



RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

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

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From the Director's Desk...

As we pursue our efforts to build a strong and dynamic program in Jewish Studies at Rutgers, I am pleased to announce the new appointment of Dr. Azzan Yadin (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) as Assistant Professor of Rabbinic Literature. Prof. Yadin joins our faculty this fall, adding new and important courses to the curriculum of the Department of Jewish Studies. With 37 majors and 55 minors in Jewish Studies and student enrollment in our courses exceeding 1,300 during the past academic year, the Department's continuing growth is highly gratifying.



The Bildner Center continues to bring to Rutgers visiting professors who enrich our scholarly environment and expand Rutgers' international ties. Visiting faculty offer undergraduate courses, present faculty seminars, and contribute to the range of innovative and diverse public programs that the Center sponsors. This year, Prof. Elliott Horowitz is joining us as the first Visiting Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History, and Prof. Dvora Hacoen holds the Norman and Syril Reitman Visiting Fellowship during the fall term. In addition, award-winning Israeli novelist Michal Govrin continues her tenure as the Bildner Center's Aresty Visiting Fellow and Writer-in-Residence.

As we face the challenge of strengthening Jewish Studies, we are particularly grateful to Allen and Joan Bildner for their tremendous support of this development. I am delighted to announce that the Bildners have made a \$1 million challenge grant pledge, which will match all gifts made to the Center, dollar-for-dollar, through December 2003. The Bildners' donation will endow a senior faculty scholar in Jewish Studies, while gifts to the challenge may support other programs of the Center.

The Center's vital and successful community outreach program presents another area of growth. The New Jersey Leadership Think Tank, a joint project of the Bildner Center with the thirteen New Jersey Jewish Federations, concluded its second year of workshops on key issues facing the Jewish community. The Center's public programs continue to attract large and growing

numbers of community members. The second Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival drew an audience of 3,000, nearly double the attendance figures of the inaugural program.

We ended the academic year on a high note with the award ceremony for outstanding students in Jewish Studies. This event brought together the students and their families, faculty, donors, community leaders and friends of the Center. Dr. Holly Smith, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, welcomed the participants and underscored the remarkable development of Jewish Studies at Rutgers. Award recipients reflected on their experiences and academic work at Rutgers and discussed their future plans.

The past year was particularly challenging for many of our students, faculty, and the community as we faced the aftermath of September 11 and the continuing violence in the Middle East. As part of the Center's mission to promote tolerance through education, it strives to contribute to a better understanding of Jewish history, thought, and culture while fostering a spirit of collegiality and collaboration with faculty from many disciplines. Joining forces with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Rutgers Hillel, the Bildner Center offered a forum for a student dialogue on ideas and concerns about the situation in the Middle East, and we were glad to see the students continue this initiative.

Let's hope that this year will bring peace and opportunity for further growth.

Professor Yael Zerubavel

FACULTY PROFILE

Nancy Sinkoff

A long-standing interest in Jewish intellectual and cultural history has deeply influenced the work of Nancy Sinkoff, Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies. Initially drawn to American Jewish History, in particular the Jewish Left, Sinkoff was fascinated by the ways in which activists in the American Jewish labor movement and left-wing political parties reconciled their Jewish identities with their cosmopolitan and secular ideological orientations. She soon discovered that her primary interest lay in exploring the broader question of how Jews have dealt with the challenge of modernity, a question that led her to study the East European Jewish engagement with the ideas of the European Enlightenment (1700-1800). Sinkoff believes that the study of the questions and concerns of the *maskilim* (“enlightened” Jews), is critical to understanding contemporary Jewish cultural concerns since Jews today are still grappling with many of the same fundamental issues, i.e. the relationship of



tradition, its texts and religious obligations to modern society’s commitment to individualism; the respective demands of “external” law and ethics vs. subjective moral autonomy; and maintaining an informed Jewish communal life in the face of declining Jewish literacy.

Sinkoff is currently finishing a book, entitled *Out of the Shtetl: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands*, which is an intellectual and cultural study of Mendel Lefin of Satanow, a seminal figure in the development of the *Haskalah* (Jewish Enlightenment) in Poland. An intellectual biography, the book examines Lefin’s advocacy of expanding the traditional East European Jewish curriculum to include secular subjects, his commitment to the revival of the Hebrew language, and his dedication to traditional rabbinic texts as necessary guides to modernizing East European Jews.

In undertaking this work, Sinkoff attempts to respond to an existing gap in Jewish scholarship regarding the specific Polish responses to modernity within the broader context of European history. Her work therefore examines the impact of the Enlightenment on Poland and the contributions of Polish thinkers to the general and Jewish Enlightenment, and the active and significant role of Polish Jewry in appropriating and creatively adapting Enlightenment concerns to their own cultural context.

In addition to her M.A. in U.S. History, M. Phil in Jewish

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VISITING FACULTY/FACULTY SEMINARS, 2001-2002

Internationally renowned Israeli historian and journalist **Tom Segev** taught a class on Israeli culture to Rutgers students and led a three-part faculty seminar on Israeli history. Segev also delivered The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture based on his book *One Palestine Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate* (2000), which won the National Jewish Book Award in the categories “History” and “Israel” and was also selected for inclusion in The New York Times Editors Choice of the 10 best books of 2000.

Michal Govrin, The Bildner Center’s Aresty Visiting Fellow and Writer-in-Residence, presented a two-part faculty seminar entitled “Discovering the *Book of Ruth*.” Govrin offered an alternative reading of the *Book of Ruth* applying traditional commentaries and contemporary sensibilities to the examination of such themes as social and cosmic evil; death, Eros and incest; law, unlawfulness, and the regenerative power of transgression; and, the woman as the perpetual Other in the striking story of redemption. Govrin also taught an undergraduate course, “Ritual, Mysticism and the Poetics of Jewish Life,” which investigates Jewish life, defined by Halakhah and customs, and presents it as a detailed ritual language with unique poetics.

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Recent Faculty Books in Jewish Studies

Phyllis Mack

In God’s Name: Genocide and Religion in the 20th Century (Berghahn Books, 2001), co-edited with Omer Bartov.

Alicia Ostriker

The Volcano Sequence (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2002), collection of poems.

Jeffrey Shandler

While America Watches: Televising the Holocaust (Oxford University Press, 1999) received the Saul Viener Award for 1999-2000, The American Jewish Historical Society; and *Remembering the Lower East Side: American Jewish Reflections* (Indiana University Press, 2000), co-edited with Hasia Diner and Beth S. Wenger.

Chaim I. Waxman

Jewish Baby Boomers: A Communal Perspective (State University of New York Press, 2001); and *Historical Dictionary of Zionism* (Scarecrow Press, 2000), co-edited with Rafael Medoff and Jon Woronoff.

Azzan Yadin is Appointed Assistant Professor of Rabbinic Literature

As a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, Azzan Yadin knew that rabbinic literature would become his intellectual focus. Studying under Professor Daniel Boyarin, Yadin's interest evolved into legal hermeneutics, focusing on the beginnings of the legal midrashim within the rabbinic discourse. His study of the Rabbi Ishmael school of legal exegesis provides a careful analysis of these texts and the interpretive techniques that they employ. Through this analysis, Yadin offers new insights into the genesis of rabbinic midrash and the perceptions of the Torah as an interpreted text.

Yadin has completed a manuscript on this topic and has written a number of articles in rabbinics. Among them are forthcoming articles on rabbinic intermediaries (in *Journal for the*

Study of Judaism), on the Hebrew substratum reflected in the Greek of the apocryphal book of Baruch (in *Hebrew Studies*), and on the comparison of rabbinic legal midrash and Qumran interpretation (in *Dead Sea Discoveries*).

Yadin's research interests extend beyond rabbinics. He has published an article on the influence of Nietzsche on the Hebrew poet H. N. Bialik (in *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*) and on the Greek cultural background of Samson's "riddle" in Judges 14 (in *Vetus Testamentum*). In addition, he recently completed an article on God's voice as a hypostasis in the Bible.

After earning his Ph.D. in 1999 as the first graduate of Berkeley's Jewish Studies Program, Yadin accepted a position as assistant professor in the



Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Minnesota. At Rutgers, Yadin will add a range of courses on the Hebrew Bible, rabbinic literature, the Second Temple period, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Jewish mysticism. In addition to his teaching and writing, Yadin also serves as Book Review Editor of the academic journal *Prooftexts*.

AZZAN YADIN ON THE NEW COURSES THAT HE WILL TEACH AT RUTGERS IN 2002-03 As a new member of the Rutgers Department of Jewish Studies, my goal is to provide for our students classes that will open the world of rabbinic and Second Temple Judaism to them. The best way to attain this goal, I believe, is to offer courses that require the students to gain familiarity with the rich textual traditions of this period, and challenge the students to think seriously about these traditions. In the fall, I will be teaching two courses that are new to the Jewish Studies curriculum. The first is a semester-long survey of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The contribution of the scrolls to understanding Second Temple Judaism cannot be overestimated, first and foremost because — unlike rabbinic literature — the scrolls are the actual copies that existed during the time of the Second Temple. As such, they allow scholars a direct view into the world of the Qumran community, and what a view it is! Though scholars are debating many of the specifics, it is generally agreed that Qumran was a priestly community that broke with the Jerusalem priesthood and settled in the

Judean Desert. The rich library discovered there includes copies of the Bible, community handbooks outlining proper behavior, interpretations of biblical books, prayers and hymns, and a legal (halakhic) letter apparently addressed to another priestly community, perhaps Jerusalem's.

In the second course, "Post-Biblical Jewish Literature: Priests, Prophets and Rabbis," we will examine models of authority and their evolution — or revolution — from biblical to rabbinic authority. While the Bible primarily recognizes priestly or prophetic authority, rabbinic Judaism ultimately came to understand itself as based on interpretive authority and a tradition that was handed down as Oral Law. By examining the emergence of the interpretive model in rabbinic Judaism, the course will explore important questions in rabbinic scholarship while exploring relevant rabbinic and biblical texts.

In addition to these courses, I will be teaching the Jewish Studies core-course "Jewish Society and Culture from Antiquity to the Middle Ages," the first of two courses required of all Jewish Studies majors and minors.

JEWISH STUDIES

NEW COURSES IN JEWISH STUDIES

Post-Biblical Jewish Literature: Priests, Prophets and Rabbis

Azzan Yadin

This course will explore different and often competing modes of authority in early Judaism (Second Temple and rabbinic literature). While today we think of the rabbis as the authoritative voice of early Judaism, both priests and prophets promoted very different models of religious authority from those of the rabbis.

Special Topics:

Trauma and Memory in Israeli Culture

Yael Zerubavel

Jewish tradition places a strong emphasis on the memory of collective traumas. This course will explore the ways in which Israelis attempt to cope with the

traumatic heritage of the Holocaust and the experience of war injuries, death, and bereavement through the analysis of literary texts, film, and visual images.

Special Topics:

Jewish-Christian Relations

Elliott Horowitz

Beginning with the Church Fathers and Talmudic Rabbis, this course will examine the evolving relationship between then competing religions of Judaism and Christianity, as well as the social and economic relations between Jews and Christians from antiquity to the early modern era, particularly in Europe.

Special Topics: Israel in the 1950s

Dvora Hacoen

This course will examine the Jewish community in the Land of Israel during the British mandate; the origins and development of the Kibbutz and the Moshav movements; the struggle for the

establishment of the State of Israel, and the conflict between Arabs and Jews.

Special Topics:

Jewish Lifecycle in Historical Perspective

Elliott Horowitz

This course will explore the interaction of Jewish social and religious life in medieval and modern times, focusing on the three major life cycle events — birth, marriage, and death — as reflected in both Jewish and non-Jewish sources.

Special Topics: The Dead Sea Scrolls

Azzan Yadin

This course introduces the Dead Sea Scrolls, examining a number of key texts from Qumran in order to understand the theological and political roots of the formation of the Qumran community, the role of biblical interpretation in the community, and the relationship between Qumran and both the rabbis and the early church.

Visiting Faculty 2002-2003

Thanks to a major gift from the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, **Elliott Horowitz** will serve as Rutgers' first **Visiting Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History**. Horowitz will enrich the undergraduate curriculum by teaching new courses and will serve as a resource for the Bildner Center's community outreach during the 2002 – 2003 academic year. With a Ph.D. in Religious Studies and Jewish History from Yale University, he has held visiting professorships and received fellowships from various universities including Yale, Oxford, Princeton, Russian State University in Moscow, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard.

Horowitz has published and lectured widely on a variety of themes including Jewish culture in Italy; Jewish ceremonies, rituals, and leisure activities during the Middle Ages; and Jewish-Christian relations. Most recently, Horowitz co-edited, with M. Orfali, *The Jews in the Early Modern*

Mediterranean (Bar-Ilan University Press, 2001). His forthcoming book projects include such topics as "Reckless Rites: Purim and Jewish Violence," "Coffee, Culture, and Confraternities: Essays on Italian Jewry," and "The Beard and the Changing Face of Judaism."

As a visiting professor at the Bildner Center, Horowitz will teach two new courses: "Jewish-Christian Relations," and "The Jewish Lifecycle in Historical Perspective." In addition to his courses, Horowitz will deliver a public lecture on "Sabbath Pleasures in Medieval and Modern Times."

The Department of Jewish Studies will open a formal search for the permanent Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History within a year.

Dvora Hacoen, The Norman and Syril Reitman Visiting Fellow in Jewish Studies

is currently a professor of History at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. The recipient of numerous awards, grants and fellowships, Hacoen has been a fellow at the Oxford Center for Post Graduate Hebrew Studies and the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies. She has also served as a senior researcher

at both The Ben Gurion Research Center and Bar-Ilan University.

Hacoen is the author and editor of numerous publications in Hebrew on immigration to Israel, including *Immigrants in Turmoil, The Great Wave of Immigration to Israel and its Absorption, 1948 - 1953* (Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, 1994); and *From Fantasy to Reality, Ben Gurion's Plan for Mass Immigration, 1942-1945* (Ministry of Defense Publishing House, 1994). Her most recent books include *The Grain and the Millstone – The Settlement of Immigrants in the Negev in the First Decade of the State* (Am-Oved, 1998), and a forthcoming book in English translation entitled *Immigrants in Turmoil: The Great Wave of Immigration to Israel and its Absorption, 1948 – 1998* (Syracuse University Press).

As a visiting professor, Hacoen will teach a new course "Israel in the 1950s." She will also explore the topic of mass immigration to Israel during the early years of statehood when she delivers The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture entitled "Israel in the Fifties: The Demographic Revolution."



Yael Zerubavel and President Francis L. Lawrence with Felix (SB'49, GSM'53) and Doris Beck (center) at the dedication of the Doris and Felix Beck Room at the Bildner Center

Following is an excerpt from President Lawrence's speech at the event:

*The gift of this room is typical of **Doris and Felix Beck**. This room is welcoming and unpretentious, and it is a room where a great deal of work will be done. And the work done here will also be an appropriate tribute to the Becks, because this is the office of the associate director of the Center, Karen Small. Her major work is outreach and service to community, which is also part of the university's mission.*

Gifts Establish New Annual Lecture and Student Award

We are grateful to **Herbert and Toby Stolzer** for the establishment of our newest endowed lecture. The Stolzers have been involved with the Bildner Center for several years and are pleased that this additional gift will establish a public lecture to benefit the entire community. The Inaugural Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Lecture, "The Social History of the Bagel," will be held on October 22, 2002, and feature Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett of New York University.

An innovative award has been established by the **Judy and Moshe Margolin Family** to support Student Stipends for Overseas Study in Israel at an accredited Israeli University. This award reflects their family's deep love for Israel and will give future students the kind of opportunities that their daughter, Ayelet, had while at Rutgers.

Center Receives \$1 Million Challenge Grant from Allen and Joan Bildner

Growing up eyewitnesses to the Great Depression and World War II, has shaped the way **Joan and Allen Bildner** approach philanthropy. "We grew up believing you had to do something to help," says Joan Bildner. "My parents' example heavily influenced me. I saw what it was to be involved. Allen, too, had a strong sense of giving back."

Now, they are challenging others to do the same. The Bildners, whose generous \$2 million gift in 1994 helped establish the Center for the Study of Jewish Life, have pledged to match up to \$1 million in donations made to the Center through December 2003. The challenge grant is structured so that the Bildner's donation will fund a senior faculty scholar in the Department of Jewish Studies, while gifts to the challenge can support the broad range of Center activities.

Funds raised through the challenge grant will ultimately be put toward the Center's \$10 million endowment campaign goal, for which \$7.4 million has already been raised. "Not only are they great believers in giving back to community and country," said Alvin Rockoff, campaign co-chair along with Joan Bildner, "but when they give their money, they also give their time." Joan Bildner admits, "With all our giving, we seldom write a check and walk away. We get very involved."

Center Appoints New Director of Development

Jeff S. Lipkin was recently appointed as the Center's Director of Development. Previously, Jeff served as Major Gifts Director for Planned Parenthood, Hudson Peconic. Prior to that position, Jeff was a senior account executive with the Northeast Region of the United Jewish Communities working extensively with Jewish Federations in New Jersey. Jeff was a senior staff member for the 1999 and 2000 New Jersey/Israel Mega Missions sponsored by the United Jewish Communities and New Jersey Federations that brought more than 1,200 people to Israel. He has also served as campaign director of the Jewish Federation of the North Shore in Massachusetts. Currently he serves on the Board of Trustees of his synagogue, B'nai Shalom, in West Orange.

Major Gifts to the Center

July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002

Allen and Joan Bildner
 Estate of Daniel Feldberg
 (RC'38, PHAR'46)
 Meg and Howard Jacobs
 The Karma Foundation
 Mary and Rudolph Klein
 (Mary – DC'37,
 Rudy – RC'39)
 Martin and Vivian Levin
 Margolin Family
 Maurice Meyer III (RC'56)
 and Irma Meyer (DC'53)
 The Honorable Baruch S.
 Seidman (RC'31, GSNB'32)
 Robert Steinberg (RC'67)
 Herbert and Toby Stolzer

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From the Associate Director

The remarkable success of our Jewish Film Festival, which sold out nearly every screening, set the tone for the Bildner Center's public outreach programs last year. Strong community support enables us to continue our efforts to offer diverse programming. The New Jersey Leadership Think Tank concluded its second year with discussions focused on regional collaborative efforts and will reconvene this year bringing together statewide lay leaders with their Federation professional staff for further deliberation in this area. The Littman Holocaust Resource Center continues its focus on teacher education and is seeking funding for a new initiative to develop a network of Master Teachers who will serve as resource

providers on Holocaust education in New Jersey public schools. Our fall line-up of events reflects the diversity of Jewish art and culture with the renamed and expanded Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, a symposium with Jewish authors, a talk on the quintessential Jewish food – the bagel – and a lecture on the evolution of Sabbath leisure activities. Early immigration to Israel and its impact on the shaping of Israeli society is the focus of the annual Rockoff lecture. Visit our website at <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu> for program updates and to sign up for email announcements. We look forward to seeing you at all of our events this year.

– Karen Small

The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center

Minicourses for Educators

Guy Miron, The Bildner Center's Janice and Philip Levin Visiting Professor, contributed a wealth of resources to the HRC this year in addition to teaching an undergraduate course entitled "Antisemitism and the Jews in Europe." Miron came to Rutgers from the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem where he worked for the past ten years while earning his degree in Jewish History at the Hebrew University. He co-authored several CD-ROMs produced by Yad Vashem and utilized one of their recent productions, "Into that Dark Night – Nazi Germany and the Jews: 1933-1939," as the basis for a six-week mini-course for schoolteachers. The course focused on the anti-Jewish policy of Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Using a Rutgers computer lab allowed Miron to integrate lectures and demonstrations of the CD-ROM while giving teachers the opportunity to explore the new technology with one of its creators. Each course participant received a copy of the CD-ROM as a resource on the history of the Holocaust.

Twenty-four educators enrolled in the four-week mini-course "Teaching about Perpetrators and Bystanders" also taught by Professor Miron. Topics discussed included society and school in 1930s Nazi Germany; the massacres in Bialystok in June and July of 1941; and, transports of Jews from Würzburg and Düsseldorf to the killing sites.



Denise Coleman

Denise Coleman, a Mandel Fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for 2001-2002. A discussion group initially set to focus on the use of Holocaust literature and literature circles in middle schools, soon expanded its focus to a broader discussion about the Holocaust. The teachers met over dinner

Teacher support group

The Littman Holocaust Resource Center was pleased to host a new project for teachers conceived by

at the Center five times during the spring semester to discuss teaching techniques and challenges, including use of the internet, films and literature as well as a variety of other pedagogical concerns. Participants requested that the Center continue this initiative next year and the group, which is open to new members, will meet on a monthly basis, continuing to work with Denise Coleman and enjoying special guest lectures by Rutgers faculty.

Teacher Intern – Ilene Karp

Ilene Karp, a South Brunswick resident who teaches English at Tottenville High School in Staten Island, spent the spring semester interning in the Littman HRC library. Ms. Karp's main project was categorizing the Center's extensive video collection to make it more easily accessible to teachers. Speaking of her experience at the Center, Ms. Karp noted that reviewing the library holdings was helpful not only to the Center but also to her, expanding her teaching repertoire by exposing her to the wealth of resources available.

Jewish-Muslim Relations: Past, Present and Future

In March 2002, the Bildner Center sponsored several forums that explored the historical relationship between Jews and Muslims and discussed the challenges that currently confront these two groups. The Center brought Professor Norman A. Stillman to Rutgers for several days to lecture and lead discussions on the topic. The Schusterman/Josey Professor of Judaic History at the University of Oklahoma, Stillman is an internationally recognized expert on the history and culture of the Islamic world and on Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewry. His books include *Sephardi Religious Responses to Modernity* (1995), *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times* (1991), and *The Jews of Arab Lands: A History and Source Book* (1979).

On March 11th, a group of 80 culturally diverse Rutgers students attended a lecture and dialogue with Professor

Stillman. Made possible through a grant from Rutgers' Committee to Advance our Common Purposes, the program was designed to foster cross-cultural dialogue and understanding and to promote prejudice reduction among students. Co-sponsored with Rutgers' Center for Middle Eastern Studies and presented in cooperation with Rutgers University Hillel, the program offered a specially designed forum for a mutually respectful discussion of current issues facing Jews and Muslims. Stillman provided the historical background on Jewish-Muslim relationships as the foundation for the group to explore the complexities of the subject, and his presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session. Many students remained to continue the informal discussion between them, preserving the spirit of a dialogue.

During these discussions, students

exchanged contact information and talked about reconvening at a later date for further informal group discussions and special programs. Two of them, a Jewish and a Muslim student, took a lead role in organizing a special campus program to further the dialogue.

On March 12th, nearly 300 people attended the Bildner Center's community-wide lecture "Jewish-Muslim Relations: Past, Present and Future," delivered by Professor Stillman. The multicultural audience included members of the Jewish community, Rutgers faculty, and representatives of the local Muslim community. In exploring the historical development of the Jewish-Muslim relationship, Stillman shed light on the history and experience of Jews in Arab lands from the Middle Ages through the modern period, which is often an unfamiliar chapter in Jewish history. Stillman asserted that while current relations between Jews and Muslims in the Middle East are strained, Jews and Muslims lived together peacefully in many Islamic countries for hundreds of years until the twentieth century, though Jews did not hold equal social status.

During Professor Stillman's stay at Rutgers, the Bildner Center offered several opportunities to Rutgers faculty from a variety of disciplines to meet with him. These interactions enabled faculty from Jewish Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Religion, Political Science, and History to bring new insights and perspectives into their own teaching and interaction with students.



Standing: Norman Samuels, Ruth Rockoff, Norman Stillman, Yael Zerubavel, Alvin Rockoff (RC'49); seated: Roy Tanzman (RC'73, CLAW'76), and Phyllis and David Freedman

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Statewide Think Tank Wraps Up Year Two

The New Jersey Leadership Think Tank, a two-year statewide project initiated by the Bildner Center and the New Jersey Jewish Federations, came to a close this spring. Focusing on the theme *Envisioning the New Jersey Jewish Community in 2010*, the Think Tank brought together a select group of lay leaders from the 13 Federations in New Jersey for a series of challenging seminars and workshops. The meeting of volunteers from around the state presented a unique opportunity for Federation leadership to develop a greater understanding of statewide and national issues and to advance problem-solving in a collaborative manner.

During the first year of the project, international scholars and prominent community leaders addressed major issues facing the Jewish community nationally. Discussions explored topics related to building Jewish community such as synagogue-Federation relations, the changing relationship between Israeli and American Jews, and trends in philanthropy. In its second year, the Think Tank shifted its focus from broad national concerns of the organized



Gerrie Bamira, Executive VP, Phoebe Wofchuck, President, and Barry Wasserman (NCAS'85, GSN'86) represent the Middlesex County Federation.

Below: Carl Sheingold and Karen Small (center) with Bergen County Federation Think Tank members Dana Egert and Steven Morey Greenberg



Jewish community to leadership development and discussion of local Federation concerns including the shifting role of the Federations to meet the demands of the Jewish community in the new century.

Carl Sheingold of Brandeis University, the facilitator for the Think Tank, led several fall workshops focusing on enhancing leadership skills, communication styles and negotiation methods. The spring meetings were devoted to discussions on specific challenges facing the local communities, including issues such as designated giving, restricted giving, Federation and agency mergers, and cooperative efforts among diverse groups within the Jewish communities. An entire session was dedicated to the topic of regional collaborative efforts. Debra Stein, the UJC's Senior Consultant to New Jersey, attended the session and provided valuable insight into the workings of the New Jersey communities.

For the Think Tank closing dinner, Federation executive directors and presidents, and Bildner Center leadership joined its members to hear Arnold Eisen, Stanford University professor of religion, deliver an inspiring and



Above: Max Kleinman, Yael Zerubavel and Arnie Eisen at the closing dinner of the NJ Leadership Think Tank

informative lecture about the multitude of challenges facing the Jewish community in the 21st century. At the dinner, Middlesex County Think Tank participant Barry Wasserman spoke about the great opportunity that the Think Tank presented to participants to interact with their counterparts from around the state in a stimulating environment.

Sometimes the best ending is a new beginning. The "graduates" of the first NJ Jewish Leadership Think Tank have expressed their gratification with this experience by requesting that the Bildner Center bring the group together in 2002-2003 along with Federation professionals to continue the discussion on statewide issues and collaborations.

Dana Egert (Bergen County) says of her experience: "I think that being part of the Think Tank gave me the chance to understand the dynamics of the UJA's in the state and to know how similar and dissimilar we are. We have commonalities of purpose but tackle issues differently. We all have varying degrees of competition in our communities for the charitable dollar and must be able to effect cooperative plans for the good of the community. I look forward to continuing the collaboration next year."

Second Annual Jewish Film Festival Meets Audience Demand

The Bildner Center's Jewish Film Festival continued its remarkable growth, nearly doubling ticket sales of the inaugural program the previous year. Over 3,000 tickets were sold for the weeklong Festival, which opened with a sold-out screening of the 1998 Belgian film "Left Luggage."

Opening night featured the 1998 Czech Republic film "Divided We Fall," an Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, about a couple in a Nazi-occupied Czech town who offer refuge to a Jewish man. Annette Insdorf, professor of film at Columbia University and author of *Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust*, offered an historical overview of filmography dealing with the Holocaust. "Pharaoh's Daughter" performed a fusion of Jewish, Middle Eastern, and Indian music during the reception that followed.

Filmmaker Amir Bar-Lev and co-producer Alex Mamlet spoke about "Fighter," an American documentary from 2000. The film follows two Czech-born friends, both World War II survivors, on a trip through Europe to retrace the extraordinary wartime escape of one of the men. Bar-Lev noted that he was drawn to the story because it was strikingly different from traditional stories of Holocaust survivors.

Approximately 750 people witnessed the New Jersey premiere of "Trembling Before G-d," the 2000 American documentary. Built around the personal stories of religious Jews who are gay or lesbian, the film shows the difficulties of

trying to reconcile a love of Judaism with the biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality. Filmmaker Sandi DuBowski and individuals featured in the film participated in the Festival's two screenings. The diverse audience included a large number of Rutgers students who were offered free transportation from campus for a variety of films with the support of the Office of Rutgers College Programs. Rabbi Esther Reed, Assistant Director of Rutgers Hillel, noted, "This was an important and powerful film to show to raise public awareness of these issues."

Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, the 2000 drama "Time of Favor" (*Ha'Hesder*) closed the Festival. A sold-out crowd watched this New Jersey premiere from first-time director Joseph Cedar about members of a special (*Hesder*) army unit, which combines Torah study with army service. It depicts a plot by several members of the unit to resume control of the Arab holy sites on the Temple Mount. Ian Lustick, Political Science professor at the University of Pennsylvania, sparked intense discussion when he spoke about the existence of extremists and the role they play in the current social and political situation.

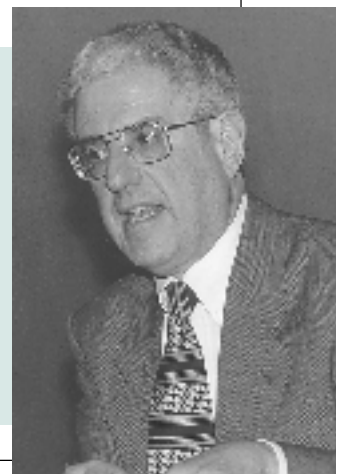
The Third Annual Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival will be held from Thursday, November 7 through Sunday, November 17, 2002. The Festival is made possible through the generous support of The Karma Foundation.

BILDNER CENTER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2001-2002



Left: Rabbi Bennett Miller, Rabbi Yakov Hilsenrath, Alvin and Ruth Rockoff, Tom Segev, Beatrice Silverman and Arline Schwartzman at The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture (see p. 2)

David Ruderman, Director of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, delivered the annual Bloustein Memorial Lecture "The Ghetto of Venice."





Joshua Haviv

In the summer of 2001, with the support of the Bildner Center, Joshua Haviv set off to Israel to do research for his Henry Rutgers Scholars honors thesis in History and Jewish Studies. He planned to study the development of a collective identity among Jews who came

to Israel from Arab and Muslim lands, known as Mizrahi Jews.

In Israel, Joshua had access to university libraries, various ethnic associations, journalists' archives, and a wealth of primary sources that would have been very difficult to obtain elsewhere. As Joshua noted, "Most of the research on Mizrahi Jews has come out of Israel. It is very hard to do this kind of study in America and I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to study this topic at Rutgers with professors like Yael Zerubavel and Chaim Waxman, and then to do research in Israel."

As often happens, Joshua's initial vision of his thesis was transformed by the materials he discovered in Israel. Initially, he wanted to analyze the revival of religious customs and holiday celebrations among Mizrahi Jews, but his research developed into a much broader exploration of Mizrahi social and political protest in the 1970s, primarily through the use of scholarly work, literature, and popular media. He investigated the emergence of Mizrahi social protest movements, such as the "Black Panthers," and their impact on Israeli society. Mizrahi protest led to the development of special housing projects for low-income neighborhoods, greater and more balanced representation of Mizrahi cultures in Israeli school curricula, and important changes in Israel's political map.

Joshua found that undertaking his thesis was rewarding on both an intellectual and emotional level. Joshua's parents immigrated to Israel from Iraq in the 1950s and he grew up in an Israeli development town, with a strong personal interest in Mizrahi identity and culture. Joshua's research points to the emergence of alternative visions of Israeli identity in contemporary Israeli culture: "What I saw in terms of a celebrated mosaic of cultures in Israel in 2001 was so different from what I experienced as a boy in Israel, when the Ashkenazi, Zionist ideal of the 'Sabra' identity was considered the only standard to emulate."

Recipient of the Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship, Joshua graduated from Rutgers College with highest honors. Joshua plans to earn a Ph.D. in Jewish History and to pursue an academic career. He hopes to develop further his undergraduate research and join the current scholarly debate on the root causes of the difficulties that Mizrahi Jews faced in Israel starting in the 1950s. His plan to become a college professor builds on his experience of teaching at Hebrew schools, and the reward of being able to open his students' minds to the rich diversity within Jewish culture and historical experience.

Leora Trub

Rutgers senior Leora Trub, recipient of the Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Undergraduate Scholarship, is producing exciting academic work that draws on her double major in Jewish Studies and Psychology.



Leora's approach to her studies was influenced by her freshman year in Israel studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and working on Kibbutz Sa'ad through Nativ, a leadership program of the Conservative movement. This experience broadened her worldview, helped her become fluent in Hebrew, and gave her a firsthand experience of Israeli society and culture. Upon her return she has integrated her interests in Jewish identity, Jewish education, and psychology.

In a special seminar designed for Jewish Studies majors, Leora studied domestic violence within the Jewish community. Her research found that fifteen to twenty percent of Jewish women today are victims of domestic violence, the same figure as exists for the general population. Yet, according to her research, Jewish women often remain in these abusive relationships five to seven years longer than the general population. Leora's study focused on a local Jewish community initiative, Project SARAH, which addresses this problem through prevention, education, and intervention.

In another project supervised by Psychology and Jewish Studies professor Maurice Elias, Leora was involved in developing a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum at the Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva, an Orthodox day school in Edison. Leora implemented student activities designed to promote a school environment characterized by *midot tovot* (good character). She also administered tests to evaluate the children's social skills according to a special classroom environment assessment scale. Leora plans to write her senior thesis in Jewish Studies and Psychology under the guidance of Professor Elias.

Leora regularly leads Shabbat services for the Rutgers Hillel Conservative Minyan. Over the past two years she has taught in the Hebrew High School of the Highland Park Conservative Temple, advised the youth group at Congregation B'nai Tikva, and staffed United Synagogue Youth (USY) pilgrimages for high school students to Israel, Poland, and other parts of Europe. In addition, Leora works as a reporter for a local Jewish newspaper, *The Jewish State*.

Inspired, in part, by her Hebrew School teaching experience, Leora is considering a future career in Jewish education. She is impressed by her eighth and ninth grade students' emotional and intellectual maturity, particularly in their classroom discussions about current issues in the Middle East. Their ability to grapple with their concerns and fears through in-class dialogues that she facilitates has played an important role in her continued interest in working in the field of Jewish education.

THE STUDENT AWARD CEREMONY

Student award recipients gather with Prof. Yael Zerubavel



Left: Prof. Jeffrey Shandler with Tamar Wiener and her parents Brenda and Bill Wiener.

Right: Judge Baruch Seidman (RC'31, GSNB'32), Yael Zerubavel and Norma Levitt.



Bildner Center leadership Sima Jelin, Dr. Norman Reitman (RC'32), Adelaide Zagoren (DC'40), and Bruce Freeman (RC'52) with Yael Zerubavel and FAS Dean Holly Smith.

Student Awards

Rachel Berger, '03

The Leonard and Adele Blumberg Student Award

Sarah Cohen, '03

The Norma U. and David M. Levitt Student Award

Aminadav Foger, '04

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

Lauren Leah Garber, '03

The Reitman Family Student Award

Noa Gelnik, '02

The Louis Fishman Memorial Student Support Fund

Deborah Gill, '03

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

Joshua Haviv, '02

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

Sara Kellerman, '03

The Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Endowed Student Support Fund

Jonathan Kobrinski, '04

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

Rebecca Liebowitz, '04

The Harold and Betty Perl Endowed Scholarship

Ayelet Margolin, '02

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Scholarship Fund

Rebecca Novick, '03

The Sandra and Stephen M. Greenberg Student Award Fund

Leora Trub, '03

The Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Undergraduate Scholarship

Tamar Wiener, '02

The Harold and Betty Perl Endowed Scholarship

Ami Yares, '03

The Bernice and Milton I. Luxemburg Student Award Fund
The Ruth Feller Rosenberg Endowed Student Award Fund

STUDENT NEWS

News from Selected Jewish Studies Alumni

Tahlia Abel, DC '00, is currently working for the Minneapolis Jewish Federation in Minnesota as an Israel Programs Specialist. She works to promote travel to Israel and enhance Israel related educational programs, including a program called "Kefiada," which sends college students to Israel to teach Israeli children English in summer camps, and brings Israeli young adults to work at the JCC summer camp. She hopes to attend a joint program with Columbia University School of Social Work and the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2003.

Jodi Mednick, RC '00, has joined the staff of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), a volunteer organization that works to improve the quality of life for women, children and families. Her position focuses on organizational communications and is designed to keep the 124 chapters nationwide informed about NCJW's national advocacy initiatives and issue-related programs in the United States and Israel. She is also a board member of the Tomorrow's Leadership Division of the American Associates of the Ben Gurion University, raising funds and promoting the University's overseas program and research endeavors.

Michael Schwab, RC '98 spent a year in Israel staffing Nativ, the Conservative Movement's college-age program in Israel, where he had the opportunity to study at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Since then, he has studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary, taught at a Jewish High School in Long Island and worked for the United Synagogue Youth (USY) as a Religious Education Field Worker. He is currently studying at the Machon Schechter school in Jerusalem and participating as a fellow in the Hebrew University's Melton Senior Educators Program, which provides advanced training to Jewish educators.

Career Day: Post-College Opportunities

During the spring semester, the Bildner Center sponsored a Career Day for students to learn about post-graduate opportunities in the Jewish community. Irene Bolton, UAHC Regional Office, spoke about Jewish education; Jeff Korbman, United Jewish Federation of MetroWest, talked about Jewish communal service; Rabbi Esther Reed, Rutgers Hillel, spoke about the rabbinate and Hillel; and Dr. Yael Zerubavel talked about academia. Students were encouraged to pursue internships and other volunteer opportunities within the Jewish community while still in college to help determine their interests, and to build up their resumes.

JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATES MAY 2002

Majors

Shanna Cooper
Sara Elias
Noa Gelnik
Nadav Hillebrand
Adina Kordova
Ayelet Margolin
Natalie Szklarz
Jennifer Wiener

Minors

Oren Benoff
Anna Cominsky
Beth Elbaum
Jessica Feldman
Shara Forman
Sylvan Garfunkel
Brooke Golub
Seth Hackman
Joshua Haviv
Erik Kessler

Gary Klein
Adina Kramer
Shana Kushner
Elana Lazar
Daniel Schimel
Melissa Schoffer
Lauren Shapiro
Jessica Weiner
Rachel Weisfelner
Sheara Wilensky
Rachel Wolkofsky

HENRY RUTGERS SCHOLARS THESES

Jennifer (Tamar) Wiener – How Jewish Law Views Women Witnesses
Joshua Haviv – The Emergence of Ethnic Identity and the Transformation of Israeli Society in the 1970s and 1980s

JEWISH STUDIES DEPARTMENTAL HONORS THESES

Ayelet Margolin – Women's Memoirs of the Holocaust and Their Reactions to the Holocaust
Noa Gelnik – The Representation of Death in War in Israeli Films: From the Yom Kippur War to the War of Lebanon

FACULTY SEMINARS (Continued from page 2)

Yoram Bilu, the Sylvia Bauman Chair in Psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, presented a faculty seminar entitled "The Return of the Dybbuk: Spirit Possession and Exorcism in Contemporary Israel," co-sponsored by the departments of Jewish Studies and Anthropology. The talk focused on the highly publicized 1999 exorcism of a woman in the Israeli town of Dimona who claimed to be possessed by the spirit of her late husband.

FACULTY UPDATES

William Donahue is Graduate Director and Chair of the Department of Germanic, Russian, and East European Languages and Literatures. He gave presentations on “Canetti’s Obituaries” at the International Canetti Symposium in Chicago; “Canetti on Safari” at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting; “From Fact to Fiction and Back: Michael Verhoeven’s *The Nasty Girl* in the Context of Women’s History Month” at Lafayette College; and “The Graying of the Red: The Repudiation of ‘68er Activism in (and Beyond) Bernhard Schlink’s *Der Vorleser*” at a conference on contemporary German literature at the Nottingham Trent University, Great Britain.

Maurice Elias co-authored “Social and Emotional Learning in the Jewish Classroom: Tools for a Strong Jewish Identity,” *Journal of Jewish Communal Service*, vol. 77, pp. 182-190. His forthcoming article on “Classroom Climate in an Orthodox Day School: The Contribution of Emotional Intelligence, Demographics, and Classroom Context” will appear in the *Journal of Jewish Education*. Elias co-presented papers on: the use of stories as a means of developing emotional intelligence in children and reducing behavior problems, and on the social and emotional behavior for the teacher, the pupil and the parent at the 4th International Conference on Teacher Education at the Achva College of Education in Israel. Elias also co-presented “Predictors of Emotional Intelligence Outcomes: A Case Study from an Orthodox Day School” at the annual meeting of the North American Jewish Education Research Network in Haifa. Elias gave workshops on social and emotional learning at the Azrieli School of Jewish Education Leadership Training Institute, South River, NJ, the Moriah Yeshiva of Englewood, NJ, the Moshe Aaron Yeshiva High School of Central New Jersey, and the Greater NYC BJE Staff Development program, Great Neck, NY. He also gave lectures at the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Melrose Park, PA on “Creating

a Moral Institution” and “A developmental approach to Midot: How does a child develop the ‘skills’ of Chesed?” Elias gave the keynote address at the first annual meeting of the New Jersey Association of Jewish Day Schools on “Promoting Social and Emotional Learning in the Jewish Classroom” and presented workshops on “Instructional Strategies for Creating Warm and Trusting Relationships between Students and Teachers and Among Students: Elementary and Secondary Levels.”

Leslie Fishbein published “Working Girls on Film: Images and Issues,” *Clio’s Eye*, On-line historical journal (February–March 2002). She presented a paper on “Sex, Cash, and Satisfaction: The Public and Private Lives of Prostitutes and Madams,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in Washington, D.C. She continued lecturing for the New Jersey Council for the Humanities at Hadassah chapters, libraries, and community and synagogue groups throughout New Jersey on the culture of the Lower East Side and Jewish identity in literature and film.

Judith Gerson co-organized a national conference at Rutgers on “Sociological Perspectives on the Holocaust and Post-Holocaust Jewish Life” and presented a paper on “*In Cuba I was a German Shepherd*: Questions of Comparison and Generalizability in Holocaust Memoirs.” She presented a paper on Jewish identities as part of an international symposium on “Contested Legacies: A Conference on German Speaking Intellectual and Cultural Emigration to the United States and United Kingdom, 1933-1945,” Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.

Ziva Galili will finish her term as Vice-Dean of the Graduate School-New Brunswick and return to the faculty. She is completing work on a collaborative volume on the “Zamena” immigration from the Soviet Union to Palestine (1924-1936). She has just published the third volume in the documentary edition “The Mensheviks in Bolshevik Russia,” co-

edited with A. Nenarokov (Moscow: Rosspen Publishers, 2002). Her article “Archives and Historical Writing: The Case of the Menshevik Party in 1917” was recently published in Russia (Istorik sredi istorikov, Kazan, 2001).

Paul Hanebrink has the following articles in press: “The Redemption of Christian Hungary: Christianity, Confession, and Nationalism in Hungary, 1919-1944” in Michael Geyer and Hartmut Lehmann, eds., *Religion und Nation* (Goettingen: Wallstein Verlag) and “Christian Europe’ and National Identity in Inter-War Hungary” in Marsha Rozenblit and Pieter Judson, eds., *Reconstructing Nationalities in East Central Europe* (Berghahn Books). He gave a presentation at Villanova University on “Why the Churches did not speak out: The Christian Churches and the Holocaust in Hungary.” He presented papers at the meetings of the German Studies Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and the American Historical Association.

Daniel A. Harris’s article on “Isaac Rosenberg in the Trenches: Imagining King David’s World” is forthcoming in *Jewish Culture and History*. Through JEWISH VOICES, his independent public Jewish education program, he offered over 40 presentations on topics ranging from “Reading the Shoah: Poetry and Memory” to “Retelling Hebrew Characters: Modern Midrashim by Jewish Women and Men.” He writes a regular column on Jewish poetry in English for *The Jewish Standard* (Teaneck, NJ).

Phyllis Mack published *In God’s Name: Genocide and Religion in the 20th Century*, co-edited with Omer Bartov (Berghahn Books, 2001). She spent six months at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, participating in a project on wisdom and spirituality with a team of psychologists. Mack presented papers at conferences on “The Enlightenment and Religion,” University of California, Los Angeles, and on “Dreams in Early Modern Europe,” Princeton University, and at the University of Minnesota.

FACULTY UPDATES

Alicia Ostriker published a new book of poems, *The Volcano Sequence* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2002). She read her poetry at the Jewish American Writers Conference, Princeton University and at Babson University. Ostriker gave a talk on “The Book of Ruth and the Love of the Land” at the University of Sheffield. She also gave presentations at the American Writing Programs Conference in New Orleans on “The Lyric ‘I,’” and at the Center for Research on Jewish Women, Brandeis University on “The Nakedness of the Fathers.”

Barbara Reed delivered a paper on “Early British and American Jewish Publications: A Comparison” at a symposium on the Civil War and 19th Century Free Expression in Chattanooga, TN. She participated in a panel about ethnic and minority publications, sponsored by the New York Division of the Humanities, Bard College.

Jeffrey Shandler published the following articles: “Szczuczyn: A Shtetl through a Photographer’s Eye,” in Louis D. Levine, ed., *Lives Remembered* (Museum of Jewish Heritage, 2002); and “Producing the Future: The Impresario Culture of American Zionism before 1948,” in Deborah Dash Moore and Ilan Troen, eds., *Divergent Jewish Cultures: Israel and America* (Yale University Press, 2001). Shandler was an Associate Fellow at Rutgers’ Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture where he presented a paper on “Yiddish as a Performance Art.” He also gave the following presentations: “Anne Frank Imagined,” Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York; “Reflections on Yiddish in America,” New York University; “Jews, Spirituality, and Videotape: American Judaism and the ‘New Media of the Twentieth Century’” and “Encounters with Yiddishland: Journeys Beyond the Vernacular,” University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; “Found in Translation: Post-vernacular Literary Translations into Yiddish,” 33rd Annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Washington, DC; “American Popular Culture and the

Holocaust,” Colloquium on Popular Culture and the Shaping of Holocaust Memory in America, Center for Jewish History, New York; and “Materializing the Mother Tongue,” Celebrating Jewish-American Writers: An International Conference, Princeton University.

Nancy Sinkoff gave the following presentations: “Pluralism within the Jewish Enlightenment: Voices from Eastern Europe” at the 33rd Annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Washington, DC; “Reluctant Subjects: The Maskil Joseph Perl on the Transformation of Galician Jewry” at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies; and “Joseph Perl as Historian of Jewish Law” at the Center for Israel and Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar, Columbia University. She served as a commentator and panelist for the public program, “Jewish Town Hall: Democracy and Authority in Jewish Communal Decisionmaking,” sponsored by EDAH at the Jewish Community Center of Manhattan.

Chaim I. Waxman published “Congregation, Community, and Continuity: Denominational Affiliation as an Indicator of Jewish Identity,” in Sergio Della Pergola and Judith Even, eds., *Studies in Jewish Demography, 1997* (Jerusalem: Hebrew University, Institute of Contemporary Jewry, 2001) and “A Lesson in Poetic License,” *Israel Studies Forum* (Fall 2001). He chaired a session on “The History of Education in Postmodern Discourse” and gave a paper on “Contrasting Indicators of Jewish Identity among America’s Jews at the 13th World Congress of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Waxman also gave the following presentations: “The Holocaust and Jewish Identity and Identification in the United States” at the conference on “Sociological Perspectives on the Holocaust and Post-Holocaust Jewish Life,” Rutgers University; “Jewish Identity and Identification Among Baby Boomers and Youth in the USA,” at the First International Conference on “The Meanings of Jewry Today,”

Tel-Aviv University; and “Mizrachi, Religious Zionism, and American Jewry,” at the International Conference on “100 Years of Religious Zionism: 1902-2002,” Bar-Ilan University. He also gave presentations at the UJC General Assembly, Washington, DC; the UAHC Biennial, Boston, MA; and the Annual Conference of the Religious Zionists of America, New York, NY. He delivered a paper on: “The ‘Iron Law’ of Humra and the Haredization of Orthodoxy” (in Hebrew) at the 26th Annual Conference of the Israel Historical Society and the Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History, Jerusalem.

Yael Zerubavel continues to serve as the Director of the Bildner Center and as the Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies. She has two articles forthcoming: “Bar Kokhba’s Image in Modern Israeli Culture” in Peter Schäfer, ed., *The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered: The Archeological, Historical, and Literary Perspectives on the Second Jewish Revolt against Rome* (Mohr-Siebeck, Tübingen); and “The Mythological Sabra and the Jewish Past: Trauma, Memory, and Contested Identities,” *Israel Studies*, vol. 7, no. 2 (Summer 2002). Zerubavel was a Faculty Fellow at a year-long seminar on “The Performance of Culture” at Rutgers’ Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture. She presented a paper on “Trauma, Memory, and Contested Identities in Israeli Literature” in this seminar, and a paper at the Princeton conference on “The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered.” She delivered the Elsie B. Lipset Jewish Community Endowment Lecture on “Contested Memories and the Power of Tradition in Contemporary Israeli Society” as well as a seminar paper on “Patriotic Sacrifice, Bereavement, and the Burden of Memory in Israeli Culture” at Stanford University. Zerubavel continues to serve on the Board of the Association for Jewish Studies; she joined the International Advisory Board of the *Journal of Israeli History* and continues to serve on the Editorial Boards of the journals *Israel Studies* and the *Israel Studies Forum*.

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

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

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS

Orly Moshenberg, Coordinator
Edna Bryn-Noiman
Eve Jochnowitz
Lily Levy

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Steven Friedell, Law

PART-TIME LECTURERS

Mark Kligman
Leonard Levin
Marc Miller
Adam Mintz

VISITING FACULTY

Michal Govrin, Fall
Dvora Hacohen, Fall
Elliott Horowitz, Fall and Spring

RETIRING FACULTY

Daniel A. Harris, English
Curt Leviant, Jewish Studies

Courses 2002-2003

Jewish Society & Culture I:
From Antiquity to the Middle Ages
Jewish Society & Culture II:
The Modern Experience
Jewish Studies Seminar:
Community and Crisis:
Jewish Encounters with Modernity
Remembering the Shtetl
History of Jewish Women
Classical Jewish Philosophy
Modern Jewish Philosophy
History of East European Jewry
Germany Confronts the Holocaust
History of the Holocaust
Holocaust Literature in Translation
Post-Biblical Jewish Literature:
Priests, Prophets and Rabbis
Hebrew Bible: Formation and Interpretation
Seminar: Antisemitism
Honors Seminar: Growing Up Jewish
in America
American Jews and the Media
Arab Israeli Conflict
Modern Middle Eastern Literature
in Translation
Critical Perspectives on the Middle East
Jewish Music
Elementary Modern Hebrew
Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Advanced Modern Hebrew
Introduction to Hebrew Style & Literature
Hebrew Tales & Poetry (in Hebrew)
Elementary Modern Yiddish

SPECIAL TOPICS

Israel in the 1950s
Israeli Society
Jewish-Christian Relations
The Dead Sea Scrolls
Ritual, Mysticism and the Poetics of
Jewish Life
Trauma & Memory in Israeli Culture
The Jewish Lifecycle in
Historical Perspective

NANCY SINKOFF (Continued from page 2)

History, and Ph.D. in Jewish History – all from Columbia University – Dr. Sinkoff also earned an M.A. in Judaica from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Her interest in European Jewish history and European sources and texts required years of intensive training in Jewish history and numerous European languages, including Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Polish, and French. This broad training has made it possible for her to examine diverse historical documents and texts in their original languages.

A member of the Rutgers Jewish Studies faculty since 1998, Sinkoff loves teaching the two-semester introductory courses in Jewish History, which are required of all Jewish Studies majors and minors, and she is a popular professor with the Rutgers undergraduates. Her seminar for upper-level undergraduates, "Power and Politics in Modern Jewish History," provides a critique of the ideological assumptions underlying the concepts of "power" and "powerlessness" in modern Jewish history. The course addresses such issues as the breakdown of traditional authority, class conflict and the rise of Jewish labor, Jewish women and social protest, and Zionism's confrontation with Jewish "powerlessness."

Sinkoff has found it challenging to convey a picture of European Jewish history that dispels popular notions born of post-Holocaust reconstructions of the Jewish past. Sinkoff's students often express astonishment and disbelief when she asserts that Polish Jews before World War II, though living holistic Jewish lives, were also very much at home in Eastern Europe. Recently, Sinkoff lectured on Jewish history at the international summer institute entitled "Galicia: The Historic Region of Europe," which was sponsored by the College for New Europe of the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, Poland. She found introducing Europeans to the intellectual and cultural riches of the East European Jewish past particularly rewarding, especially in Poland, where there is but a small active Jewish community today.

For further information regarding the academic program, contact Arlene Goldstein at (732) 932-3571 or e-mail: csjl@rci.rutgers.edu.

Upcoming Programs 2002-2003

Sabbath Pleasures in Medieval and Modern Times

Elliott Horowitz, Visiting Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair
September 18; 7:30 PM

Symposium with Jewish Writers

October 6; 2:00-6:00 PM

The Social History of the Bagel

The Inaugural Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Lecture
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett
October 22; 7:30 PM

Teaching the Holocaust Through Literature

Mini-course for teachers
October 3, 10, 17, 24

Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

November 7-17

Israel in the Fifties:

The Demographic Revolution

The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture
Dvora Hacoheh, The Norman and Syril Reitman Visiting Fellow
November 19; 7:30 PM

Women of the Wall:

Women's Legal Struggle to Pray at the Western Wall

The Raoul Wallenberg Annual Lecture
Prina Lahav
February 20; 7:30 PM

Workshops for Teachers

- Teaching the Holocaust in Elementary School
February 28
- History of Jews in Poland
March 26

From the Urban Ghetto to the Suburbs:

The Reshaping of the American Jewish Landscape

The Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program
Jenna Weissman Joselit
March 12; 7:30 PM

Rediscovering Jewish Eastern Europe

Jack Kugelmass, Mark Kligman
March 23; 3:00-6:00 PM

New Hebrew website:

<http://fas-digiclass.rutgers.edu>

Front page image: Jewish New Year Postcard, United States, c.1898-1918, Courtesy of Rolnik Publishers, Something Different, Tel Aviv, Israel, www.rolnik.com.



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