry," in *Modern Judaism: An Oxford Guide* (Oxford University Press, 2005) edited by Nicholas de Lange and Miri Freud-Kandel; "Religion, Spirituality, and the Future of American Judaism," in *Jewish Spirituality and Divine Law*, edited by Adam Mintz and Lawrence Schiffman (Ktav/Yeshiva University Press, 2005); "From Institutional Decay to Primary Day: American Orthodox Jewry Since World War II" in *American Jewish History* (Winter-Spring 2005); "The Sociology of Halakhic Decisions — An American Case Study" (in Hebrew), in *Bein masoret lehdush: Mehkarim beyahadut, zionut, umedinat Israel*, edited by Eleizer Don-Yehiya (Bar-Ilan University Press, 2005); "Patterns of American Jewish Religious Behavior," in *The Cambridge Companion to American Judaism*, edited by Dana Evan Kaplan (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Waxman presented papers at several conferences and other events, including "The Religious-Secular Divide in Israel," at the Clarke Center, Dickinson College (October 2004); "From 'Treif' to Glatt Kosher: America in the Eyes of Ultra-Orthodox Jews During the Twentieth Century," at the conference "Why Is America Different" at Boston University's Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies (October 2004); "America's Jews and Patterns of American Immigration to Israel" (in Hebrew), at a seminar on "Aliyah, Migration:

Constructing Jewish National Identity in Israel" at Tel-Aviv University (December 2004); and "Israel as but One Component of American Jewish Identity," at the International Conference on Education, Community and Norms, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, (December 2004). Waxman's book *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns*, (Brandeis University Press/University Press of New England, 2004) was the subject of a symposium at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (May 2005).

Azzan Yadin was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. He published "Goliath's Armor and Israelite Collective Memory" in *Vetus Testamentum* (2004). He was invited to give a number of talks related to this paper, including the Herbert May Lecture at Oberlin College (March 2005) and a presentation to the Biblical Archaeology Society in Madison, Wisconsin (November 2004). While in Madison, Yadin was also a guest speaker at the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies of the University of Wisconsin, and gave a graduate seminar on "Interpretation and Tradition in Early Rabbinic Judaism" (November 2004). Yadin also gave two talks in the Twin Cities: "Rabbinic Judaism and Theories of Gender" at the College of St. Catherine's, and "The Rabbi and the Philosopher: Another Look at Mishna Avoda Zarah" at the University of Minnesota (April 2005). Yadin participated in a four-day seminar at Bar Ilan University for Jewish Studies graduate students from different Israeli universities (July 2005), and spoke on "Two Approaches to Semantic Secularization in Modern Hebrew" at the World Congress of Jewish Studies, Israel (August 2005).

Yael Zerubavel was on sabbatical during the 2004-2005 academic year. During her leave, she spent time at the Ben-Gurion Research Center at Ben-Gurion University and the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem while she pursued her research on the desert.

Zerubavel published the article "The Politics of Remembrance and the Consumption of Space: Masada in Israeli Memory," in *Narrating The Nation In Public Space: Memory and the Impact of Political Transformation*, edited by Daniel Walkowitz and Lisa Maya Knauer (Duke University Press, 2004).

continued on page 5

2005 – 2006 PROGRAMS

Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education

Opening Program
Speaker: David Engel
September 14; 4:30 – 6:30 PM

“Jewish and Buddhist Lenses on Ritual Practice”

*Funded in part by the
Sagner Family Foundation*
Speaker: Jane Marie Law
September 19; 7:30 PM

Israeli Authors Forum (in Hebrew)

Meir Shalev
November 6; 3:00 – 5:00 PM

“My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum Cleaner”

*The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff
Annual Lecture*
Speaker: Meir Shalev
November 6; 7:30 PM

The Sixth Annual Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

November 10 – 20

“Violence and the Sacred: Religion and Politics”

*The Ruth Ellen Steinman Bloustein
and Edward J. Bloustein
Memorial Lecture*
Speaker: Moshe Halbertal
December 1

“War Crime Trials”

Speaker: Hanna Yablonka
February 23; 7:30 PM

A Talk by Composer Oswaldo Gulijov

*The Avram Matlofsky
Memorial Program*
Funded by the Karma Foundation
March 21; 7:30 PM

“Performing the Black-Jewish Alliance: The Jewish Songs of Paul Robeson”

*The Raoul Wallenberg
Annual Lecture*
Funded by the Leon and
Toby Cooperman Fund
Speaker: Jonathan Karp
March 30; 7:30 PM

“Teaching in Times of Turmoil”

*The Toby and Herbert Stolzer
Endowed Lecture*
Speaker: Susan Handelman
April 27; 7:30 PM

All programs subject to change.

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You can help promote Jewish studies at Rutgers University. Your gift guarantees that Rutgers' Department of Jewish Studies and the Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life will continue to develop the Jewish studies curriculum and ensure the growth and development of community education programs. We welcome and appreciate all gifts.

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