

Jewish Studies at Rutgers

Number 12
Fall 2008

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

INSIDE



Faculty promotions and awards

Page 4

Center explores Jewish history and culture

Page 8

Revolutionary approach to Holocaust education

Page 10

Jewish studies students

Page 15

Jewish Leadership Forum Addresses Community Issues

The 2007–2008 New Jersey Jewish Leadership Forum (JLF), a joint project of the Bildner Center and New Jersey's Jewish Federations, brought the state's top Jewish lay leaders together for an important conversation about the challenges currently facing New Jersey Jewry. Held at the Bildner Center, the forum allowed for an exchange of proven, practical approaches to keep federations and their programs relevant in this era of constant change.

The forum introduced the cadre of participants, representing eleven New Jersey federations, to professionals and lay leaders from



The Jewish Leadership Forum Committee with Rutgers President Richard L. McCormick

both new and long-established Jewish organizations all at the forefront of communal service, Jewish education, and philanthropy. It tapped esteemed local resources including Rutgers faculty and federation executives.

The strategic intercommunity relationships nurtured by the forum have evolved into a

► See **LEADERSHIP** on page 9

Israeli Filmmaker Visits Hebrew Classes

Award-winning director **Joseph Cedar** addressed Jewish studies students the morning after his film *Beaufort* closed the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival in November. About sixty introductory-level Hebrew language students joined Cedar to discuss his three major films—*Time of Favor*, *Campfire*, and Academy Award nominated



Joseph Cedar

Beaufort—which they had viewed during the semester and at the film festival. The students were able to engage him in conversation about the

characters portrayed in his films and the themes that he has developed throughout his body of work.

Cedar also met with students taking “Israeli Literature and Society,” an advanced course that traces the development of Israel's literary corpus from the founding of the Jewish State to the present. An intimate group conversed with him in Hebrew over lunch at the Bildner Center, examining in depth several important issues. In a powerful discussion, these students explored with Cedar the major themes that appear both in his films and in the Israeli short stories they had read as part of the course, such as S. Yizhar's “The Prisoner” and A. B. Yehoshua's “Flood Tide.”

► See **FILMMAKER** on page 5

Center Focuses on Human Rights

This coming year brings an exciting program of seminars, lectures, special events, and educational initiatives sponsored by the Bildner Center.

We commemorate Kristallnacht and the voyage of the *St. Louis* seventy years after their occurrence. These programs highlight the dangers of racism and the continuing challenge of finding safe havens for refugees. Two Rutgers faculty were among the young passengers on the *St. Louis* and will join us for that event. The Bildner Center's varied programs on human rights contribute to Rutgers' global initiative on this theme during the coming year. A discussion of Jewish-Christian relations introduces another new initiative for the Center that includes interreligious student dialogue.

Among other highlights are programs related to Israel studies, the relationship of the military and civil society, the psychological effects of terrorism on Israelis, and Israel's sustainable development and politics of the environment. A public lecture on fashion and identity in the 1950s shifts the focus to Israeli society and culture, and the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival will include an array of new and evocative Israeli films.

The Bildner Center's second cycle of the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education, offered through its Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center, will bring to Rutgers a group of schoolteachers for extensive training in this challenging field.

This year we welcome three visiting scholars in Jewish studies: two from Israel and one from Germany. The addition of visiting scholars enhances the academic program in important areas and contributes significantly to the scope of the Bildner Center's educational offerings.

Community support of Jewish studies at Rutgers has been a major factor in the growth of the Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies. Our ability to bring visiting scholars, offer programs to students and the public, produce a major film festival, sponsor programs in Hebrew, and provide Holocaust education for teachers derives from this productive collaboration.

We look forward to the beginning of the school year and to the prospect of enriching the academic experience for undergraduate and graduate students. We welcome the new year with the hope for world peace and with best wishes for a happy new year to our students and faculty, colleagues and friends.

– Yael Zerubavel, Bildner Center director

Department Emphasizes Language Proficiency

Two years ago the Department of Jewish Studies implemented a significant change in our major, as the department shifted from a content-based distribution system (for example, Jewish history, Israel studies, and so on) to a discipline-based system, with new requirements calling for two courses in literature (one classical, one modern) and one course with a social science approach.

This year the department tackled the question of its foreign-language requirement. Since its establishment eight years ago, the department has required majors to take two semesters of a Jewish language, either Hebrew or Yiddish. We understood that this could involve only one year of language study at the introductory level, which meant that a Jewish studies major could, in theory, graduate with only a rudimentary ability in either Hebrew or Yiddish.

A look at the data for the past five years revealed that the great majority of our students took language courses at a higher level, with many of them completing Hebrew courses at the upper levels. Still, we wanted to increase the requirement, to ensure that every Jewish studies major demonstrated greater language facility—and this is exactly what our faculty voted to institute.

We did so in light of several factors. First, there is the well-recognized point that Hebrew language and literature have played a significant role in all Jewish communities throughout history (the only exception is Ethiopian Jewry), and that Yiddish played a similar role in the largest Jewish community in history, namely, that of Eastern Europe. Second, we took note of the ever increasing recognition that serious foreign-language learning at the university level is a goal to which all students should accede. And third, we were aware of the fact that most Jewish studies majors at our peer institutions had a more rigorous language requirement than our own.

Our new requirement, accordingly, is as follows: “Jewish studies majors are required to demonstrate proficiency in either modern Hebrew or Yiddish equivalent to four semesters of college study—though all Jewish studies majors are required to take at least two Jewish language courses at Rutgers, regardless of their level of knowledge upon arrival at the university.”

Thus, for example, students who begin their study of Hebrew or Yiddish at Rutgers need to complete two years of language acquisition; while students who place into 300-level Hebrew still need to take two upper-level courses.

The discussion here reflects our faculty's ongoing commitment to revisiting curricular issues with the goal of how best to educate our students.

– Gary A. Rendsburg, department chair

Professor Integrates Rabbinic Literature and the Humanities

Professor of Rabbinic Literature **Azzan Yadin** brings a multidimensional perspective to Jewish studies by applying historical and literary tools to the texts he studies. Taking a corpus that has long been engaged only within the traditional realm of the *beit midrash* (house of study), he has helped to solidify the study of rabbinic literature as a humanities discipline.

The first person to earn a doctorate from Berkeley's Jewish Studies Program in 1999, Yadin's work focuses on the beginnings of rabbinic legal midrash, that is, the rabbinic interpretation of biblical laws. He joined the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers as an assistant professor in 2002.

In 2005, he was promoted to associate professor with tenure and also awarded a Rutgers' Board of Trustees Research Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence for his original scholarship and his ability to integrate the study of ancient Jewish text into the study of religion, culture, and the humanities.

Yadin's unique perspective springs from the academic training he brings to this field. Generally scholars of *Halakhah* (Jewish law) are themselves observant and approach the texts as practitioners, while the field of *Aggadah* (non-legal rabbinic narratives) draws on a wider array of scholarly backgrounds. Yadin's non-traditional background gives a new and different approach - looking at law as literature for example. He can ask richly instructive, theoretical questions in the field of Jewish law, questions usually confined to *Aggadah*.

Driving Yadin's research are questions about the historical value in traditional assumptions of a relatively homogeneous group of rabbinic sages. He examines the diverse approaches of the Rabbi Ishmael and Rabbi Akiva schools in his article "Resistance to Midrash? Midrash and *Halakhah* in the Halakhic Midrashim," in *Current Trends in the Study of Midrash*,

edited by Carol Bakhos (Brill, 2006).

His well-received book, *Scripture as Logos: Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Midrash* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004), casts the Rabbi Ishmael school of interpretation as one of restraint within the broader context of post-Second Temple literature and its contemporary theology. Looking at particular collections of legal midrash, Yadin conceptualizes Rabbi Ishmael's view of Scripture as a textually self-interpretive teacher of Jewish law, one that marginalizes extra-scriptural tradition, what would later come to be known as Oral Law.

Yadin is currently at work on a book-length study of the figure of Rabbi Akiva and his approach to the development of legal midrash. Through a review of the rabbinic interpretation of the Book of Leviticus, the professor examines Rabbi Akiva's empowerment of extra-scriptural tradition, a counterview to that of Rabbi Ishmael.

While on sabbatical this past year, Yadin was a fellow at Cardozo Law School's Center for Jewish Law, where he wrote an essay on Rabbinic uses of tradition and their ramifications for Ronald Dworkin's legal theory, and particularly Dworkin's suggestion that institutional continuity serves as a guarantee for interpretive continuity. The essay is being published in a special volume of *Dine Israel* (the Jewish Law Journal of Tel Aviv University) devoted to Ronald Dworkin and Jewish law.

In the spring, Yadin taught a course entitled "God's Body" at Princeton University, in which he re-examined the Jewish conceptual understanding of a bodiless God. Tracing the idea through the Bible, rabbinic sources, and the Zohar, he highlighted an alternative, yet mainstream, view that God does have a body, though not necessarily a physical one.

This fall, he resumes his teaching at Rutgers with "Introduction to



Azzan Yadin

Rabbinic Literature: Second Temple Judaism and the Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism." Through a careful study of its historical and literary background, Yadin will examine the establishment and eventual dominance of rabbinic Judaism, guiding students through close readings of rabbinic texts, apocryphal writings, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

He will also teach a new course in the Department of Classics entitled "Ancient Allegory: Jewish, Christian, and Pagan," a continuation of his research on the dialogue between Greek philosophers and Jewish texts. Although there has long been formal examination of the Jewish-Christian debate within academia, the category of a Jewish-Pagan dialogue has until now been largely absent. Yadin hopes this course will ground the subject as a serious category within historical scholarship.

In addition, Yadin has developed an online study course, "Introduction to Rabbinic Literature," that is available through the Bildner Center's website. The online course is free and offers community members an opportunity to learn about these ancient texts. (See page 12.)

Professor Yadin sees his teaching as an opportunity to bring the world of rabbinic and Second Temple Judaism to life for his students. He looks forward to opening an intellectual window for them on the many ways to view the development of rabbinic literature and legal midrash.

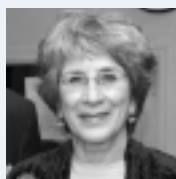
FACULTY PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS



Jeffrey Shandler has been promoted to full professor in the

Department of Jewish Studies. An integral member of the faculty since 2001, Shandler has written and lectured widely on American and East European Jewish culture, modern Yiddish culture, Holocaust remembrance, and the role that broadcasting, photography, film, and other media play in modern Jewish life, among other topics. His breadth of knowledge and interests have been instrumental in the development of Jewish studies at Rutgers, both in terms of the department's curriculum and with the community outreach programs and initiatives of the

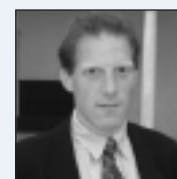
Bildner Center and its Holocaust Resource Center. His next book *Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America* is forthcoming in 2009.



Ziva Galili has received the 2008 Daniel Gorenstein Memorial Award for

outstanding scholarly achievement and exceptional service to the university. Galili, a former acting executive dean of the School of Arts and Sciences (2006-2008), is a professor of history and an affiliated faculty member in Jewish studies. She has spent the past several years researching the history of Jews and Zionism in Soviet Russia directly following

the Bolshevik Revolution. (Visit jewishstudies.rutgers.edu to read an interview with her.)



David Greenberg, an associate professor of history, journalism, and

media studies, and an affiliated faculty member in Jewish studies, specializes in American political and cultural history. Greenberg has won the Hiett Prize in the Humanities for 2008. This national award is presented to a single scholar each year whose work in the humanities shows extraordinary promise and has a significant public component related to contemporary culture.

ARESTY VISITING SCHOLARS

Roni Stauber, the Bildner Center's **Aresty Visiting Scholar** for 2007–2008, is the director of Tel Aviv University's Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Racism and Antisemitism. During the fall semester, Stauber taught the undergraduate course "The Holocaust and Israel." In the spring, he co-taught a multimedia course for public school teachers entitled "The History of the Holocaust" (see page 10). Stauber also presented public lectures and a faculty seminar sponsored by the Bildner Center (see page 5), and has lectured at other universities, including New York University and Yale.

Stauber published three articles, including "The Approach of Philip Friedman to Holocaust Research," in *Gal-Ed* 21 (2007), in Hebrew, and "Nationalism and Statism in Ben-Gurion's Weltanschauung" in *Studia Judaica* 15 (2007). He also prepared the following articles for publication: "The Israeli Foreign Office and the Debate over Establishing a Political Relationship with West Germany (1953–1956)" and "The Academic and Public Debate over the Meaning of the 'New Antisemitism.'" In

addition, he continued his work on a manuscript about the role of Israel's Foreign Office in establishing a new relationship between Germans and Jews during the period of 1953–65.

Irit Koren is the **Aresty Visiting Scholar** for 2008-2009. She received her Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University in 2007, writing the doctoral thesis *A Voice Is Heard in Ramah: Religious Women Challenge the Orthodox Wedding Ritual*. Koren's main research interests focus on the intersection of modernity and tradition, in particular the situation of women at this juncture. She is the author of *Closet within a Closet: Stories of Religious Homosexuals* (Yediot Ahronot Publications, 2003), in Hebrew. She is currently working on her second book, *You Are Hereby Renewed unto Me: Orthodox Women Challenge the Wedding Ritual* (under contract with Hebrew University Magnes Press), in Hebrew. At Rutgers, Koren will teach two courses, "Jewish Women and Spirituality" and "Jewish Rites: Issues of Sexuality and Power."

FACULTY SEMINARS

The Henry Schwartzman Endowed Faculty Seminar featured **Michael Brenner**, a professor of Jewish history and culture at the University of Munich. Brenner was a visiting scholar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., in 2007–2008. The first of his two talks, presented to a diverse group of Rutgers faculty and Schwartzman family and friends, was “Postmortem: The Reconstruction of Jewish Life in Postwar Germany.” Brenner also gave the talk “The Construction and Deconstruction of a Jewish Hero: Moses Mendelssohn’s Afterlife in Early-Twentieth-Century Germany.”

David Biale, University of California at Davis: “The Blood of the Covenant, the Blood of Circumcision and the Blood of Menstruation in Medieval Jewish-Christian Polemics”

Meir Buzaglo, Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies, Bildner Center: “God and the World: When Analytic Philosophy Meets Rabbinic Interpretation”

Azzan Yadin, Rutgers University: “Rethinking Midrash”

Advanced Holocaust Seminars

Omer Bartov, Brown University: “Testimonies as Historical Documents: A View of the Holocaust from Below”

Nancy Sinkoff, Rutgers University: “Positivist Memory: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Writing of *From That Place and Time*”

Jackie Feldman, Ben-Gurion University: “Above the Death-Pits, beneath the Flag: The Performance of Israeli Identity in Holocaust Poland”

Roni Stauber, Aresty Visiting Scholar, Bildner Center: “Raul Hilberg, Philip Friedman, and Yad Vashem: The Beginning of Holocaust Studies”

Atina Grossman, Cooper Union: “Jews, Germans, and Allies: Close Encounters in Occupied Germany”

Krista Hegburg, Columbia University: “The Veracious Voice: The Romani Holocaust and the Politics of Commensuration in the Czech Republic”

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY

Core Faculty

Gary A. Rendsburg,
department chair
Jeffrey Shandler
Nancy Sinkoff, *vice chair of undergraduate studies*
Paola Tartakoff
Azzan Yadin
Yael Zerubavel,
Bildner Center director

Associated Faculty

Maurice Elias
Leslie Fishbein
Ziva Galili
Judith Gerson
David Greenberg
Paul Hanebrink
Martha Helfer
Michael Levine
Phyllis Mack
Barbara Reed

Visiting Scholars

Irit Koren
Roni Stauber
Cornelia Wilhelm

Language Instructors

Orly Moshenberg,
Hebrew language coordinator
Edna Bryn-Noiman
Lily Levy
Edward Portnoy

Jewish Cultures of the World, a new book series issued by Rutgers University Press, announces the forthcoming publication of its first title: *One People, One Blood: Ethiopian-Israelis and the Return to Judaism*, by anthropologist **Don Seeman**, an assistant professor in the Department of Religion and the Institute for Jewish Studies at Emory (Summer 2009). Seeman’s book is an ethnographic study of the Ferres Mura, a group of Ethiopian Jews whose families became Christian at some point and who have since reconverted to Judaism. The series is coedited by **Jeffrey Shandler** (Rutgers University) and **Matti Bunzl** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

For information on the series, please contact **Beth Kressel**, associate editor, Rutgers University Press, at bkres@rutgers.edu.

FILMMAKER from page 1

Most notably, the group spoke about the ethical dilemma that arises when an individual’s personal beliefs come into direct conflict with those generally held in Israeli society. Participants appreciated this opportunity to translate the knowledge gained in their Jewish studies courses into a deeper understanding of what is happening in Israel today.

The unique experience reflects the Jewish studies department’s longstanding commitment to expose its students to guest scholars and prominent literary and cultural figures visiting the Rutgers campus. For students in Hebrew language and literature classes in particular, the opportunity to meet Israeli writers and filmmakers enables them to make an experiential connection between their academic coursework and modern Israeli culture.

ISRAEL AT SIXTY

Visiting Scholars Reflect on Israeli History and Culture during Rutgers' Reunion Weekend



Gary Rendsburg, Roni Stauber, and Meir Buzaglo

An excerpt from Roni Stauber's talk:

Today, when we are marking 60 years of the State of Israel, I want to convey the important connection between Israel and the memory of the Holocaust, and its impact on the current relationship between Israel and the Diaspora.

In the first formative years of the State of Israel, the attitudes of the Israelis both to the Diaspora and to the memory of the Holocaust were influenced by Statism, Ben-Gurion's ideology that guided Israel's governments. It had specific social and political aims that gave sense and purpose both to those who were born in Israel and, especially, to new immigrants gathered from around the world so that they might collectively strive to build and defend the new country. It was the main tool in the nation-building process. It cultivated an attitude of sanctity by describing the State of Israel as the realization of a people's historical dream. Statism negated the life of the Jews in the Diaspora and sought to build a bridge between the State of Israel and ancient Jewish life in the Land of Israel. As a result, it strengthened the alienation felt by the Israeli youth towards the Jews living in the Diaspora and it marginalized the memory of the Holocaust.

In 1957 the Israeli Ministry of Education formulated an educational program for increased Jewish awareness among students. This

decision, as opposed to the ideology of the early years of the state, expressed the desire to strengthen the connection between Israeli youth and Jewish history and tradition, and particularly to increase the relationship to Jews living in the Diaspora.

In 1959 support was garnered for a law that would officially establish Holocaust Remembrance Day as a national memorial day. That was one of the manifestations of the gradual weakening of Statism. There were various implications for this decline, and important here is the correlation between the weakening of Statism, referred to in the literature as "the civil religion" of Israel, and the gradual strengthening of the awareness of the Holocaust in Israeli society.

The increased interest in commemorating the Holocaust was influenced by the growing criticism heard throughout the 1950s regarding the alienation of Israeli-born youth from Jewish history and Jewish existence in the Diaspora. Many public figures and intellectuals became more and more concerned that many Sabras had no personal Jewish identity, and as a result they were exposed to extreme anti-Zionist ideas such as Canaanism, the theory that the people who lived in the area even before the creation of the Jewish People were the real roots of the Israelis, thus undermining the Zionist stance regarding the national-historical connection between the Jewish people (in the Diaspora) and the Land of Israel.

Towards the end of the decade, the perception (which with the passage of time became a cornerstone in both Israeli national consciousness and the educational system) began to emerge within public discourse that the memory of the Holocaust should be one of the central components that connects those born in Israel with the history of Diaspora Judaism and the Jewish communities worldwide.

A synopsis of Meir Buzaglo's talk:

Meir Buzaglo spoke about a contemporary musical movement in Israel, which centers on the revival of *piyyut*, or liturgical poetry. Jews have composed and sung *piyyutim* since about the sixth century C.E., as poems intended to adorn the obligatory communal prayers. Over the course of centuries, the *piyyut* widened its scope and reached out beyond the range of prayers. Poets began to compose *piyyutim* that follow the yearly cycle, especially songs for Shabbat and the individual holidays; songs of supplication for times of need; and songs for specific life-cycle events, such as Brit Milah, the birth of a daughter, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and marriage.

The *piyyutim* are usually sung in a communal framework. Thus, for example, the well-known *piyyut* "Lekha Dodi" is chanted during the Kabbalat Shabbat service, and "Yah Ribbon Olam" is traditionally sung at the Shabbat table.

In the last five years, a deep interest in *piyyutim*, both old and new, has sprung up in Israel. Crossing generational, religious, and ethnic boundaries, groups from many areas of Israeli society are studying *piyyutim*; there is now a *piyyut* website that gets about 100,000 hits per month; and the first *piyyut* festival was recently held in Jerusalem.

Buzaglo speculates that studying the meaning and ramifications of these phenomena will lead to further exploration of Jewish tradition and Israeli identity. He sees the *piyyut* movement as a force to bring disparate communities of Jews together, especially in a country such as Israel, which still is characterized by divides within the society (secular versus religious, Ashkenazi versus Sephardi, and so on). These study/singing groups have helped create new opportunities for people from varied backgrounds and communities to come together, and have started to have an influence on popular music.

SCHUSTERMAN VISITING SCHOLARS IN ISRAEL STUDIES

Meir Buzaglo, of the Department of Philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was the **Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies** at the Bildner Center for 2007-2008. At Rutgers, Buzaglo participated in both academic and community activities through the Bildner Center and the Department of Jewish Studies. Buzaglo taught the following four courses: "History of Zionism," "Religion and Ethnicity in Israel," "Classical Jewish Philosophy," and "Maimonides." He also led a faculty seminar entitled "God and the World: When Analytic Philosophy Meets Rabbinic Interpretation," which prompted scholarly exchange and discussion.

In the fall semester, his public talk "**Nationalism, Tradition, and Jewish Revival in Israeli Society**" examined the range of spiritual and ideological leanings of Jews in Israel. Together with Roni Stauber, Buzaglo participated in a special panel entitled "Israel at Sixty," as part of the Rutgers Reunion Weekend program in May. (See page 6.)

Buzaglo also was active at other campus venues.

For example, he presented a faculty seminar to the Department of Philosophy entitled "Paradoxes and Concept Expansions," and he delivered an informal talk to the students living in the Mideast Coexistence House on the Douglass Campus.

During his time at Rutgers, Buzaglo finalized the draft for his forthcoming book on Maimonides. His recent publications include *Until the Day Prevails* (Reuven Mass, 2007; in Hebrew), a series of thoughts on philosophy and prayer; and *A Language to the Loyal* (Keter-Mandel, forthcoming; in Hebrew), a series of papers that study the possibility and the merits of going beyond the religious-secular dichotomy that exists in modern Israel.

Roni Stauber will continue his affiliation with Rutgers as the Bildner Center's **Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies** for 2008-2009. Stauber will teach the undergraduate courses "History of Zionism," "Anti-Semitism in Modern Times," and "The Holocaust and Israel."

In Memoriam: Leon Feldman and Moshe Moskowitz

We mourn the loss of two retired faculty members from the former Department of Hebraic Studies: Professor **Leon Aryeh Feldman** (served 1962-1991) and Professor **Moshe Moskowitz** (served 1973-2001).

Leon Feldman, zikhrone li'vrakha
Leon Feldman was the founding chair of the Department of Hebraic Studies, the precursor of the current Department of Jewish Studies. He was born in Berlin in 1921 and left Germany prior to World War II. He arrived in the U.S. in 1942. Dr. Feldman received rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University and held two doctorates: one in Hebrew literature from Yeshiva University and one in Jewish history from Columbia University.

Prof. Feldman established the Department of Hebraic Studies before such departments were the norm. He was a specialist in early medieval rabbinic literature, and he brought to Rutgers scholars who shared his vision of the essentials of Jewish literature. Prof. Feldman's writings on such medieval Jewish scholars as Abraham

ben Isaac Tamakh (d. 1393), Joseph ben David of Saragossa (d. 1420), Nissim ben Reuben of Gerona (d. 1380), and Solomon ibn Aderet (d. 1310) are still acclaimed to this day. In addition, he wrote a history of the Jews of New Rochelle and an outline of the history of the American Jewish community.

Former students recall Prof. Feldman as someone who showed a sincere interest in his students' progress, was readily available to lend an ear and give advice, and possessed a lively sense of humor.

I too have very fond memories of him, as a good friend, colleague, and "fellow-traveler" – we frequently commuted to and from New York together during my early years at Rutgers. He will be missed by many.

– **Chaim I. Waxman, Prof. Emeritus, Sociology & Jewish Studies, Rutgers**

Moshe Moskowitz, zikhrone li'vrakha
Dr. Moshe Moskowitz was unique as a professor and as an intellectual. First, he had mastered two disciplines, Hebrew and Yiddish, so rare in today's academic specialization. Second, he loved learning for its own sake and not

as a stepladder for academic advancement. He was passionate about books—from all cultures—and about rigorous academic standards in the department where he taught for more than twenty years. It grieved him when he saw those standards compromised. But his innate good humor, sparkling wit, and love of his students never deserted him. Moshe taught with a smile and his students, who loved him too, returned that smile to him.

Moshe Moskowitz was the only Hebrew/Yiddish scholar I know who in just one article could with ease quote Leonard Bernstein's lectures on music, make reference to the Zohar, a Bach cantata, Bartok, Yehuda Halevi, Mendele Mokher Sforim, Kafka, Agnon, the Book of Job, and come up with a couple of neologisms too.

Moshe was a renewable spring of knowledge and laughter. In an era when complaints abound about professors who are self-important and smug, he had another rare gift: he was a mentch.

– **Curt Leviant taught Hebrew and Yiddish literature at the Hebraic Studies Department for many years.**

Message from the Associate Director

This past year marked ten years of my work at the Center and it is an appropriate time to reflect on what we have built here. The Holocaust Resource Center and the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival are two examples of major programs that generate much interest. I look forward to moving in new directions such as strengthening relationships between disparate groups on campus and in the community. The Fall program on Jewish-Christian relations is a new initiative in this direction.

The variety of special events and programs over the past year reflect the diversity of activities organized by the Bildner Center. Leaders of New Jersey's Jewish federations met with both established and cutting-edge Jewish organizations to problem solve in the Jewish Leadership Forum. Keeping federation's message relevant for a younger generation emerged as one of the key challenges for these thoughtful leaders. The diversity of New Jersey's Jewish communities,

both demographically and geographically, presents a unique situation. The Center played a key role developing this project, which serves as a model of cooperation between the university and the Jewish community in New Jersey.

Designed to encourage new teachers to take on this difficult subject, a new eight-session course "History of the Holocaust" was developed that focused on strengthening teachers' knowledge and skills. This past summer I had the privilege to represent Rutgers at the international educators' seminar "Teaching the Holocaust to Combat Racism and Prejudice" at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The conference not only reinforced the importance of our work but provided an insight into the global interest in Holocaust education: representatives from over fifty countries participated in this conference. These international educators share our commitment to increase tolerance and make a difference in the lives of their students and communities.

I trust we can count on your support as we move forward to strengthen the community at Rutgers and in New Jersey.

– Karen Smal

Center Explores Jewish History and Culture



Amnon Rubinstein (left) with Yael Zerubavel and Alvin Rockoff

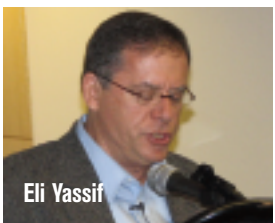
Israel's Constitution: Does it Exist?

The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture
Amnon Rubinstein, Radzyner School of Law, Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya



The Dead Sea Scrolls

The Importance of the Scrolls for the Understanding of the Bible, Early Judaism, and the Birth of Christianity
Shalom Paul,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Eli Yassif

The People of the Book and Oral Memory

The Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Lecture
Eli Yassif, Tel Aviv University



Rabbi Lawrence Troster and Judith Helfand

Film as a Catalyst for Social Change

Focus on the Environment
The Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program
Funded by the **Karma Foundation**

Judith Helfand, Filmmaker, activist, and educator

Rabbi Lawrence Troster, Scholar-in-residence, Greenfaith

Moderator: **Faye Ginsburg**, New York University

statewide alliance that has strengthened local Jewish life. “While it is a challenge to mix large and small federations, it’s always interesting to hear the viewpoints of my peers,” observed **Kenneth Heyman** (United Jewish Communities of Metrowest). “I have learned some perspectives on the Jewish community that will serve me well in the future.”

At the opening program, Rutgers President **Richard L. McCormick** linked the university and New Jersey’s organized Jewish community in his formal welcome. Keynote speaker Rabbi Dr. **Jacob J. Schacter** (Yeshiva University) challenged participants with his powerful address, “Strategic Issues Facing the Jewish Community.”

Jonathan Woocher (Jewish Education Service of North America) facilitated discussion and connected the issues over the course of seven interactive sessions. He noted that the “program wasn’t always comfortable for the participants because we raised challenging questions about federations, what they do, how they engage—and fail to engage—the community today. But the experience reinforced their strong sense that federations continue to embody central Jewish values and do vital life-saving and life-shaping work.”

The first session, “Changing Demographic Trends in New Jersey,” placed the forum’s agenda within the context of New Jersey’s changing Jewish population. **Joseph J. Seneca** (Rutgers University) and Ira Sheskin (University of Miami) assessed where the state’s community is today and where it is headed.

“Engaging the Next Generation” brought to the table panelists Rabbi **Elie Kaunfer** (Mechon Hadar) and **Cheryl Cook** (Hazon), who were joined by **Maurice Elias** (Rutgers University). As leaders of cutting-edge



Participants of the Jewish Leadership Forum

organizations, they challenged participants to create programs that are meaningful for young Jews, beginning the process by asking themselves: What do they want and what can we offer them?

John Ruskay (UJA-Federation of New York) shared his innovative approach to funding in “Creating a Caring Jewish Community: The Domestic Agenda.” Given the restraints of limited resources, he proposed that federations first reaffirm their basic missions, then go about creatively allocating monies to fulfill that core agenda, while setting aside a small budget to explore new programming directions.

Looking at New Jersey vis-à-vis the larger Jewish world, the forum examined the effect of global trends on Jewish communities here. **Eric Levine** (United Jewish Communities) joined **Alan Hoffman** (Jewish Agency for Israel) to discuss how to use Israel’s centrality as a draw to community life in “Building Jewish Peoplehood Using Israel as an Anchor.”

Elisa Spungen Bildner (Foundation for Jewish Camp) shared study findings on the transformative effects of immersive Jewish experiences—such as overnight summer camps—on Jewish identity in “Jewish Education: In and Beyond the Classroom.” She urged participants to

consider what their communities might provide to make these meaningful experiences possible.

In “The Future of Jewish Philanthropy,” **Jeffrey Solomon** (The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies) offered a refreshing look at Jewish giving. He encouraged federation leaders to take a macro approach when reaching out to donors in order to cultivate their sense of ownership and a deep understanding of the value of their contributions.

A final session gave participants the opportunity to take stock of the forum experience, working toward “force-field analyses” of the goals they had identified over the course of the year and strategies for overcoming inevitable obstacles. Regardless of federation size, they agreed that they all must hone a traditional message of communal responsibility while cultivating a new image, new relationships, and new initiatives.

“Balancing the need to embrace change with fidelity to those core values was the thread that ran through the entire program, and I believe that these wonderful, devoted leaders will go back to their communities armed with a mix of renewed commitment and fresh ideas for how federations can fulfill their community-building mission,” concluded Dr. Woocher.

The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center



Course participants at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

A Revolutionary Approach to Holocaust Education

This past spring, the Bildner Center—through its [Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center \(HRC\)](#)—offered “The History of the Holocaust,” an innovative course for twenty-five New Jersey educators currently teaching or planning to teach the Holocaust in districts statewide. The eight-session course provided them with the academic knowledge and pedagogical skills needed to guide their students through a meaningful exploration of this difficult subject.

Although Holocaust education is a required component of the state curriculum, there is no formal program of study for the teachers themselves. Further, educators are generally grounded more in the

philosophical impact of the Holocaust than in its context, its history, or its scope of destruction.

“In order to teach about the Holocaust, an educator needs a solid academic perspective on the history,” remarked Aresty Visiting Scholar **Roni Stauber** of Tel Aviv University. “With an understanding of what really happened, a teacher can very effectively reach students.”

So the Bildner Center decided to take a revolutionary approach. With sessions incorporating both a lecture by Stauber and the introduction of practical methods for classroom implementation by **Rebecca Aupperle**, a “master level” teacher, the course gave teachers historical and contextual perspectives on the Holocaust as well as the means to share them with their students. The program included a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

“The History of the Holocaust” teaches about the Holocaust not as an isolated event, but as the culmination of a longtime hatred against the Jews, and extreme racial concepts that became dominant in Western civilization since the end of the nineteenth century. That paved the way to the genocide of Jews and other groups,” said Stauber.

Paralleling *Echoes and Reflections*, a multimedia curriculum developed by Yad Vashem, the Shoah Foundation, and the Anti-Defamation League, the course examined the ideological roots of Nazi racial policy, the historical developments of the Holocaust, and the fate of survivors in the wake of World War II.



Roni Stauber and Karen Small with Paul Winkler, executive director, New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

Participants read an extensive bibliography of important research and literature for the course, and they received materials developed by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education and a copy of *Echoes* for use in their classrooms.

Since the Holocaust is often the starting point for a dialogue about tolerance and diversity, the mix of teachers—general and special education, new and experienced, middle and high school—contributed to the valuable group and one-on-one discussions that enhanced the course. Participants took away powerful tools for teaching acceptance and demonstrating the damage wrought by deep-seated intolerance.

To have the greatest impact on students, the teachers were selected based on their demonstrated commitment to Holocaust education. The result is a cadre of educators well prepared for the task: “not only to reach the students in my district,” observed one participant, “but also my fellow teachers.”

“The course was informative and powerful,” said another. “It gave me what I was looking for to teach the Holocaust most effectively.”

Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present-Day Ukraine



Right to left: Joan Bildner, Ziva Galili, Allen Bildner, and Yael Zerubavel

In October 2007, **Omer Bartov**, the John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History at Brown University, spoke at Rutgers about his new book, *Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present-Day Ukraine* (Princeton University Press, 2007). This timely subject, handled by one of the world's leading authorities on genocide, attracted a large audience, including many of the Bildner Center's leadership and donors. The **Raoul Wallenberg Annual Program** is supported by a gift from **Leon and Toby Cooperman**.

"The main reason for writing this book," Bartov said, "is to awaken some kind of consciousness in the United States, Europe, and Israel about the erasure of whatever is left of Jewish culture and civilization in Western Ukraine." He explained that the task was not only scholarly, but also intended to spark international interest in how these cultural remnants, which are currently being destroyed, can be saved.

Bartov spoke about the rich, complex, multiethnic history of Eastern Galicia, now located in Western Ukraine, where for centuries vibrant Jewish, Polish, and Ukrainian communities coexisted—albeit with frequent animosity and occasional acts of aggression. The area was the breeding ground for Jewish mysticism, Polish

romanticism, and Ukrainian nationalism.

Eastern Galicia came under the rule of numerous powers throughout its history, including, in the twentieth century, the Nazis and the Soviet Union. According to Bartov, a fierce Ukrainian nationalism led to complicity with the Nazis during World War II in the systematic eradication of the Jews from Eastern Galicia, as well as the ethnic cleansing of the region's Polish population.

Since the fall of Communism, Eastern Galicia has belonged to the western provinces of an independent Ukraine. The urban culture in Western Ukraine today blends an assertive nationalism, vanishing traces of a rich multiethnic past, and growing signs of globalization. According to Bartov, the Ukrainians are attempting to create a single national historical narrative, an undertaking of massive simplification and erasure. Few of the citizens know about the region's complex, rich, and torturous past.

The region's history and its denial are more visible than in many other parts of Europe, as Bartov revealed through a slide show of Western Ukraine, presenting the general condition of dilapidation and abandon of Jewish sites, which have often remained unchanged since the war, and the oblivion or ignorance of the past. In towns such

as Lviv, Kosiv, Buchach, and Berezhny, the ghosts of the past were seen in the crumbling synagogues used as garbage dumps and the abandoned Jewish cemeteries turned into marketplaces.

Bartov provided many examples of misrepresentation and suppression of Jewish history and memory in the region, under both Soviet and post-Soviet rule, perhaps most notably the omission of the Jews as victims of the Nazi genocide on memorials in the region. He explained that as the Ukrainians seek to reassert their own history and identity, only Ukrainian nationalists may be seen as either the major victims or heroes of events in the region's history.

Jewish cultural relics in Western Ukraine are rapidly disappearing. Bartov asserted, "This is a region suspended in time, but for just a little while longer, before it is swept away with the tide of commemoration, modernization, and apology."

Statue at the site of the Great Synagogue, Kolomyia, 2004.

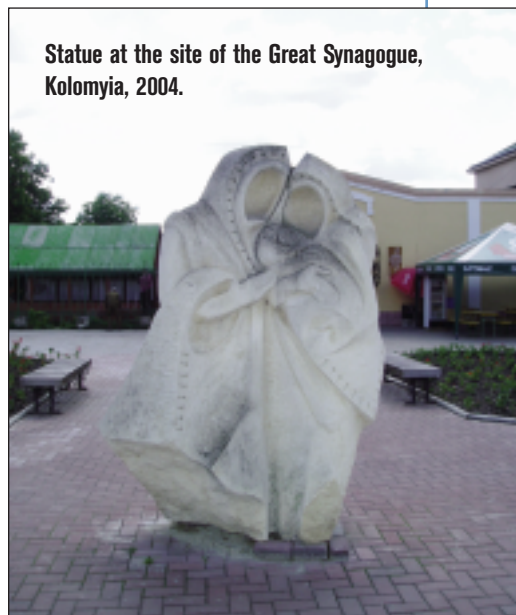


PHOTO: OMER BARTOV

Jewish Studies Online Reaches Students around the World

Adapted from Rutgers Focus (3/27/08) "From Irvington to Idaho to Indonesia, Jewish studies branches out"

People in South Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Australia, Romania, England, Sweden, Nigeria, Malaysia, and South Africa are taking classes in Rutgers' Department of Jewish Studies.

They are learning about the history of the Bible and the Israeli political system. They are studying with department chair and world-renowned biblical scholar **Gary Rendsburg**, Rutgers faculty from across disciplines, and professors visiting from other universities.

And they are doing it from the comfort of their own homes, without having to register for class, pay tuition, or even provide their names.

"It was not my purpose to make it really complicated and deep," said **Gene Hoffman**, a benefactor from Essex County whose generosity helped launch **Jewish Studies Online**. "I wanted to make it user-friendly with no fee."

The two courses at Jewish Studies Online—more are in development—have been taken by people across the globe, in 13 countries and 37 states across America.

Rendsburg transported the idea of online mini-courses from Cornell University, where he spent 18 years on the faculty. His experience there, and Hoffman's search for simple online education and easy access, gelled to create the online study program, launched in 2006.

The courses are designed for lifelong learning enthusiasts like Hoffman, current Jewish studies students at Rutgers and other universities, prospective Rutgers students who want a taste of what the faculty has to offer, and anyone with an interest in Jewish, religious, historical, or cultural studies.

"What makes these unique and interesting is that they are not for credit, and they are a great vehicle for reaching out to the larger community and giving them a taste of what we do here at Jewish studies," said Bildner Center Associate Director **Karen Small**.

Associate Professor **Azzan Yadin**, who recently prepared an online course on rabbinic literature, became interested in online study after witnessing Rendsburg's experience. "Rabbinics is a very small and often marginal part of the broader culture. That makes it all the more enticing. It might reach people who won't really have other avenues to come in contact with these texts," Yadin said.

— Ashanti M. Alvarez

See the center's website at
<http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

ALUMNI PURSUE DIVERSE CAREERS



Beth Feinberg ('05) began her career at North Brunswick Township High School (NBTHS), after earning a joint bachelor of arts degree, master's degree, and teacher certification through the Rutgers Graduate School of Education's special five-year program. She currently teaches world history and an elective, "Dimensions of Prejudice, Genocide, and the Holocaust." Beth has continued her involvement with Jewish studies at Rutgers by participating in the Bildner Center's "History of the Holocaust" course. She has received teaching grants from the Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust / Genocide Resource Center at Rider University, and she ran a program at NBTHS called Adopt-A-Survivor, which pairs students with Holocaust survivors to learn their stories and to tell them to future generations. Beth is engaged to be married in November.



Dina Mann ('05) is pursuing an M.S. degree at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She has had bylines in the *New York Post*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Denver Post*, and *Arizona Republic*, and she has also served as an intern for *The Leonard Lopate Show* on WNYC. In addition to graduate work, Dina is a member of the Park Avenue Synagogue faculty, teaching Jewish history, culture, and Hebrew to congregants of all ages.



Amy Weiss ('05) earned a master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at New York University (NYU), studying American Jewish history in the joint degree program offered by the Departments of History and of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. She holds a MacCracken Fellowship from NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Science. In addition to her studies, Amy works as a tour guide at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, where she served as a Lipper Intern during her graduate work at JTS.

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

Filmmakers and Premieres Headline Jewish Film Festival



The Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by the Bildner Center and made possible by the generous support of the [Karma Foundation](#), continues to bring sophisticated, international Jewish cinema right to central New Jersey's doorstep. With its diverse slate of films, the festival draws a wide audience that grows each year, reaching the region's Jewish population as well as the Rutgers University community and the general film-going public.

The eighth annual festival screened thirteen documentary and feature films from Brazil, Germany, Israel, Russia, Switzerland, and the United States for more than 5,000 attendees. Nine of the films were New

Jersey premieres. A landmark cultural event in the area, the Rutgers festival is the only Jewish film festival in New Jersey that showcases films of Jewish interest with an academic approach on a university platform.

The critically acclaimed and prizewinning films touched on the many layers of the modern Jewish experience: from intermarriage and crises of faith to the dynamics of the Jewish family, the exploration of family roots, and the search for a Jewish husband. Several films showcased moments in history, such as the Jewish immigrant role in the emergence of American professional basketball. [David and Sylvia Steiner](#) sponsored the screening of *The Rape of Europa*, which weaves together historical and modern footage to follow the Nazis' systematic looting of art during the Holocaust.

Four directors and nine noted experts attended screenings during the festival, engaging the audience in meaningful dialogue about the thought-provoking themes raised in the films. On opening night, director [Dina Zvi-Riklis](#) shared her poignant experience in making *Three Mothers*, an Israeli film about triplets who fled from Egypt to Israel in 1958.

Israeli films were, in fact, among the festival's most popular. *Beaufort*, the closing-night feature, is the story of an Israeli army commander and his



David and Sylvia Steiner with Sharon Karmazin

troops in the final weeks before Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000. Director [Joseph Cedar](#) attended the screening, and he led a post-film discussion about the meaning of war in Israeli society. He later met with Rutgers' Hebrew-language students for a continued exploration of themes in his films and Israeli culture. (See story on page 1.)

The festival not only reaches out to the Jewish community, but also exposes the general student body at Rutgers to Jewish subjects. When [César Braga-Pinto](#), Rutgers professor of Spanish and Portuguese, addressed the audience viewing the award-winning film *The Year My Parents Went on Vacation*, his own students were there at his invitation. He encouraged them to join, too, in the dialogue after the film, which looks at political upheaval in 1970 Brazil through the eyes of a Jewish boy whose parents must flee the country.

Additional sponsors of the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival include the [Regal Entertainment Group](#), the [Center for Cultural Judaism / the Posen Foundation](#), and a growing list of festival patrons.



SAVE THE DATES

November 9-19, 2008

Rutgers New Jersey
Jewish Film Festival

For information and tickets:
jewishstudies.rutgers.edu

Posen Grant Enriches Jewish Studies

Early into its second decade, the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers is enjoying an exciting period of growth as it explores new academic avenues and expands the scope of its curricular offerings. Much of this change has been made possible by a three-year grant from the **Posen Foundation**—administered through the **Center for Cultural Judaism**—to develop courses that focus on the relatively recent emergence of secular Jewish life. Taught by department or affiliated faculty, these new classes span the varieties of Jewish culture, from literature and art to philosophy and history.

During the first grant year, **Nancy Sinkoff** offered “Community and Crisis,” a look at the transformation of Jewish communal structure from early modern to contemporary times, and **Azzan Yadin** taught “The Jewish Encounter with Secularism,” an intellectual history of key figures whose lives reflected the challenges of non-Halakhic Jewish identity. Funding was also provided for a field trip to the Lower East Side as part of visiting scholar **Cornelia Wilhelm’s** “New York Jewry: History, Culture and Identity.”

In 2007–2008, three new Posen courses were developed, including **Jeffrey Shandler’s** innovative “Modern Jewish Culture: New Practices in a Secular Age,” which highlighted cultural practices—such as athletics and theater—that have emerged alongside traditional, religious ones. In “The Bible Through Literary Eyes,” **Gary Rendsburg** examined literary motifs for an aesthetic understanding of Scripture, while **Michael Levine** (German studies) developed a course on Jewish intellectuals in Weimar Germany.

In addition, Posen support has enabled Jewish studies to bring several guest scholars to lecture at Rutgers, most



notably **David Biale** from the University of California, Davis, who spoke about secularism in traditional Jewish culture. The funding also helped launch the 2007 academic conference, “Beyond Eastern Europe: Jewish Cultures in Israel and the United States,” that anchored the Bildner Center’s tenth-anniversary celebration.

Now in its third year, the grant will enrich 2008–2009 academic offerings with the development of several new courses, among them **Yael Zerubavel’s** “Space in Modern Jewish Culture” and Michael Levine’s look at Franz Kafka’s role as a secular Jewish writer. Azzan Yadin will teach “Dialogue and Dissent: Jewish Cultural History,” surveying a number of key rifts in Jewish history.

Beyond curricula, the Posen Foundation supported appearances by several guest directors at the 2007 Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, making possible the rare presence of two Israeli filmmakers: **Dina Zvi-Riklis**, who spoke at the opening-night screening of her work *Three Mothers*, and **Joseph Cedar**, who attended the closing-night screening of his film, *Beaufort*. The grant will allow several guest artists to engage film audiences during the 2008 festival this November.

“The Posen grant has allowed us to offer a wide range of courses that we otherwise might not have taught,” observed Gary Rendsburg, chair, Department of Jewish Studies. “Both students and faculty have been the beneficiaries of the Posen Foundation’s generous support.”

Donor Support Appreciated

We are grateful to our donors for their support of the Center over the past year. Dr. **Norman Reitman** increased his generous giving to his visiting scholar fund. The **Karma Foundation** has provided a significant annual grant for the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival, our most visible community program.

The Center was the beneficiary of a major gift from the **Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation** in celebration of their 25th anniversary. Funding from **Harriet and Joseph Tabak** made possible a new interfaith program focusing on Jewish-Christian relations. Special thanks to the family of **Deborah S. and Herbert B. Wasserman** for establishing a new fund for student research. The **Atlantic Philanthropies** has given a gift to enhance Yiddish studies at Rutgers. Our thanks to **Robert Steinberg** and to **Andrew Melnick** for their support of our programs fund.

For the third year, a grant from the **American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise** has provided funding to the Bildner Center for a **Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies**, enabling Jewish Studies to expand its curricular offerings and strengthen Israel studies at Rutgers. Both the Jewish studies department and the Bildner Center’s community programs have been enriched by a grant from the **Posen Foundation**.

STUDENT PROFILES



Samantha Ehrlich, recipient of the **Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Award for Study in Israel**, arrived at Douglass College intending to double major in history and political science. To her surprise, however, she completely changed direction when, looking to fulfill a core requirement, she enrolled in “Jewish

Society and Culture” with Professor **Gary Rendsburg**.

“The class and the professor had such enormous impact on me,” Samantha said. “It was so unexpected.”

She soon declared a new double major in Jewish studies and Middle Eastern studies, with plans to graduate in three years. She went on to take five more courses with Rendsburg, fortifying her interest in the Bible and ancient Jewish history.

“Samantha brought an unsurpassed enthusiasm to the classroom, both for the field of Jewish studies in general and for the world of ancient Israel in particular,” said the professor.

That enthusiasm inspired Samantha to continue her studies during university breaks, when she took biblical and modern Hebrew courses. She regularly attended Bible conferences, too, and spent time in Israel visiting important biblical sites. An avid reader, she learned a great deal from James Kugel’s *How to Read the Bible* and Mark Smith’s *Yaweh and Other Deities*.

Samantha’s strong interest in the field led her to a position as research assistant to Rendsburg, whom she sees as a role model for her own career. “For two years, she cheerfully and responsibly assisted me on a regular basis in all areas of my research,” he noted. “It allowed her a glimpse at how a scholar goes about his or her work, from tracking down a footnote in an obscure journal in the library to the writing of the scholarly article to the reading of the proofs in anticipation of publication.”

Particularly meaningful for both student and professor was the opportunity to work together on two independent studies, in which they read from the Bible, Ugaritic texts, and other ancient sources. “These experiences permit the kind of close mentoring that brings teacher and student to the same page, both literally and figuratively, in line with a tradition that reaches back to antiquity,” observed Rendsburg.

On track to an academic career in Bible studies, Samantha recently began a master’s program in the Bible and ancient Jewish languages at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She plans to continue on to a doctoral program, and she intends to focus her research on Canaanite influences in the northern kingdom of Israel.

Samantha found the support of the Department of Jewish Studies and the vast knowledge of its faculty invaluable as she honed her academic goals. “There is a unique level of excitement and enthusiasm in the department that is contagious,” she remarked. “The professors love what they teach, and it inspires you to want to learn.”



Avi Smolen, recipient of the **Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Award**, “followed his passions” to a major in political science and a minor in psychology when he came to Rutgers. But an interest in continuing his Jewish education motivated him to register for several Jewish studies courses, including “Modern Hebrew.”

He then took “Jewish Society and Culture” with Professor **Azzan Yadin**, an academically and personally transformational experience that gave Avi insight into how to balance his commitment to Judaism and his place in the broader world. He said he was “blown away by the professor’s depth of knowledge and understanding of Jewish history.”

As he continued to enroll in Jewish studies courses, Avi found his Jewish worldview opened to new possibilities. Especially intriguing for him was “Ethnography in Contemporary Jewish Life” with Professor **Jeffrey Shandler**, which gave him his first opportunity to take the Jewish experience he lives each day and study it from an academic perspective.

Though at first unexpected, Avi’s decision to add a minor in Jewish studies to his academic portfolio emerged out of the “simple desire to learn.” He has since had the privilege to study “Israeli Politics” with Schusterman Visiting Scholar in Israel Studies **Yaacov Yadgar** of Bar-Ilan University, and he has learned immensely from his course work with Professor **Nancy Sinkoff**. “My interest in the discipline has only grown as I have taken more courses in it,” Avi observed.

Beyond his studies, Avi’s personal commitment to the value of *tikkun olam*—repairing the world—guides his activism, both on and off campus. In recognition of his commitment to the university community, the Rutgers Department of Student Life awarded him its prestigious Outstanding Student Leader of the Year Award as well as its Human Dignity Award for 2007–2008. He currently serves as president of Rutgers Hillel.

His semester breaks, too, have been anything but idle. He has spent time rebuilding and revitalizing communities in Nicaragua with American Jewish World Service, in Israel with Hillel International, and, stateside, in New Orleans with Hillel. This past summer, he traveled to the Balkans with a group of Jewish and Palestinian students as part of a one-year fellowship from Abraham’s Vision, which uses conflict comparison to examine the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A member of the Rutgers Honors Program, Avi will complete an interdisciplinary senior thesis, researching the impact of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. After graduation, he plans to pursue a master’s degree in international development and an MBA in marketing, with an eye toward a career in international development that will focus on human rights.

Avi hails the Jewish studies department’s integrated approach, which offers “a uniquely well-rounded experience.” Without it, Avi feels assured, “I would never have had the opportunity to look at Judaism this way.”

Students Honored at Awards Ceremony



Students with Yael Zerubavel, Nancy Sinkoff, and Gary Rendsburg

Eleven Jewish studies majors and minors were recognized in May for their academic achievement in Jewish studies. The luncheon and ceremony were attended by recipients and their families, donors, friends of the Center, and faculty.

An excerpt from opening remarks by Maurice Elias, professor of psychology and Jewish studies, and academic director of Rutgers Civic Engagement and Service Education Partnerships Program:



This is indeed an occasion for great kvelling—and I think that kvelling is a very important word, because every language has a word that tries to capture this emotion. It means more than celebration. It means more than joy. It denotes a very deep emotional connection and yet it's a very thoughtful term; so, when I think of the Jewish Studies

Department at Rutgers, I think very much of this combination of the intellectual and the emotional, contemplative but also action oriented. . . . I have to say that the seriousness with which this faculty takes mentoring is, in my travels in the university for twenty-nine years, exemplary. They are concerned with the legacy that our students are going to leave behind. It's not something that ends when our students walk out the door. It's deep and lasting. I say this as an outsider but also as an associated faculty member.*



An excerpt from Sara Lewis's speech:

The Rutgers University Department of Jewish Studies has provided me with an education of which Confucius would be proud. Throughout the past four years, I have been involved in a number of incredible educational opportunities. . . . I created my own internship and independent study. I spent my entire junior year doing research about how children relate to religion and the concepts of prayer and G-d. Using this information, I produced a curriculum for Camp Ramah for children ages four to nine to teach them morning prayers in a camp setting.

Thanks to Karen Small and my involvement in the Bildner Center, I have had the opportunity to be a part of important dialogue concerning the New Jersey Jewish community and strategies to combat the problems that face it [through] the New Jersey Jewish Leadership Forum, a partnership between the Bildner Center and all of the Jewish Federations of New Jersey. When Karen asked me to be the [student representative] to the initiative, I was so honored. This seven-part series has been a marvelous educational opportunity for me, especially because of my desire to work in the field of Jewish communal service. To meet with the executives and lay leaders of the New Jersey Jewish Federations has provided me with the chance for a deeper understanding of the inner workings of New Jersey's Jewish community.*

Certificates were presented to Jillian Schlanger and Joshua Reback in recognition of their completing four years of Hebrew language at Rutgers. The two studied Hebrew from the introductory through the most advanced-level courses, and they are pictured below with Hebrew Language Coordinator Orly Moshenberg (left) and Hebrew Instructor Edna Bryn-Noiman.



* For full transcripts of speeches, please see <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>. Click on "Bildner Center", then "Student Programs."

Jewish Studies Graduates

Fall 2007 and Spring 2008

Majors

Samantha Ehrlich
Laronda Glasco
Simone Goller
Alyson Gottdenker
Jonathon Kaplan
Sara Katz
Sara Lewis

Minors

Dara Abramowitz
Elana Akman
Danielle Asher
Nicole Asher
Meira Bayar
Todd Berstein
Marissa Bullock
Jodi Eisner
Talia Fishel
Matthew Gazda
Josh Gombo
Michael Greene
Ariella Gutin
Yael Kahn
David Lerner
Shira Lichtbroun
Leah Maas
Eytan Morgenstern
Bethany Murphy
Samantha Packard
Amanda Ross
Jillian Schlanger
Nina Sherman
Nitza Sherman
Yarden Sibony
Elise Swartz
Eric Wimpfheimer
Amy Wisel
Larisa Zycband

Award Recipients

Elana Akman, '08

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award

Meira Bayar, '08

The Alexander and Ruth Seaman Award

Rachel Dushkin, '09

The Gertrude and Jacob Henocho Memorial Award

Samantha Ehrlich, '08

The Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Award for Study in Israel

Ulrich Groetsch, Graduate Student

The Baruch S. and Pearl W. Seidman Award

Ariella Gutin, '08

The Betty and Julius Gillman Memorial Award

Yael Kahn, '08

The Ruth Feller Rosenberg Award

Sara Lewis, '08

The Harold and Betty Perl Award

Bethany Murphy, '08

The Rudolph and Mary Solomon Klein Award

Avi Smolen, '09

The Maurice Meyer III and Irma Meyer Award

Leah Weis, '09

The Louis Fishman Memorial Award



Samantha Ehrlich, recipient of the Herbert and Jacqueline Klein Award for Study in Israel, with Jacqueline Klein and Marion Shapiro Filan



Mitch Frumkin speaks to Yael Zerubavel's class "The Jewish Immigrant Experience" about his recent trip to Ethiopia and Israel with the Jewish Federation of Middlesex County

Center Cosponsors Programs with Rutgers Hillel

Is Middle East Peace Possible?

A discussion with **Mitchell Bard**, author and executive director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise.

From Swastika to Jim Crow: Black-Jewish Dialogue

A screening of the documentary film *From Swastika to Jim Crow*, followed by a dialogue on black-Jewish relations and culture in America.

"Thou Shalt Not Make Graven Images": Cartoons in the Yiddish Press

An illustrated talk by Rutgers Yiddish Instructor **Edward Portnoy**

Abortion in Jewish Law:

Alternative Views on a Crucial Issue

A panel discussion by experts in Jewish law and Jewish medical ethics.

Everything's Cool: A Toxic Comedy about Global Warming

A screening of the documentary film by Daniel Gold and Judith Helfand.

Faculty Updates

Maurice Elias published an article with Leora Trub (RC '00, Jewish studies), "The Counselor Within: A Study of Rabbinical Counseling Training and Practice in the Conservative Movement," *Journal of Jewish Education* 73, no. 3 (2007): 163–90, and, with I. E. Sigel and J. S. Kress, "Beyond Questioning: Inquiry Strategies and Cognitive and Affective Elements of Jewish Education," *Journal of Jewish Education* 73, no. 1 (2007): 51–66. He co-edited *Dreams: Stories of Hope, Resilience, and Character* (University Press of America, 2008) and *Educating People to Be Emotionally Intelligent* (Praeger, 2007; international edition, Heinemann, Johannesburg, South Africa). Elias was the editor of "The Preparation of Rabbis for the Modern Rabbinate," special issue, *Journal of Jewish Education* 73, no. 3: 163–259. Elias was appointed academic director of Rutgers' new Civic Engagement and Service Education Partnerships program. He was also elected president of the Society for Community Research and Action / American Psychological Association, Division of Community Psychology.

Leslie Fishbein was chair and commentator of a session entitled "Television and Consuming Gender" at the annual American Studies Association Convention, Philadelphia (October 2007). She was invited by the Jewish Feminist Research Group to serve as commentator, along with Rabbi Charles Simon, on Keren McGinity's paper "Matriarchs on the Margin: Intermarried Jewish Women's Modus Vivendi," which was presented at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City (October 2007). She is a member of the K–16 Collaborations Committee of the American Studies Association. Fishbein also presented a daylong seminar on immigration and ethnicity for the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis Institute for High School Teachers (November

2007) and delivered several public lectures on Jewish topics for the Horizon Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Judy Gerson presented a paper and chaired a session entitled "Gendering Jewish Studies" and gave a talk, "Legacies of the Holocaust in Refugee Memoirs," at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Toronto (2007). She also delivered a lecture, "Immigrant Lives, Holocaust Narratives: German Jewish Refugees Remember Their Pasts," in a panel entitled "Jewish Diaspora" at the European Social Science History Conference in Lisbon (2008).

David Greenberg published "Nixon the Statesman," in *Nixon in the World: American Foreign Policy, 1969–1977*, ed. Fredrik Logevall and Andrew Preston (Oxford University Press, 2008); "Richard Hofstadter Reconsidered," *Raritan* (Fall 2007); "Reading the Candidates," *Dissent* (Fall 2007); "The Entwined Lives and Psyches of Richard Nixon and Alger Hiss," *Clio's Psyche* (September 2007); and "Nixon in American Memory," in *Institutions of Public Memory: The Legacies of German and American Politicians*, ed. Astrid M. Eckert (German Historical Institute, 2007). Greenberg received the Hiett Prize in the Humanities from the Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture. He was also awarded the Rutgers University Board of Trustees Research Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence. Greenberg received a promotion to associate professor with tenure.

Martha Helfer received the Graduate School Teaching Award for 2007–2008. She presented a paper on Friedrich von Schiller's "Moses' Mission" at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association. Helfer will be working on writing her book, which analyzes latent anti-Semitism in nineteenth-century German literature, during her 2008–2009 sabbatical.

Michael Levine published "Pendant: Büchner, Celan and the Terrible Voice of the Meridian,"

MLN Comparative Literature 122, no. 3 German issue (2007): 573–601; "A Place So Insanely Enchanting: Kafka and the Poetics of Suspension," *MLN Comparative Literature* (forthcoming); and "A Coming Freedom: Kafka's Investigations of a Dog," *Journal of the Kafka Society of America* (forthcoming). He gave the following talks: "Beyond Victim and Perpetrator: New Subject Positions in Danny Verete's *Metallic Blues* and Eytan Fox's *Walk on Water*," as a participant in a panel, "Crossing Borders, Articulating Tensions: The Poetics of Social and Political Friction in Israeli Literature and Film," at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Toronto (2007); "Just an Ordinary Jew" at the Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival (2007); "Naturgebet der Seele: Benjamins Kafka—Interpretation" at the University of Giessen (2007); "Serious Comics in the Age of Testimony" at an international conference, "Histories: Unsettling and Unsettled," at the University of Erfurt (2007); "Kafka for Beginners" at the Rutgers University German Department Professional Development Day (2008); "Translation and Trauma" at the conference "TRANSLATION 3 (Culture • Institution • Theory)," sponsored by the Rutgers University Department of Comparative Literature conference (2008); and "A Place So Insanely Enchanting: Kafka and the Poetics of Suspension" at Johns Hopkins University (2008). Levine also presented "The Graphic Novel" on the MLA radio show, "What's the Word?" (2007).

Gary Rendsburg published "The Biblical Flood Story in the Light of the Gilgamesh Flood Account," *Ancient Near Eastern Studies*, Supplement 21 (2007): 115–27; "Ancient Hebrew Morphology," in *Morphologies of Asia and Africa*, ed. A. S. Kaye (Eisenbrauns, 2007), pp. 85–105; "No Stelae, No Queens: Two Issues Concerning the Kings of Israel and Judah," in *The Archaeology of Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the "Other" in Antiquity; Studies in Honor of Eric M. Meyers*, ed. D. R. Edwards

and C. T. McCullough (American Schools of Oriental Research, 2007), pp. 95–107; "Israel Without the Bible," in *The Hebrew Bible: New Insights and Scholarship*, ed. F. E. Greenspahn (New York University Press, 2007), pp. 3–23; and "Mesha Stele line 12," *Maarav* 14 (2007): 9–25. He presented lectures at the following venues: American Jewish University, Tel Aviv University, Pennsylvania State University, and Louisiana State University. He also gave talks at three conferences: "Jews and the Environment" at Creighton University (October 2007), "The Dead Sea Scrolls at 60: The Scholarly Contributions of NYU Faculty and Alumni" at New York University (March 2008), and "Sixty Years After: Revisiting *The Intellectual Adventure Of Ancient Man*" at Brown University (March 2008). In addition, Rendsburg was named an associate editor of the *Encyclopaedia of the Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, to be published by Brill.

Jeffrey Shandler published "What Is American Jewish Culture?" in *The Columbia History of Jews and Judaism in America*, ed. Marc Lee Raphael (Columbia University Press, 2008); with Aviva Weintraub, "Santa, Shmanta': Greeting Cards for the December Dilemma" in "American Jewish Religious Life," co-edited with Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, special issue, *Material Religion* 3, no. 3 (2007); "The Shetel Subjunctive: Yaffa Eliach's Living History Museum," in *Culture Front: Representing Jews in Eastern Europe*, ed. Benjamin Nathans and Gabriella Safran (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007); and "Mediating Community: American Jewry and the New Media of the Twentieth Century," in *Imagining the American Jewish Community*, ed. Jack Wertheimer (University Press of New England, 2007). Shandler is a co-editor, with Matti Bunzl, of *Jewish Cultures of the World*, a series of monographs in Jewish anthropology, ethnography, and cultural studies (Rutgers University Press). He delivered the following talks: "American Jewish Popular Culture" at Miami

University of Ohio (2007); "Youth Writing and the Holocaust" at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Ramapo College (2007); "Where Is Home?" as curator and moderator of a screening and discussion series at the Center for Jewish History, New York (2007); "Heschel at the Crossroads: *The Earth Is the Lord's*," as part of "A Legacy for the Future: Celebrating the Life and Teachings of Abraham Joshua Heschel" at the Center for Jewish History, New York (2007); "Engaging Contemporary Art in Jewish Studies: A Scholars' Roundtable with Three Contemporary Toronto Artists" (convener and chair) and "Video Rites: The Protocols of Recording American Jewish Life-Cycle Rituals" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Toronto (2007); "Taking the Lead: Fighting for Democracy on American Radio, 1939–1955" at the Jewish Theological Seminary (2008); "Imagining Holocaust Childhoods," as part of "The Child in the Holocaust: A Symposium," at the University of California Berkeley (2008); and "Sanctification of the Brand Name: The Marketing of Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt," at a conference, "Jews and American Capitalism," at Columbia University and New York University (2008). Shandler also was a co-convener of a colloquium, "Objects of Affection: The Wedding in Jewish Life," at the Center for Religion and Media, New York University / Center for Jewish History, New York (2008). In addition, Shandler was appointed to the Editorial Board of *Contemporary Jewry*. He continues to serve as visiting scholar and co-convener (with Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett) of the Working Group on Jews, Media, and Religion, Center for Religion and Media, New York University. Shandler convened a yearlong series of Holocaust Studies Faculty Seminars sponsored by the Bildner Center.

Nancy Sinkoff was the Workmen's Circle / Dr. Emanuel Patt Visiting Professor for 2007–2008 at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Sinkoff completed the introduction, "*Yidishkayt* and the

Making of Lucy S. Dawidowicz," to the reissue of Dawidowicz's memoir, *From that Place and Time: A Memoir, 1938–47* (Rutgers University Press, 2008). She published a review essay, "(What Was Once) The Largest Jewish Community in the World," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 97, no. 4 (Fall 2007): 647–59; a review of *Men of Silk: The Hasidic Conquest of Polish Jewish Society in Slavic Review* 66, no. 4 (Winter 2007): 733–34; and "Mendel Lefin" and "Ber of Bolechów," in the *YIVO Encyclopedia of East European Jewish History*, vol. 1 (Yale University Press, 2008), pp. 168–69, 1006–7. Sinkoff was a leader of the workshop "Opatów (Apt), Poland, in the European Village Project," for the "Teach Europe Conference," sponsored by the Rutgers University Center for European Studies (October 2007), and a member of the panel "The Shtetl: Jews at the Center of Town in Poland," as part of "From Apt to Opatów: Past Shtetl, Present Poland," co-sponsored with the Bildner Center. Sinkoff delivered numerous talks: "Positivist Memory: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Writing of *From That Place and Time*," at the Bildner Center (November 2007); The Workmen's Circle / Dr. Emanuel Patt Lecture, "Lucy S. Dawidowicz: An American in Vilna, 1938," at the YIVO Institute (February 2008); "Lucy S. Dawidowicz, Gertrude Himmelfarb, and the Neoconservative Embrace of Capitalism," as part of the "Jews and Capitalism Conference," co-sponsored by Columbia University and New York University (March 2008); "The Pursuit of Secular Heresy: Emergent Neoconservatism's Campaign Against Jewish Communism," at Smith College (March 2008); "Jewish Politics in Post-War America: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Rise of the Neoconservatives" at Columbia University (April 2008); and, "Contesting Secularism: Nathan Birnbaum and Lucy S. Dawidowicz," as part of "Czernowitz at 100: The First Yiddish Language Conference in

Historical Perspective," at York University, Toronto (May 2008). She also was a respondent to the paper "Rachel Morpurgo: Re-envisioning the Biography of a Jewish-Italian Poet," presented as part of the Jewish Feminist Research Group at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (January 2008), and to "Cooperation across Ideological Lines" as part of an international workshop, "Jewish Relief Organizations in pre-World War II Europe: A Comparative Perspective," sponsored by New York University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (April 2008).

Paola Tartakoff is working on her book, *Conversion and Inquisition in the Medieval Crown of Aragon, 1243–1391*, as well as on an article on royal attitudes toward Jewish conversion in medieval Spain. In addition, she is embarking on research on the religious instruction of Jewish converts to Christianity following the massacres and forced conversions of 1391, a project based on an unpublished Catalan preaching manual from the turn of the fifteenth century. In the spring she wrote an article on medieval Jewish apostasy for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*.

Azzan Yadin (see page 3 for profile) gave the following talks: "Dworkin and the Problem of Heresy," as part of Cardozo Law School's "Jewish Law and Legal Theory" program; "The Status of Scripture in Early Rabbinic Literature" at Princeton University; and "Rabbi Akiva's Biography" at Yale University. He presented "On the Jewish-Pagan Dialogue" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Toronto and "Oral Tradition and Esotericism" at the annual meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature. He was also invited to serve as a respondent at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Advanced Jewish Studies annual conference and at Cardozo's conference "The Bible and Modern Intellectual Discourse." In addition, Yadin was invited to join the U.S., Israeli, and European group of scholars that

make up the biennial Enoch Seminar, sponsored by the Italian government, which he attended in Italy (Summer 2007). Yadin continues to serve as the head of the Rabbis Division of the Association for Jewish Studies and as co-editor of the Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism book series.

Yael Zerubavel has published two articles: "Memory, the Rebirth of the Native, and the Hebrew Bedouin Identity," *Social Research* 75, no. 1 (Spring 2008): 315–52, and "The Desert and the Settlement as Symbolic Landscapes in Modern Israeli Culture," in *Jewish Topographies Visions of Space, Traditions of Place*, ed. Julia Brauch, Anna Lipphardt, and Alexandra Nocke. Heritage, Culture and Identity Series. (Ashgate Press, 2008): 201–22. She gave the following talks: "The Last Frontier? Settlement, Ecology and Tourism in the Israeli Desert," the Edward A. Block Lecture in Jewish Studies at Indiana University (October 2007); "Desert, Settlement, Ecology, and Tourism: Visions of the Land in Israeli Culture" at Arizona State University (November 2007); "War and Memory in Israeli Culture," the Samuel and Dorothy Frankel Memorial Lecture at Wesleyan University (April 2008); and "Historical Analogies and Space Metaphors in the Construction of Israeli Memory," at an international conference, "History and Memory," at Tel Aviv University (May 2008). She participated in a symposium, "Historical Memory of Violence and Catastrophe," at Princeton University and served on a panel, "The Future of Zionism and of Israeli-Diaspora Relations," with Chancellor Arnold Eisen at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York (May 2008). Zerubavel serves on the boards of the Association for Jewish Studies and the Association for Israel Studies and continues to serve on several editorial boards of academic journals, including *Israel Studies*, *Journal of Israeli History*, *Israel Studies Forum*, and *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*, as well as the Rutgers University Press series *Jewish Cultures of the World*.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS 2008–2009

Israeli Politics:

The Military and Civil Society

The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff

Annual Lecture

Speaker: Yoram Peri

September 14

Jewish-Christian

Relations Today:

A Historic Transformation

Made possible by Harriet
and Joseph Tabak

Speakers: Eugene Korn

John T. Pawlikowski

September 21

Politics of the Environment in Israel and the Region

The Ruth Ellen Steinman

Bloustein and Edward J.

Bloustein Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Arie Nesher

October 6

Does the War End When the Shooting Stops? The Psychological Effects of Terrorism on Israelis (in Hebrew)

Speaker: Zahava Solomon

October 26

Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival

November 9–19

They were my Neighbors: Jewish Survivors and their Rescuers in the Holocaust

In commemoration of the
70th anniversary of *Kristallnacht*

Speaker: Douglas Greenberg

November 20

Fieldnotes on Becoming a Jewish Novelist

The Abram Matlofsky

Memorial Program

Speaker: Dara Horn

December 8

Ballots, Babies, and Banners of Peace: American Jewish Women's Pre–World War II Activism

The Toby and Herbert Stolzer

Endowed Lecture

Speaker: Melissa Klapper

February 25

Fashion and Identity in Israel in the 1950s

Supported by the

Sagner Family Foundation

Speaker: Anat Helman

March 5

The New Philo-Semitism: Israel, Islamophobia, and the Right Wing in Europe

Made possible by the Henry

Schwartzman Endowment

Speaker: Matti Bunzl

March 23

Refugees and Safe Havens: Seventy Years after the St. Louis

The Raoul Wallenberg

Annual Program

Supported by the

Leon and Toby Cooperman Fund

Speaker: Scott Miller

April 26

Professional Development for Teachers

Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education

January 2009–June 2010

Monthly sessions

Why Is It Important to Teach about Genocide, Bias, Prejudice, and Bigotry?

Cosponsored by the Daniel Pearl

Education Center

Temple B'nai Shalom

October 16

Jewish Studies at Rutgers

Connecting the university with the community

- Programs on Jewish history and culture
- Jewish film festival
- Conferences and seminars
- Online study (non-credit)

Fostering academic excellence and faculty research

- Major / minor in Jewish studies
- Student awards and programs for students
- Visiting scholars
- Faculty seminars

Serving as a Holocaust Resource Center

- Teacher training
- Resource materials for teachers, students, and scholars
- Public programs on the Holocaust, racism, and genocide

SUPPORT JEWISH STUDIES AT RUTGERS!

All gifts are greatly appreciated.

For gift opportunities, visit our website:

<http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

Bildner Center Phone: 732-932-2033

Email: csjl@rci.rutgers.edu

RUTGERS

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

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

12 College Avenue

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
New Brunswick, NJ
Permit no. 157