



Jewish Studies at Rutgers

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

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Exploring Israeli History, Culture, and Society

The Bildner Center offers nuanced and thoughtful programming that explores Israel’s diversity, reflects on its history, and grapples with a host of complex current issues. This year was no exception. The Center welcomed scholars, artists, and experts for a series of diverse programs about Israeli history, culture, and society, which allowed for cross-cultural exchanges and artistic collaboration among faculty, students, and the larger community.

Moshe Zonder, former head writer of *Fauda*, the first Israeli television series to be released as a Netflix Original, spent the fall 2018 semester as the Bildner Center’s **Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist**, sponsored by the **Israel Institute**. Zonder taught “Screenwriting for Television” in the Creative Writing Program of the Department of English. He also appeared as a featured guest speaker during the 2018 Rutgers Jewish Film Festival and at a Bildner Center special event, **“Behind the Scenes of Fauda,”** at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County.

Since the festival’s launch twenty years ago, the Center has proudly showcased Israeli films, including six this past year, and brought in Israeli directors for audience Q&As. The films reflect the breadth and depth of Israeli society as well as the growth of Israel’s film industry over the past two decades.

The first public program of the 2018–2019 academic year was a dialogue with award-winning author **Ruby Namdar** in September, moderated by Professor **Nancy Sinkoff**, academic director of the Bildner Center. Entitled **“Living in English,**

Writing in Hebrew,” the conversation explored themes in Namdar’s novel *The Ruined House*, winner of the 2014 Sapir Prize. The book’s plot revolves around an American professor named Cohen who experiences the



Clockwise from top left: Yehuda Kurtzer, Ruby Namdar, Moshe Zonder, and James Loeffler



deep psychological pull of the Temple’s sacrificial rituals on Yom Kippur. Namdar, an Israeli of Iranian Jewish heritage who now resides in New York, spoke about the challenges of living in one language while writing in another, a timely metaphor for the complicated relationship between Israel and the Jewish Diaspora in the United States.

Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and a leading thinker on Diaspora-Israel relations, looked closely at that complicated relationship in his talk, **“Israel and American Jews: The Future of a Challenging Relationship,”** in December. Growing denominational and partisan divides as well as an ever-widening gap in political worldviews have shifted the nature of that relationship over time. Yet Kurtzer offered a hopeful reconceptualization of that bond, reframing it as one between concerned and loyal friends rather than unquestioning siblings. The lecture was the **Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Program**.

In April, **James Loeffler**, Jay Berkowitz Professor of Jewish History at the University of Virginia, delivered two talks about the



From the Academic Director



It is increasingly difficult to keep track of all the information flooding our inboxes, voice mail messages, old-fashioned mailboxes, etc. As I complete my first year as the academic director of the Bildner Center, a year of wonderfully successful public programming, Holocaust education, and enhancements in the scholarly life of students and faculty at Rutgers, I cannot help but wonder how many people know about what we have accomplished.

This newsletter has always been a great way of communicating, but going forward we will also send out regular email updates in the form of E-NEWS about our activities. If you are comfortable with digital communications, please make sure that you join the Bildner Center's email list by signing up through our website.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will find a detailed look at highlights from last year's programs. So let me give you a taste of what is to come in 2019–2020.

The Bildner Center prides itself on working with the various schools, units, and departments throughout Rutgers as well as with academic institutions, cultural organizations, and scholars around the region, nationally, and internationally. We see ourselves in conversation with all the fields of arts and sciences and seek to create programs and educational opportunities that speak to wide and diverse audiences. In the fall, we will participate in the Rutgers Paul Robeson Centennial Celebration with the program "Paul Robeson, 'Negro-Jewish' Unity, and the 'Jewish People's Movement' in the 1940s: Legacy and Challenges."

In the spring, the Center is collaborating again—twice, in fact—with the Mason Gross School of the Arts. "Letters to Erich: Family Disruption and Holocaust Memory" will feature a recital-lecture by acclaimed jazz pianist Ted Rosenthal based on his original jazz opera, *Dear Erich*. The program will be presented in partnership with the New Brunswick Jazz Project and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. A second spring program, "Exile," will include a concert and spoken commentary that explores the relationship between Jewish and non-Jewish music in Renaissance and early modern Europe. It will be presented with the American Society for Jewish Music, the Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS), and the period-instrument musical ensemble Incantare.

Other exciting programs are still in the planning stages, but rest assured, you will hear about them in our new email blasts as well as through the tried-and-true U.S. Postal Service.

Wishing you a healthy and sweet New Year and semester.

—Nancy Sinkoff, Academic Director
The Allen and Joan Bildner Center
for the Study of Jewish Life

From the Chair



Languages play an important role in Jewish studies, and this past year the department expanded our students' opportunities to study Jewish languages. For the first time in Rutgers' history, the university offered a course on Ladino, the traditional vernacular of Sephardic Jews, taught by our colleague Efe Khayyat, of the Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures, and cross-listed with Jewish studies. After several years of not running courses in Yiddish, we are delighted to offer classes in the language through the university's new distance-learning classrooms. Students at Rutgers and other universities in the Big Ten Academic Alliance connect in real time with the course instructor, Adi Mahalel, who teaches at the University of Maryland. This new technology enables Rutgers students to learn Yiddish and other less commonly taught languages.

Thanks to Michelle Stephens, dean of humanities, Rutgers has initiated a program in language engagement through an array of new one-credit courses designed to stimulate students' interest in learning other languages. The Department of Jewish Studies plans to offer two of these courses: Gary Rendsburg has developed a class on ancient and medieval Jewish languages, introducing students to the wealth of languages that figure in the earliest centuries of Jewish history, including Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, South Arabian, Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Persian, Judeo-French, and Judeo-Italian. Beyond learning about these languages and their literatures, students will address larger issues concerning language use, including the role of language in diaspora cultures, the multilingualism of minority communities, oral versus written language, sacred versus vernacular language, language ideology, language standardization, language learning, and language status. I plan to offer a course on contemporary Yiddish culture, centered on Yiddish New York—an intensive weeklong program of classes, workshops, and performances on Yiddish language, literature, and folkways—which gathers leading scholars and artists from around the world. This course will both expose students to the wide range of cultural creativity involving Yiddish and invite them to consider what this program reveals about contemporary Yiddish more generally.

In addition to these new developments, the department continues to offer a full cycle of courses in modern Hebrew language. These classes are taught by Orna Goldman, who brings years of pedagogical expertise to Rutgers, having been a language instructor at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Middlebury College, and Yale University, among other schools. The department also helps individual students develop their command of languages beyond our campus, whether taking courses on Hebrew in Israel or studying Yiddish at the YIVO Institute in New York. In the coming years, we will continue to explore more ways to enhance our students' study of languages, a vital component of Jewish studies.

—Jeffrey Shandler, Chair
Department of Jewish Studies

BILDNER CENTER PROGRAMS

20 Years and 250 Films Later...

This fall, we look forward to the twentieth Rutgers Jewish Film Festival. With funding from the Karma Foundation, the festival started in 2000 with five films, and to our delight 1,600 people showed up! We knew we were on to something special—a way to encounter and talk about Jewish history, Jews around the world, and the many layers of Israeli society through the medium of film. And now we can look back at more than 250 films shown, with total attendance topping 100,000!

In curating the festival program, we have held many conversations about what makes a film “Jewish” and about the significance of film as a medium that provides a window into the lives of people different from ourselves. Hosting Israeli screenwriter Moshe Zonder at

Rutgers last year led to conversations about the value and complexities of depicting historical and contemporary events on television and film. Zonder’s expertise illuminated the challenges of being accurate while creating a dramatic story.

The festival showcases new films and independent filmmakers whose movies matter. In the age of Netflix, people still want to have the big-screen experience, see their friends and neighbors, and engage with filmmakers and others who share behind-the-scenes stories and shed light on so many facets of the Jewish experience. We look for films that show diversity, tell a good story, and might just help us to understand one another a little bit better.

Thank you for your support over the years, and for taking this journey with us and enriching Jewish culture in our community.

—Karen Small, Managing Director

Soviet Yiddish Songs from World War II Enthrall at Rutgers

About 300 people gathered at the Douglass Student Center in March to enter a world of Yiddish song, poetry, and music. Once thought to be lost forever, the collection from Ukraine is now part of a historic, Grammy-nominated recording, *Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of World War II*. Preeminent Yiddish singer, songwriter, and scholar **Psoy Korolenko** and **Anna Shternshis**, the Al and Malka Green Professor of Yiddish Studies at the University of Toronto, brought these musical treasures to life at Rutgers in an all-new concert and lecture program. The event, “**Last Yiddish Heroes: Lost and Found Songs of Soviet Jews during World War II,**” was the annual **Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program** sponsored by the Bildner Center.

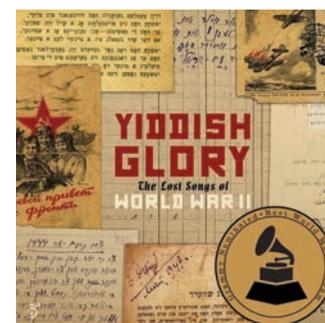
During the Holocaust, Soviet Jews from all walks of life told their personal stories and made sense of their bleak world through Yiddish song. Red Army soldiers, refugees, survivors and victims of ghettos in German-occupied Ukraine—all amateur writers—found self-expression in the emotional immediacy and urgency of songwriting. Their songs encompassed the gamut of human emotion and experience: revenge, love, hope, despair, resistance, bravery, and dark humor. Their songs were also among the earliest texts that documented wartime atrocities against Soviet Jews, rendering them invaluable to historians of the period.

In the early 1940s, a remarkable group of Soviet Jewish scholars led by ethnomusicologist Moisei

Beregovsky risked their own safety to collect, edit, and protect these varied songs for future publication. Unfortunately, after the war, the researchers were arrested during Stalin’s anti-Jewish purge, and their unfinished work was confiscated. In the 1990s, the collection was discovered in unmarked boxes in the basement of the Ukrainian National Library, where it had been hidden by the Soviet government for about fifty years.

Korolenko and Shternshis engaged in a remarkable collaboration to recreate this fragile, quickly eroding musical collection. While some of the documents had their melodies preserved, most consisted only of lyrics handwritten on small scraps of paper. Korolenko was able to draw on scarce supplementary notes, contextualized lyrics, and research on popular music of the period in order to reimagine melodies to accompany the texts. Shternshis’s expertise in Yiddish culture and history enabled her to illuminate masterfully the context and meaning of the art.

“Few people understand the complex patriotism of Soviet Jews who fought in the Red Army against the Nazis, or know of the ways in which Ukrainian Jews resisted their victimization through cultural activism during those terrible years,” says Professor Nancy Sinkoff, academic director of the Bildner Center. “Their voices, brought to life by Shternshis and Korolenko, represent an astounding act of historical reconstruction and musical archaeology.”



Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education



Recent studies show that a strikingly high percentage of American millennials knows very little, if anything, about the Holocaust. At the same time, the population of survivors—eyewitnesses to history—continues to diminish. Together, these statistics drive home the critical importance of Holocaust education, which is mandated in public schools by the State of New Jersey.

Fall 2018: Americans and the Holocaust

Each year, the Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center (HRC) offers free professional development opportunities for New Jersey educators as well as public programming. These initiatives are part of the Bildner Center's overall mission to increase awareness of the Holocaust while promoting a broad discussion about racism, discrimination, genocide, and human rights. Additional support for the programs is provided by the **Marjorie and Egon Berg Holocaust Education Fund** and the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. **Rebecca Erbelding**, historian, curator, and archivist at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the author of *Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe*, came to speak at Rutgers in the fall of 2018. The findings of her extensive research counter the generally held belief that the U.S. government abandoned European Jewry during the Holocaust. She asserts that the War Refugee Board, established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in January 1944, reversed the government's long-held immigration policy and went on to save tens of thousands of Jews.

On October 9, Erbelding delivered the Bildner Center's **Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program**, funded by **Leon and Toby Cooperman**, about her book to an audience of roughly 300 at the Douglass Student

Center. The next day, she was the keynote speaker at a full-day workshop, "**Individuals Matter: Personal Narratives in Response to the Nazi Threat**," held at the Marion and Norman Tanzman Hall of Jewish Learning in Miller Hall. Teachers earned professional development credit and obtained new resources to enhance Holocaust learning in their classrooms.

Spring 2019: Memoirs and Childhood in Poland

The Center presented a teacher workshop, "Memoirs and Childhood in Poland," in April through its Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education (MTI). The program featured **Marian Marzynski**, a Polish filmmaker who, after being smuggled out of the Warsaw Ghetto as a child, remained in the country with his mother until they were expelled from Poland during the 1968 government-sponsored "anti-Zionist" campaign. He shared clips from his autobiographical films and spoke about his remarkable life. One of his films screened at the workshop, *Never Forget to Lie*, about child survivors of the Holocaust, is also publicly available as part of the PBS series *Frontline*. Professor **Nancy Sinkoff's** introductory talk about life in Poland under Nazism and Communism provided context to Marzynski's life story.

Dr. **Joanna Sliwa**, a historian at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, and **Colleen Tambuscio**, the MTI's pedagogical consultant, shared ways to incorporate first-person accounts written by children in the Lodz Ghetto into middle and high school Holocaust curricula.

➤ Continued on page 5



Len Littman and filmmaker Marian Marzynski



Professor Barbara Mann explores the use of graphic novels in educational settings.

Summer 2019 Advanced Seminar: History and Memory

This summer, a two-day advanced seminar in Holocaust education for MTI alumni focused on history and memory, capping a meaningful year of Holocaust programming at Rutgers. Presentations explored the ways in which the Holocaust and its aftermath are represented in poetry, short fiction, and graphic novels.

Barbara Mann, Chana Kekst Professor of Jewish Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary, spoke about the recent proliferation of graphic novels dealing with the Holocaust since Art Spiegelman's *Maus* paved the way in the 1980s. Many teachers commented that Mann's presentation helped them see the value of using graphic novels and comics as a complement to other instructional tools. Professor **James E. Young**, founding director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, outlined what he calls the "stages of Holocaust memory" and the associated acts of commemoration. **Yael Zerubavel**, professor emerita of Jewish studies and history at Rutgers, joined Young for a dialogue on memory practices. Their conversation touched on the rise in global commemorations of tragic events and contemporary responses to memorials that reflect changes in social norms such as selfies, hashtags, and posts on social media.

Throughout the year, the Bildner Center offered several additional free professional development opportunities to New Jersey middle and high school teachers. These included a special screening of the

Visiting Scholar

Deborah Dwork is serving as the **Bildner Visiting Scholar**, endowed by the late **Allen and Joan Bildner**, for the fall semester. Internationally renowned, Dwork is the inaugural Rose Professor of Holocaust History and founding director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. She is the author of numerous award-winning books, including *Children with a Star*, *Flight from the Reich*, and *Auschwitz*. Most recently, she served as the Shapiro Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. At Rutgers, Dwork is participating in community outreach activities of the Bildner Center, including teaching a free mini-course, "**Refugees during the Nazi Era**," for middle and high school teachers through the Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center.



Professors Yael Zerubavel and James E. Young discuss global memory practices.

documentary film ***Who Will Write Our History*** on January 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day (see page 9), and a group trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Dr. **Rebecca Erbelding** of the museum met with educators during the visit, providing them with a behind-the-scenes tour that enhanced their experience.

DONORS, 2018–2019

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors

Grand Patron: \$100,000 and up

- **Gene R. Hoffman** for his generous gift to create internships at the Bildner Center for Rutgers students.

Leadership: \$25,000–\$49,999

- **The Karma Foundation**, led by **Sharon M. Karmazin** DC'67, SC&I'69, and **Dina Elkins**, for its commitment to the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival.

Builders: \$10,000–\$24,999

- **Andrew J. Melnick** RC'63, RBS'70, for ongoing support of Israel studies at Rutgers.
- **Rona and Jeffries Shein** RC'62 for their continued support of the Bildner Center.

Pacesetters: \$5,000–\$9,999

- **Shelley and Steven Einhorn** RC'70 for sponsoring a film in the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival.
- **The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation** for its continued support of curriculum enhancement in the Department of Jewish Studies.

Supporters: \$1,000–\$4,999

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Gifts to Rutgers University can be directed to the Bildner Center or the department.

For more information, contact **Allison Klein** at 848-932-6455, or visit our website, **BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu/donate**.

All gifts are greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM



Felix M. Beck, along with his wife, Doris, was an early and very generous supporter of Jewish studies at Rutgers. Introduced to the Bildner Center's work by his close friend the late Alvin Rockoff, Felix recognized the importance of a strong Jewish studies center at the university. A beloved family man, Felix was also a charitable and distinguished banking executive—most recently as chairman emeritus of Chase Home Finance—who played a significant role in the introduction of the adjustable mortgage rate. Raised in Highland Park, he obtained his undergraduate and business administration degrees from Rutgers. He served for seventeen years on Rutgers' boards of governors and trustees, ultimately earning the Distinguished Alumni Award. Felix was also a staunch advocate of the United Jewish Federation, the Mental Health Association, Paper Mill Playhouse, and Temple Beth Shalom.

New Gift from Gene R. Hoffman Supports Student Internships

We express our deep thanks to **Gene R. Hoffman**, whose generous gift has created internships at the Bildner Center for Rutgers students. Internships provide an excellent way for students to gain practical work experience, which helps to prepare them for employment after graduation. As student interns develop new skills, they also gain knowledge of Jewish history and culture through exposure to lectures, films, and other programs offered by the Bildner Center. Students have the chance to intern with the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival and with the Herbert and Leonard

Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center, among other opportunities. **Anna Robinson**, who is earning her bachelor of fine arts degree in digital filmmaking at Mason Gross School of the Arts, has been selected as the first intern.

Hoffman, an avid lifelong learner, also provided the funding to develop the Bildner Center's **Jewish Studies Online** program, which currently offers six noncredit courses. This free program, accessible through the Bildner Center website, has enrolled more than 7,600 people in its courses to date.



Anna Robinson begins her internship.



Meet the New Senior Department Administrator

Jenny Gehrman has joined the staff of the Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies as senior department administrator. On board since

November, Jenny oversees the business functions, accounts, and websites for both units. Her diverse responsibilities include planning and implementing the Bildner Center's programs and managing ticket sales for the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival. Jenny is in charge of the administration of the department, including course scheduling and the student scholarship process. A dedicated Rutgers employee for more than ten years, Jenny was most recently the department administrator for the Department of Kinesiology and Health. Jenny replaced Arlene Goldstein, who retired from Rutgers last summer after playing an instrumental role in the Center and the department for more than twenty years. We are delighted to have Jenny on the team!

► PROGRAMS ON ISRAEL from page 1

intertwined histories of Zionism and human rights in the twentieth century, thanks to support from the **Henry Schwartzman Endowment**. He presented a faculty seminar, "**The Myth of Jewish Universalism: Recovering the Judeo-Catholic Origins of Amnesty International**," focusing on Peter Benenson, the organization's founder. (See page 11.) At his public talk, "**From Zion Shall Go Forth the Law: The Unknown History of Jews and Human Rights**," Loeffler argued that Jewish engagement with human rights preceded the destruction of European Jewry during the Holocaust. Though little known, it began when prominent Eastern European lawyers, working at the intersection of Zionism and human rights, sought to protect Jewish national identity after World War I.

Rutgers students in modern Israeli culture and Hebrew language courses attended the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *The Band's Visit*, a story about Egyptian musicians stranded in a small town in the Israeli desert that offers a unique lens on overlapping Middle Eastern cultures. **Sharon Karmazin**, one of the show's producers, and the **Henry and Marilyn Taub Curriculum Enhancement Fund** made this wonderful opportunity possible.

The 2018 Rutgers Jewish Film Festival

The 19th annual **Rutgers Jewish Film Festival** took place from October 30 through November 11, 2018, at the AMC New Brunswick and the Princeton Garden Theatre, reaching a wide audience of New Jersey cinema-goers eager to view the latest in Jewish films.

The festival brings our diverse community together and offers new perspectives on Israeli society, Jews around the world, the Holocaust, and the many aspects of Jewish identity. A special Holocaust education screening brings history to life for public school students and their teachers, promoting tolerance and mutual understanding.

Festival selections included recent feature films and moving documentaries, such as *Three Identical Strangers*, a close look at the story of triplets separated at birth, then reunited through a series of coincidences nearly two decades later. Filmgoers also had the exceptional opportunity to view *The Body Collector*, the highest-rated miniseries in Dutch television history, and a new restoration of the 1937 Yiddish classic *The Dybbuk*.

Once again, the festival distinguished itself by offering conversations with a broad range of special guests. Lead actor

Peter Simonischek traveled from Vienna to join the audience on opening night. He gave behind-the-scenes insight into *The Interpreter*, a Slovakian drama about an unlikely road trip that pairs a Jewish translator and the son of the SS officer who murdered his parents. Director **Seth Kramer** attended a screening of his documentary *Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel*, together with **Ty Kelly**, formerly of the New York Mets, who also played on Israel's national baseball team. Director **Dan Wolman** flew in from Tel Aviv for the closing night

screening of *An Israeli Love Story*, a passionate tale of love and independence set during the turbulent years of 1947–1948 in the lead-up to Israeli statehood. (See also article on page 9.)

Each year, the festival is made possible thanks to the generosity of the **Karma Foundation**. (See article below.) The Bildner Center is also grateful to **David and Sylvia Steiner**, who endowed a film program; to **Shelley and Steven Einhorn** RC'70, who sponsored a film; and to the cadre of devoted festival patrons for their continued support.



Karen Small, Sharon Karmazin, actor Peter Simonischek, Nancy Sinkoff, and Marcel Rozenzweig

Special Thanks to Sharon Karmazin and the Karma Foundation

This November, we celebrate twenty years of Jewish films at the **Rutgers Jewish Film Festival**. We are very grateful to the **Karma Foundation** and its president, **Sharon Karmazin**, whose vision and generous support have been instrumental to the festival's success.

Sharon's personal investment in, and passion for, the festival goes far beyond her foundation's annual grant. She is an active member of the film selection

committee, screening and evaluating films for inclusion.

In 1999, Sharon approached the Bildner Center with the idea of creating a Jewish film festival. Her idea was to bring quality films that mine the richness of the Jewish experience to central New Jersey, and she thought that the Bildner Center, which serves as a bridge between Rutgers University and the community, would be a perfect home for the festival. The Karma Foundation gave an initial grant,

and the inaugural film festival was held in November 2000.

From that first gift and a slate of five films, the festival has grown into the Center's largest and most visible community project, as well as one of Rutgers' biggest community events outside of sports. We now present more than thirty film programs at multiple venues, and attendance reaches 6,000. We look forward to celebrating this milestone year in November.

The Life of a Film: Going Beyond the Festival

Each fall, the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival offers audiences entertaining and thought-provoking dramas and documentaries. Yet the festival's impact extends well beyond the theater and continues long after the two-week cinematic experience comes to a close. This was especially true of the gripping documentary *Who Will Write Our History*, shown during last year's festival.

When historian Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum established the Oyneg Shabes, a secret archive in the Warsaw Ghetto in November 1940, it was a brave act of Jewish resistance. His unlikely team of volunteers would write and gather more than 35,000 pages of testimony, drawings, and ephemera until the ghetto's liquidation in January 1943. The materials, hidden underground in milk cans and tin boxes in separate locations, were exhumed after the war and now compose the Ringelblum Archive at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. The third cache has yet to be found.

Who Will Write Our History tells the story of this clandestine effort to chronicle the wartime fate of Polish Jews—how they lived, and died, during the Holocaust. The film, from director **Roberta Grossman** and executive producer **Nancy Spielberg**, was one of the highlights of the 2018 Rutgers Jewish Film Festival and the winner of its Audience Choice Award for Favorite Documentary.

Grossman, who had attended previous Rutgers Jewish Film Festivals featuring her earlier documentaries *Above and Beyond* and *Hava Nagila (The Movie)*, joined the sold-out crowd for a Q&A after the screening at the Princeton Garden Theatre. Dr. **Samuel Kassow** of Trinity College, whose scholarly research and book of the same name provided the basis for the documentary screenplay, addressed the audience after a matinee at the AMC New Brunswick on closing day.

Winter Screening for Educators

On January 27, 2019, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Bildner Center welcomed ninety educators to a live UNESCO webcast that included a screening of *Who Will Write Our History*. The event, held at Rutgers Cinema on the Livingston Campus, was cosponsored by the **Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center** and the **New Jersey Commission on**



Holocaust Education. UNESCO added the Oyneg Shabes Archive (also called the Ringelblum Archive) to its Memory of the World Register in 1999.

Beverly Johnson, an ESL teacher at Fisher Middle School in Ewing, attended the screening as well as a Bildner Center trip for teachers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., on March 7, 2019. "The film left me speechless. It's disheartening to hear so many people deny the Holocaust when there is so much evidence to prove it happened," she says.

Beverly now speaks extensively about the Warsaw Ghetto in her classroom. "I am so grateful that I can now give my students a special understanding of Holocaust history," she says.

Educators at the winter film screening

Student Screening in Poland

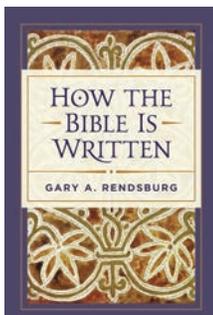
A group of Rutgers students had the unique opportunity to screen the documentary in Warsaw this past May, as part of a one-credit global field experience, "**A Tale of Two Uprisings**," led by Professor **Nancy Sinkoff**. Focusing on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (1943) and the Warsaw Uprising (1944), the course was offered by the Honors College, the SAS Honors Program, and Study Abroad under the auspices of Rutgers Global. It gave students with little background in Jewish history exposure to what was once the heartland of Jewish life in Europe.

In addition to visits to important historical sites in Polish and Polish Jewish history—including Westerplatte, the first site of the German invasion, and Auschwitz-Birkenau—students viewed the Oyneg Shabes material during a tour of the Ringelblum Archive at the Jewish Historical Institute.

"It was an extraordinary experience for students to learn about this era in Polish history while in Poland," says Sinkoff.

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of Ringelblum's death.

New Faculty Books



Professor Reflects on his New Book

Throughout my career, I have worked on the intersection between language and literature in the Bible. While the Bible's message always remains front-and-center in my teaching, I also take the time to show the students the manner in which the ancient Israelite authors transmitted that message. Here I have in mind such literary devices as wordplay, alliteration, dialect representation, repetition with variation, and the intentional use of confused syntax.

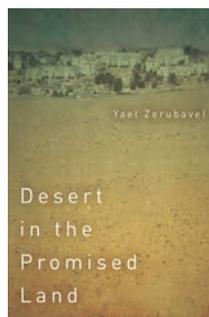
I have published articles on these topics for the past several decades. About ten years ago, I decided to incorporate all this material into a single monograph. The result is my recently published book: *How the Bible Is Written* (Hendrickson, 2019). The book is not simply a volume of collected studies, in which the individual chapters do not necessarily relate directly one to another, but rather a sustained statement with a coherent argument, from beginning to end.

The book includes chapters on the specific literary devices listed above, but it contains much more. There are chapters that guide the reader, verse by verse, through two representative narratives: Genesis 1 (Creation) and Genesis 29 (Jacob and Rachel); other chapters are devoted to how and when the Bible's unique narrative prose style may have developed.

My aim was to make the book accessible to both scholars and educated laypeople. To that end, every passage appears both in Hebrew and in English translation, and, where necessary, in transliteration. In addition, I use analogies from English literature throughout. For example, before discussing alliteration in the Bible, I provide instances from Shakespeare, Thoreau, and Stevenson, thereby paving the way for the reader to appreciate this device in the Hebrew text.

The biblical text demands that the reader pay close attention to each and every word, which individually and collectively serve the nexus between language and literature. Hopefully, *How the Bible Is Written* will allow the reader to appreciate this point in clear fashion.

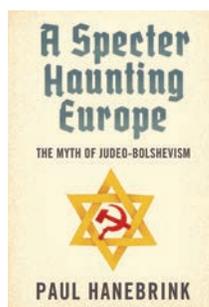
—Gary A. Rendsburg, *the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History and Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies and History*



Desert in the Promised Land

At once an ecological phenomenon and a cultural construction, the desert has varied associations within Zionist and Israeli culture. In the Judaic textual tradition, it evokes exile and punishment, while also being a site of origin myths, the divine presence, and sanctity. Secular Zionism developed its own view of the desert's duality as the romantic site of Jews' biblical roots that inspired modern Hebrew culture and as the barren land outside the Jewish settlements in Palestine.

Yael Zerubavel, professor emerita of Jewish studies and history, and founding director of the Bildner Center, tells the story of the desert from the early twentieth century to the present, shedding light on romantic-mythical associations, settlement and security concerns, environmental sympathies, and the impact of tourism. Drawing on literary narratives, educational texts, newspaper articles, tourist materials, films, popular songs, and other visual material, Zerubavel reveals the complexities and contradictions that mark Israeli society's image of the desert in relation to the Middle East and the centrality of the theme of a "besieged island" in Israeli culture and politics.



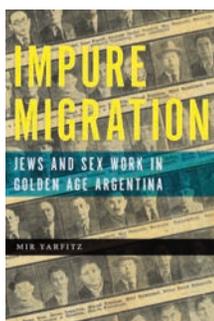
A Specter Haunting Europe: The Myth of Judeo-Bolshevism

For much of the twentieth century, Europe was haunted by a threat of its own imagining: Judeo-Bolshevism. This myth—that Communism was a Jewish plot to destroy the nations of Europe—was a paranoid fantasy.

And yet, fears of a Jewish Bolshevik conspiracy took hold during the Russian Revolution and spread across Europe. During World War II, these fears sparked genocide. **Paul Hanebrink**, professor of history and an affiliated faculty member in Jewish studies, has just published *A Specter Haunting Europe*, which traces the social and cultural networks through which the concept of Judeo-Bolshevism moved and drew power. It is the first comprehensive account of the Judeo-Bolshevik myth from its origins until the present day.

➤ Continued on page 11

A Specter Haunting Europe begins with the counter-revolutionary movements that spread across Europe at the end of World War I. Fascists, Nazis, conservative Christians, and others who were terrified by Communism imagined Jewish Bolsheviks as enemies who crossed borders to subvert order from within and bring destructive ideas from abroad. In the interwar years, Judeo-Bolshevism was used as a political weapon in different ways. But it always represented a powerful ethno-religious “Other” that threatened individual nations and all of European civilization at the same time. After the Holocaust, the specter of Judeo-Bolshevism mutated once again, becoming part of the Cold War world. And it still persists today on both sides of the Atlantic in the toxic politics of revitalized right-wing nationalism.



Jewish Cultures of the World Series

Impure Migration: Jews and Sex Work in Golden Age Argentina is the latest title in the Rutgers University Press series Jewish Cultures of the World. The author, **Mir Yarfitz** (Wake Forest University), investigates the period from the 1890s until the

1930s, when prostitution was a legally regulated institution in Argentina. At the same time, pogroms and anti-Semitic discrimination left thousands of Eastern European Jews displaced without resources. With few other options, managing or engaging in prostitution became a way some Jewish men and women could migrate in search of better lives, using networks that were not always as exploitative as the term “trafficking” suggests. *Impure Migration* explores a complicated social landscape to reveal that sexual labor is in fact a critical part of the histories of migration, labor, race, and sexuality. The series, coedited by

Marcy Brink-Danan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and **Jeffrey Shandler** (Rutgers University), is published in association with the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life.

Faculty Seminars, 2018–2019

The Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar

On April 2, **James Loeffler**, Jay Berkowitz Professor of Jewish History at the University of Virginia, gave the Bildner Center’s Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar, “**The Myth of Jewish Universalism: Recovering the Judeo-Catholic Origins of Amnesty International.**” His talk explored the roots of Amnesty International through its fascinating founding figure, Peter Benenson. A Jew born into a leading Zionist family, Benenson was a community activist deeply rooted in a secular, socialist, Zionist tradition. He then underwent a dramatic conversion to Catholicism and became a human rights activist. Drawing on Benenson’s writings, Loeffler illustrated that Jewish identity politics shaped the Western moral imagination in the twentieth century, arguing against what he considers to be a widely held myth that Jewish universalism lies at the root of human rights history.

Additional faculty seminar:

Jordan S. Penkower, Bar-Ilan University: “The Ten Commandments from the Bible to Rembrandt”

DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKERS VISIT JEWISH STUDIES CLASSES

Arab-Israeli Conflict

- **Moshe Zonder**, the Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist at the Bildner Center: “Behind the Scenes of *Fauda*”

Jews and Medicine

- Dr. **Mara Benjamin**, Mount Holyoke (via Skype): “On Teachers, Rabbinic and Maternal”
- Dr. **Susan Martha Kahn**, Harvard (Skype): “Artificial Reproductive Technologies, Israel”
- Rabbi **Rebecca Ratner Kamil**, University of Illinois: “Jewish Living Wills”

Modern Israeli Culture

- **Izat Elamoor**, Ph.D. candidate, New York University: “Homosexuality and the Israeli Education System”
- Dr. **Tanya Zion-Waldoks**, Princeton: “Feminist Activism in Israel Today”

Remembering the Holocaust

- **Marian Marzynski**, documentary filmmaker: Screening and discussion of his film *Never Forget to Lie*
- **Fred Wasserman**, acquisition curator, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM): “Collecting at the USHMM”

STUDENT NEWS



Year-End Celebration

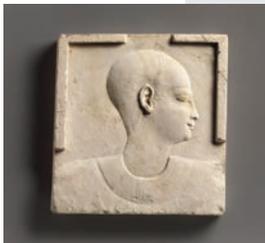
Fifteen students—from as nearby as central New Jersey and as far as South Korea—were recognized at an awards ceremony on May 8 hosted by the **Bildner Center** and the **Department of Jewish Studies**.

Students were celebrated for their achievements in Jewish studies, and stipends for study in Israel were presented. Graduating seniors and award recipients gathered with faculty, family, and friends in the Marion and Norman Tanzman Hall of Jewish Learning for the festivities.

A striking range of academic interests was represented in addition to Jewish studies—from English literature to religion and political science; from public health to business administration and landscape architecture; from modern Hebrew to Yiddish. Travel awards to Israel were granted through the **Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Fund**, and student projects there included community service with the Ethiopian community and an independent study of the relationship between communal, kibbutz living and agricultural practices.

CLASS TRIP HELPS HISTORY COME ALIVE

In December of last year, students in Professor **Gary A. Rendsburg's** class "**Ancient Egypt**" had the opportunity to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, which houses a major collection of ancient Egyptian art. It was here that the world of ancient Egypt truly came alive for students. Assistant Curator Niv Allon guided the group through the special exhibition *Nedjemankh and His Gilded Coffin*. Funding for the trip was provided by the **Henry and Marilyn Taub Curriculum Enhancement Fund**.



Reflections of a Graduate

The last two years have been, by turns, delightful, sustaining, surprising, enjoyable, yes, demanding, and in many ways the two best years of my life.

I came to Rutgers by way of preparation for an eventual Ph.D. in the Hebrew Bible. This meant I needed to do the usual sorts of things that such a plan would require, like language acquisition, for instance. But in my very first semester, I enrolled in Professor Gary Rendsburg's course "Scroll Down," which consisted of an overview of classical Jewish texts, from the scroll to the internet. That class introduced me to the wonderful but often difficult-to-navigate websites where manuscripts could be viewed online. One search query led to another, and I found myself the following semester reading Dead Sea Scroll fragments from a now familiar website, and questioning some of the accepted transcriptions of several partial words from one of the scrolls. Attempting to resolve my difficulties soon led to an interest in paleography. With the assistance of the Department of Jewish Studies, I was able to attend a paleography seminar at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

This fall, I plan to begin a Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge. I will be working with Professor Geoffrey Khan, reading Cairo Geniza biblical materials. The last two years at Rutgers was time well spent, and I am grateful to all of you who made it possible.

—Vince Beiler



Jewish Studies Graduates 2018–2019

Benjamin Bass
Joshua Finkelstein
Jolisa Johnson
Arden Poller
Karlen Rubinstein
Talia Schabes
Caleb Squires

Master's Degree
Vincent Beiler
Roselyn Bell

Student Award Recipients, 2019

Emily Binstein '21
Betty and Julius Gillman
Memorial Award

Yerim Cho '21
Baruch S. and Pearl W.
Seidman Award

Hanna Graifman '20
Benjamin F. and Lillian
Glasser Award

Christine Jensen '21
Betty and Julius Gillman
Memorial Award

Ashley Jones '20
Maurice Meyer III and Irma
Meyer Award
Baruch S. and Pearl W.
Seidman Award

Amanda Leifer '20
Norma U. and David M.
Levitt Award

Brianna Newman '22
Reitman Family Award

Yael Rabin '20
Leonard and Adele
Blumberg Award

Talia Schabes '19
Rudolph and Mary Solomon
Klein Award

Kailee Shapiro '21
Harold and Betty Perl Award

Annabelle Sinoff '20
Gertrude and Jacob Henoch
Memorial Award
Ruth Feller Rosenberg Award

AWARDS FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL
Supported by Herbert and
Jacqueline Klein

Julian Biller '20
Jacob Miller '21
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Brooke Kaire '21
Rutgers-Israel Service Learning

Amanda Leifer '20
Agriculture and Communal
Living in Israel;
Independent Study

Meet Recent Graduate Talia Schabes

Talia Schabes double-majored in nutritional sciences and Jewish studies, and she received the **Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Award** this spring.

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Englewood, New Jersey, where I had a pretty typical Jewish day-school education. I also dabbled in hands-on experiences that piqued my interest in health and the environment and shaped my Jewish identity. For example, I'm now vegan and live in an environmentally conscious way, both lifestyle choices I see as an organic extension of my Jewish values.

What motivated you to take Jewish studies courses?

I originally intended to pursue a degree just in the sciences. But I enrolled in Professor **Azzan Yadin-Israel's** course "**Jewish Society & Culture I**" to fulfill a liberal arts requirement. It was exciting to learn about Jewish history from an academic perspective, which offered a wider lens on the topic than what I was used to. The more I studied, the more I wanted to know, so declaring the double major was an easy choice. Each class added a layer of complexity to my understanding and knowledge of Judaism, Jewish culture, and Israel.

What was the relationship between your two academic disciplines, and how did they influence each other?

The double major enabled me to merge two parts of myself—the historian and the scientist. In my Jewish studies majors seminar with Professor **Gary A. Rendsburg**, entitled "**Scroll Down: Classical Jewish Texts, from Parchment to Internet**," I was able to combine my interest in Jewish studies, including my fascination with Maimonides (also known as Rambam), and nutrition. My seminar research looked at several of Rambam's medical texts found in the Cairo Geniza, in addition to his *Guide to the Perplexed*.



Did you experience any life-changing moments at Rutgers?

Fall 2016 was my favorite semester. I took three Jewish studies courses: "**Advanced Modern Hebrew**," "**The History of the Holocaust**," and "**The Dead Sea Scrolls**." The classes gave me a framework to do a lot of writing that proved integral to my religious and cultural identity. I wrote an interdisciplinary essay in Hebrew, something I never imagined myself capable of, and another about my grandmother's personal Holocaust experience.

Thanks to the **Barry and Deborah Venezia Adler International Study Scholarship**, I spent the summer before my senior year at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. I took a mind-blowing New Testament archaeology course that included a visit to Qumran and another course that gave me an entirely new perspective on the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. I also volunteered at a women's health clinic, an opportunity that inspired my independent research at Rutgers with Professor **Michal Raucher** on the reproductive rights of Palestinian women living in the West Bank.

What does your future look like?

I made aliyah after graduation, fulfilling a long-term dream. I am currently working as a technician in a nutritional biochemistry lab at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, while tutoring in Hebrew and tending an urban garden. Long-term, I hope to pursue a master's degree in the natural sciences and a career that reflects the beliefs and passions I nurtured at Rutgers.

For the full interview, please visit JewishStudies.Rutgers.edu.

FACULTY UPDATES

Charles Häberl contributed a new chapter on the Mandaic language to the second edition of *The Semitic Languages* (Routledge), edited by John Huehnergard and Na'ama Pat-El. He gave the following invited lectures: "About the Chaldæans: August Ludwig von Schlözer and the Discovery of Semitic," at the International Linguistic Association Monthly Lecture Series, Hunter College of the City University of New York; and "The Sasanian Role in the Mandaean World," Wolfson College, University of Oxford. He also delivered a series of lectures on documentary linguistics at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow.

Martha Helfer, together with William Collins Donahue, co-organized the Sixth Biennial Workshop in German Jewish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She gave the keynote lecture, "Maurice Sendak's *Dear Mili: A Contrapuntal Elegy*," at the Jonathan M. Hess Symposium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also gave a guest lecture at Rutgers on Annette von Droste-Hülshoff's *The Jews' Beech Tree* for the comparative literature course "Literature across Borders."

Michal Raucher, who joined the Jewish studies faculty this year, received a contract from Indiana University Press for her first book, *Haredi Women's Reproductive Agency*, to be published in 2020. She also delivered papers at the annual conferences of the following organizations: the American Academy of Religion, the Association for Jewish Studies, and the Society of Jewish Ethics. She was an invited speaker at Colby College in the fall, where she lectured on gestational surrogacy in Israel. She also spoke at the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival on the film *Disobedience*, and at Limmud NY. She continued her ethnographic research on women's ordination

in Orthodox Judaism in Israel and America, and she is working with the American Jewish Archives to create an archive related to Orthodox women's ordination. This year, she taught classes on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israeli culture, and Jews and medicine.

Gary A. Rendsburg published *How the Bible Is Written* (Hendrickson), devoted to the nexus of language and literature in the Bible. (See page 10.) Together with Robert Goldenberg, he edited the final book authored by James S. Diamond (d. 2013), *Scribal Secrets: Extraordinary Texts in the Torah and Their Implications* (Pickwick). He visited Rome to inspect Hebrew manuscripts at the Vatican Library and to deliver a lecture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute. He served (for the third time) as the Mandelbaum Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney, where he both taught a mini-course and delivered a series of six lectures. He also spoke at the Smithsonian Institution, Lanier Theological Library (Houston), and synagogues in Brick, Caldwell, Montclair, South Orange, and Summit. The following two articles were published: "The Book of Samuel in the Cairo Geniza" and "The Etymology of טועט 'Youth, Young Man.'"

Jeffrey Shandler published two essays: "A Tale of Two Translators: Yehoash and Alter Take on the *Tanakh*," in *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*; and "Anne, from Diarist to Icon," in *A Museum Full of Stories*, the new catalog of the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam, which has been issued in Dutch, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. He gave the following presentations: "Jewish Life in Interwar Poland," Seminar for Holocaust Educators, Facing History and Ourselves, Boston and New York;

"Absolut Tchochke: Materializing the Mother Tongue," Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University; "Seeing as Believing: Watching Videotaped Interviews with Holocaust Survivors," Center for European Studies, Rutgers University; "And Now I Have to Read in Jewish Something': Yiddish Performances by Holocaust Survivors," Jewish Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, and Yiddish New York; and "The Savior and the Survivor: Virtual Afterlives in New Media," 50th annual Association for Jewish Studies conference, Boston. The Rutgers University Press series Jewish Cultures of the World, which he co-edits, has issued a new book this year: *Impure Migration: Jews and Sex Work in Golden Age Argentina*. (See page 11.)

Nancy Sinkoff gave the following talks: "Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Beginning of Holocaust Studies in the United States," Grob Memorial Lecture, Jewish Studies Program, University of Virginia, and as a keynote address, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, College of Saint Elizabeth; "From Hunter College to Holocaust Historian: The Life of Lucy S. Dawidowicz," Office of Alumni Relations and Jewish Studies Center, Hunter College; and "Musical Enlightenment: Creating *Sara Levy's World: Gender, Judaism, and the Bach Tradition in Enlightenment Berlin*," Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv University; and she was a respondent to James Loeffler, *Rooted Cosmopolitans: Jews and Human Rights in the Twentieth Century*, at the annual meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Boston. She was a faculty instructor for "Jewish History in Europe: Main Themes, Problems, and Questions," Teacher Workshop, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, and "The

Holocaust in Poland and Its Aftermath under Communism," the Bildner Center's Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education. She published the blog post "The World of Sara Levy," Digital Yiddish Theatre Project (<https://yiddishstage.org/saralevy>). Her book *From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History* is forthcoming (Wayne State University Press, March 2020).

Paola Tartakoff has a second monograph, *Conversion, Circumcision, and Ritual Murder in Medieval Europe*, forthcoming from the University of Pennsylvania Press in January 2020. Her article "From Conversion to Ritual Murder: Re-Contextualizing the Circumcision Charge" was published in the journal *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue*. She delivered a keynote address, "Devotional Objects, Places of Worship, and Religious Garb in Late Medieval Martyrological Narratives," at the conference "Considering Things: Jewish Material Culture in Context," Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In addition, she gave two talks at the Frankel Center, University of Michigan: "Jewish Women and Conversion in Medieval Europe" and "Sepharad, Ashkenaz, and Jewish Conversion to Christianity: Re-Thinking a Medieval Paradigm." In addition, she published reviews of two recent books: *Entangled Histories: Knowledge, Authority, and Jewish Culture in the Thirteenth Century* (University of Pennsylvania Press), edited by Elisheva Baumgarten, Ruth Mazo Karras, and Katelyn Mesler, in *Jewish History*; and *Debating Truth: The Barcelona Disputation of 1263: A Graphic History* (Oxford), by Nina Caputo, in *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*.

Azzan Yadin-Israel spent the past year focused on a book-length study of the Forbidden Fruit, with much of this time devoted to surveying the iconographic representation of the Tree of Knowledge and its fruit in Jewish and Christian art. He presented on this topic at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the Digital Humanities program at Haifa University. Other scholarly talks included "Second Temple Judaism: An Ideological Examination," Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and "Midrash and Tradition in the Sifra," Department of Talmud and Oral Law, Bar-Ilan University. He also published an article, "Contact without Borrowing: Areal Diffusion, Contact-Induced Continuity, and Late Antique Sacrifice," in the *Journal of Ancient Judaism*, and an essay, "Athens and Jerusalem? Early Jewish Biblical Scholarship and the Pagan World," in *Knowledge and Profanation: Transgressing the Boundaries of Religion in Premodern Scholarship*, edited by Martin Mulsow and Asaph Ben-Tov, as well as a book review of Barry Holtz's biography of Rabbi Akiva. He also developed and taught three new courses: "The Presocratic Philosophers" (for Classics and Philosophy), "The History of the English Language," and "Jewish Messiahs." Outside the university, he gave a series of lectures at Congregation Shomrei Emunah (Montclair) and taught an adult education class, "Is the New Testament a Jewish Text?" at Congregation Beth Israel (Scotch Plains).

Yael Zerubavel published a new book, *Desert in the Promised Land* (Stanford University Press). (See page 10.) She also published an essay, "Negotiating Difference and Empathy: Cinematic Representations of Passing and Exchanged Identities in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," in *Rethinking Peace: Discourse, Memory, Translation, and Dialogue*, edited by

Alexander Laban Hinton, Giorgio Shani, and Jeremiah Alber (Rowman and Littlefield). She participated in a workshop, "1948 in Palestine and Israel" at the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She also gave talks about *Desert in the Promised Land* at the Graduate Student Colloquium, Council on Middle East Studies, Yale University; Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University; Taub Center for Israel Studies, New York University; Middle East Centre, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford; Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London; and Woolf Institute and Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge.

Jewish Studies Faculty, 2019–2020

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 Michal Raucher,
Undergraduate Director
 Gary A. Rendsburg
 Jeffrey Shandler
 Nancy Sinkoff,
Bildner Center Academic Director
 Paola Tartakoff, *Chair*
 Azzan Yadin-Israel

Affiliated Faculty

Debra Ballentine
 Ethel Brooks
 Rebecca Cypess
 Maurice J. Elias
 Leslie E. Fishbein
 Judith Gerson
 David Greenberg
 Charles Häberl
 Paul Hanebrink
 Martha Helfer
 Michael G. Levine
 Emma Wasserman

Visiting Scholar

Debórah Dwork

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS, FALL 2019–SPRING 2020

FALL 2019

*The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff
Annual Program*

**Desert in the Promised Land:
Nature, Settlement, and the
Politics of Space**

Yael Zerubavel, Rutgers
September 12

*The Raoul Wallenberg
Annual Program, funded by
Leon and Toby Cooperman*
**Paul Robeson, “Negro-
Jewish” Unity, and the
“Jewish People’s Movement”
in the 1940s: Legacy and
Challenges**

Panel Discussion

October 6
*Cosponsored by the
Paul Robeson Centennial
Celebration at Rutgers*

Rutgers Jewish Film Festival

November 3-17

**More Than Just Mosaics:
The Ancient Synagogue at
Huqoq in Israel’s Galilee**

Jodi Magness, University of
North Carolina at Chapel Hill
December 10

SPRING 2019

Letters to Erich

A performance and lecture
featuring jazz pianist
Ted Rosenthal
March 3
*Cosponsored by Mason Gross
School of the Arts; Support
provided by the Association
for Jewish Studies*

**Exile: Music from Early
Modern Jewish Europe**

Presented by the ensemble
Incantare in conjunction
with **Rebecca Cypess**,
Mason Gross School of the
Arts, Rutgers
March 25

**Jerusalem: City of the Book
Panel Discussion**

March 29
*Cosponsored by Rutgers–
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