2019 events

November 7
Fellow Travelers
7 p.m. | ASU Marston Exploration Theater
ASU Tempe campus | School of Earth and Space Exploration
781 East Terrace Road, Tempe

This Arizona Opera event with ASU’s Jewish Studies and Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, features the author, composer, librettist, and director of Fellow Travelers. They will sit down to discuss the process of generating an impactful story, translating it to an opera score, and bringing it to life on stage. The discussion will be followed by a dessert reception.

November 18
Converts and Continuity
Zvi Zohar, Bar Ilan University
7 p.m. | Beth El Congregation
1118 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/zohar

According to professor Zohar, the crucial condition posited by rabbis of all denominations for acceptance of a convert is: authentic religious sincerity, arrived at by the convert without any external persuasion. We not only pride ourselves in saying “We are not a missionary religion” — but in a variety of ways we dissuade others from choosing to become Jews. Professor Zohar argues these views are misguided and counter-productive. He believes encouraging prospective converts is not only a mitzvah — it’s a key to a vigorous Jewish future in America. Join us for this interesting lecture presented in partnership with the Beth El Congregation.

November 18
Inclusiveness as a Religious Value
lunch & learn with Zvi Zohar, Bar Ilan University
12 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403
ASU Tempe campus
976 South Forest Mall, Tempe
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/zoharlunch

Join professor Zvi Zohar as he discusses how discord and schism, based on the perceived need for communal uniformity have been hallmarks of Jewish life in Europe and North America in recent centuries. While conversely, great Sephardic rabbis in these times regarded inclusiveness as one of the greatest values that should guide their decision making and leadership. Professor Zohar presents and discusses this reality, as embodied in concrete decisions made by these rabbis.

November 20
From the Hora to Hip Hop:
Highlighting the Varied Roles of Jews in Dance
Naomi Jackson, Arizona State University
7 p.m. | Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center
12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
reservations: tinyurl.com/hiphophora

Join professor Naomi Jackson for an engaging, interactive presentation highlighting and celebrating the extensive impact of Jews and themes related to the Jewish experience on the dance world and broader society. in partnership with Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center
November 21

Jewish Racial Affect and the Haunting of Racial Modernity
Paul Nahme, Brown University
12 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403
ASU Tempe campus | 976 South Forest Mall, Tempe
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/nahmelunch

This talk will outline a theory of Jewish racialization that focuses on how affect—feelings about Jews and Jewishness—constituted the figure of the “Jew” in modern European discourses of race. By suggesting that Jews and Jewishness have presented an indeterminate figure, an uncanny double, or what Leon Pinsker described as a people seen as “the dead walking among the living,” this talk will ask what might be learned about racial modernity more generally by theorizing Jewish racial affect.

Jewishness and the Crisis of Liberalism: The Meaning of Minority Identity
Paul Nahme, Brown University
7 p.m. | Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center
12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/nahme

Persecuted as racially and religiously other, Jews in modern Germany developed strategies for making sense of their minority identities in turbulent times of cultural and political instability. This talk will explore the meaningful ways that German Jews constructed new modes of cultural flourishing in the midst of a society on the brink. Examining the ways “Jewishness” was both imagined and embodied, this talk will examine what it means to continue to recall this past when making sense of Jewish identity in the present.

presented in partnership with the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center

FALL 2019 ADULT EDUCATION: SEPHARDIC JEWRY SEMINAR
The Sephardic Diasporas with Stanley Mirvis, Arizona State University
Bureau of Jewish Education | 12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
$42 series registration required | all sessions 7 p.m.
bjephoenix.formstack.com/forms/adultlearningregistration or (480) 634-8050

October 31 | 7 p.m. | session 1
Iberian Origins (Sixth century–1497)
Investigate the history of Jews in the Iberian Peninsula from the time of the Visigoths in the sixth century until their mass conversion to Christianity in Portugal in 1497. This session focuses on some of the most outstanding figures of Medieval Sephardic life such as Hasdai ibn Shaprut, Samuel ibn Naghrella, and Judah Halevi along with analyses of their poetry and philosophy.

November 7 | 7 p.m. | session 2
The Sephardic Diaspora (1492–1840)
Explore the development of Jewish society and culture in the Islamic world following their expulsion from Spain in 1492 until the middle of the 19th century. It includes discussions of the emergence of new literary, kabbalistic, and messianic traditions as well as some of the most famous figures in Jewish history such as Dona Gracia Mendes, Yosef Karo, and Sabbatai Zvi.

November 14 | 7 p.m. | session 3
The Portuguese Diaspora (1580–1835)
Survey the Portuguese speaking Jewish Diaspora in places like Amsterdam, Livorno, London, and the Caribbean. It assesses the distinct Portuguese Jewish response to the trauma of exile through their process of return to Judaism and their formation of new Jewish communities. It includes discussions of some of the most important early modern Jewish figures such as Menasseh ben Israel, Isaac Aboab de Fonseca, and Aaron Lopez.

November 21 | 7 p.m. | session 4
Iberia, Eastern Sephardi and the Modern Sephardic Experience. (1835–Present)
Examine the Sephardi encounter with modernity in the Ottoman Empire, North Africa, Iraq, and the State of Israel. It includes discussions of the global response to the Damascus ritual murder accusation of 1840, the spread of Alliance Israelite Universelle schools, the destruction of Iraqi Jewry during the Farhud of 1941, the murder of Salonika’s Sephardim during the Holocaust, and the Mizrahi internments camps in the State of Israel. Major figures include Moses Montefiore, Sa’adi Besalel Halevi, and R. Ovadia Yosef.
January 8
Frisco Kid (PG)
film and discussion with professor Stanley Mirvis
6 p.m. | Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center
12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
reservations: tinyurl.com/FriscoKidMovie

The Frisco Kid (1979) tells the story of Rabbi Avram Belinksi (Gene Wilder), a second-rate Polish rabbi who comes to America in the mid 19th century to bring a Torah scroll to San Francisco. Throughout the film, the fish-out-of-water rabbi consistently finds his commitment to traditional Judaism challenged. The film inspires discussion of Jewish migrations to the United States, the conflict of tradition and modernity, and the portrayal of Jews in American popular culture.

presented in partnership with the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center

January 12
Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean
Exhibit Opening
7 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society
122 East Culver Street, Phoenix
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/treasures

Join us as we open the photography exhibit Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean based on the book by the same name (Schiffer, winter 2017), presenting stunning color images by award-winning photographer Wyatt Gallery. Highlighting the fascinating and little-known history of the earliest Jewish communities of the New World, as seen through the remaining historic sites in Barbados, Curaçao, Jamaica, Nevis, St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. Eustatius, and Suriname, these synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, reveal the strength of the Jewish people and the surprisingly diverse cultural history of the Caribbean. Features short lecture, photographs, music, reception and an evening with the photographer.

a partnership with the Arizona Jewish Historical Society

January 15
Top Five American Jewish Writers of the Cold War Era
Brian Goodman, Arizona State University
7 p.m. | Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center
12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
reservations: tinyurl.com/ColdWarWriters

This talk will explore two interrelated questions: Which Jewish writers had the greatest impact on American literature and culture in the decades after the Second World War, and what did the explosion of American Jewish literature during this era have to do with the geopolitics of the Cold War?

presented in partnership with the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center

January 27
American Jewish Studies and the Scholarship of Migration
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403
ASU Tempe campus
976 South Forest Mall, Tempe
faculty and graduate students by invitation

Explore intersections and divides between the study of American Jewish immigration history and broader fields of U.S. immigration history, migration, and border studies.

January 27
Jews & Immigration: History and Moral Obligation
7 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society
122 East Culver Street, Phoenix
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/eckstein

In the 1920s, the U.S. Congress passed laws designed to drastically limit the immigration of foreigners considered inferior and a threat to the nation. Many Jews, along with others targeted by immigration restrictions, entered the United States anyway, in violation of the law, with the aid of smugglers or forged documents. This lecture discusses this dramatic history and how it helps us understand our current historical moment.
FEBRUARY 2020

February 9
LimmudAZ: A Day of Learning
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Memorial Union
ASU Tempe campus
301 East Orange Street, Tempe
registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/limmud-az-2020-registration-65008631567

“Limmud” means “to learn.” It is a one-day celebration of Jewish life and learning! Jews of all backgrounds and ages come together to learn. The day is divided into four sessions and there are multiple programs per session.

offered on the ASU campus in partnership with LimmudAZ

February 13
Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean | book club
Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean
7 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society
122 East Culver Street, Phoenix
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/treasures

A public discussion of Edward Kritzler’s highly popular, and highly controversial, 2008 book Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean. ASU Professor Stanley Mirvis will lead a conversation about the book’s main content. He will guide participants through the historical evidence presented in the book and will ask: Were there really Jewish pirates of the Caribbean? And did they exist in the way Kritzler represents them? The discussion will also engage the larger theme of Jewish revenge fantasy as a literary genre.

a partnership with the Arizona Jewish Historical Society

February 17
Antisemitism, Fascism and Populism
7 p.m. | Pardes Jewish Day School
12753 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
reservation: jewishstudies.asu.edu/lowe

This talk will address the historical relationship between fascism and populism with a special focus on their similarities and differences vis-a-vis racism and antisemitism. If fascism (in countries like Germany and Italy) arrived to power by democratic means and then destroyed democracy from within and created extreme racist dictatorships; early post war-populists Latin American populists, like Getulio Vargas in Brazil and Peronism Argentina, were dictators that renounced dictatorships and racism, creating new populist democracies. This used to be key distinction between populism and racism. And yet, in the new populism of the extreme right racism has returned making them closer to fascism than ever before.

LOWE FAMILY LECTURE
featuring Federico Finchelstein
The New School for Social Research

February 17

The Jewish Diaspora, the Earliest Beginnings
Timothy Langille, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

February 5 • February 12 • February 19 • February 26 | 7 - 8 p.m.
Bureau of Jewish Education | 12701 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
(480) 634-8050 for registration and additional information

A fascinating look into the vast worlds of Jews living outside the land of Israel (even while the Temples stood) in places such as Egypt; the Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires; and more.

a partnership between ASU Jewish Studies and the Bureau of Jewish Education
February 20
HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS ARIZONA
Trapped in German Occupied Eastern Europe: Collaboration and Resistance
7 p.m. | Burton Barr Central Library
1221 North Central Avenue, Phoenix

This talk explores some of the paths that opened to civilians trapped in German occupied Eastern Europe during the war, and explore the choices and decisions different groups made, while further analyzing how local anti-Semitism, and resistance to it, thrived under German occupation.

Kimberly Allar, Clinical Assistant Professor of History
Yan Mann, Clinical Assistant Professor of History
Co-directors, World War II Studies online masters program
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

February 25
HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS ARIZONA
Commemorating the Crimes of Ordinary Men. The 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II
7 p.m. | Burton Barr Central Library
1221 North Central Avenue, Phoenix
discussion with question and answer session

presentations
Who were the Perpetrators? Auschwitz and Holocaust by Bullets
Kimberly Allar, Assistant Clinical Professor of History
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Aaron Moore, Associate Professor of History
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

The Murderers are Among Us. The Holocaust by Bullets in German Memory after 1945
Volker Benkert, Assistant Professor of History
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

March 1-2
Jewish Healing Through the Ages: theories and practices
Judaism, Science & Medicine Group Conference
Scottsdale Hilton Resort
6333 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale

SUNDAY | MARCH 1
1 p.m.  welcome
1:15 p.m.  Medicine, Healing and the Interplay of Religion and Science
3:30 p.m.  The Jewish Physician as Agent of Socio-Cultural Change
6 p.m.  dinner break
7 p.m.  The Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Keynote Lecture in Judaism, Science and Medicine
As Lofty as Any in the World: Doctors and the American Jewish Imaginary
Noah Efron | Bar Ilan University

MONDAY | MARCH 2
8:30 a.m.  Medicine, Women, and Gender
10 a.m.  break
10:15 a.m.  Medicine and Jewish Spiritual Healing Roundtable: Being a Jewish Physician
12 p.m.  lunch break
1 p.m.  departure

free and open to all
reservations required
jewishstudies.asu.edu/science
March 15 - April 26
HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS ARIZONA
Exhibition
Noble Library
ASU Tempe campus | 1100 South McAllister Avenue, Tempe
free and open to all | no reservation required

This exhibit highlights the decades of research in Eastern Europe by Father Patrick Desbois and his foundation (Yahad-In Unum), underscoring the mass shootings of Jews and others throughout Eastern Europe by the Nazi mobile killing units from 1941 to 1944 and the mechanisms of mass violence in general.

March 18
HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS ARIZONA
Trapped in German Occupied Eastern Europe: Collaboration and Resistance
6 p.m. | Noble Library, room 105
ASU Tempe campus | 1100 South McAllister Avenue, Tempe
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/hbb

Kimberly Allar, Clinical Assistant Professor of History
Yan Mann, Clinical Assistant Professor of History
Co-directors, World War II Studies online masters program
School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

This presentation offers a look at some of the paths that opened to civilians trapped in German occupied Eastern Europe during the war. Dr. Allar and Dr. Mann will explore the choices and decisions different groups made, while further analyzing how local anti-Semitism, and resistance to it, thrived under German occupation.

March 26
Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean | closing lecture
Resplendent Things: How the Art and Architecture of Caribbean Jews Changed American History
Laura Arnold Leibman, Reed College
7 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society
122 East Culver Street, Phoenix
reservations: jewishstudies.asu.edu/treasures

Prior to 1830, the largest, best-educated, and wealthiest Jewish American communities were all in the Caribbean. This lecture introduces you to the rich visual legacy they left behind and why it matters for American Jewish history.

March 30
From Page to Stage: Richard Strauss and Hugo Von Hofmannsthal
Sabine Feisst, Arizona State University
7:30 p.m. | School of Music – Recital Hall, ASU Tempe
reservations: https://tinyurl.com/page-to-stage-feisst

There is much to be said about the relationship between composer Richard Strauss and his favorite librettist, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, the creators of Arizona Opera’s final production of the 19/20 season, Ariadne auf Naxos. Referencing Composers of the Nazi Era and A Working Friendship, Musicologist Sabine Feisst leads a compelling discussion on the numerous collaborations between the pair, despite surrounding conflicts during the rise of Nazi Germany. The discussion will be followed by a reception with light refreshments.

in partnership with the ASU Center for Jewish Studies, Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, ASU School of Music, and Arizona Opera

sign up today to receive Jewish Studies event updates via email
jewishstudies.asu.edu/signup
April 20

HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS ARIZONA
Father Patrick Desbois
6 p.m. | Franciscan Renewal Center
5802 East Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale
holocaustbybulletsphoenix.com/programs

Father Patrick Desbois will deliver the keynote address for Genocide Awareness Week 2020, a joint program of Phoenix Holocaust Association and Scottsdale Community College. This unique program seeks to un-silence a chapter of history that has remained silent for far too long. Father Desbois through his foundation, Yahad-In Unum, seeks out eyewitnesses to the executions of Jews and Roma and works towards identifying each execution site and mass grave. Surviving witnesses are in their 80s and 90s, and their first-person accounts of history will soon no longer be available.

April 20-24
Genocide Awareness Week
host: Scottsdale Community College
9000 East Chaparral Road, Scottsdale
free and open to all

Genocide Awareness Week is a series of lectures, exhibits and storytelling by distinguished survivors, scholars, politicians, activists, artists, humanitarians and members of law enforcement. This week-long event seeks to address how we, as a global society, confront violent actions and current and ongoing threats of genocide throughout the world, while also looking to the past for guidance and to honor those affected by genocide.

sponsored in part by local and national organizations, including ASU Jewish Studies

for additional information: scottsdalecc.edu/genocide
John Liffiton | 480-423-6447 | john.liffiton@scottsdalecc.edu
ASU Jewish Studies

Jewish Heritage Tour: Central Europe
with ASU faculty and staff
August 31 - September 15, 2020

Visit great cities that marked Central European Jewish life:
Warsaw • Krakow • Prague • Berlin

guided sightseeing • escorted tours • lectures by ASU Faculty • 5 star hotels • private transportation

Warsaw: Ghetto memorials | Polin Museum of Jewish History | Chopin Museum
Krakow: Kazimierz Jewish Quarter | Schindler Factory Museum | Auschwitz
Prague: Wenceslas Square | Josefov Jewish Quarter | Theresienstadt
Berlin: Berlin Jewish Museum | Neue Synagogue Museum | Wannsee Villa | restored Rykestrasse Synagogue

learn more: ASU Jewish Studies | (480) 965-8094

January 12 – March 26, 2020

Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean

The Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean exhibit presents stunning images by award-winning photographer Wyatt Gallery highlighting the fascinating and little-known history of the earliest Jewish communities in the New World, as seen through the remaining historic sites in Barbados, Curaçao, Jamaica, Nevis, St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. Eustatius, and Suriname. These synagogues and Jewish cemeteries—the oldest in the Western Hemisphere—reveal the strength of the Jewish people and the surprisingly diverse cultural history of the Caribbean. Exhibit and public events are free and open to all.

jewishstudies.asu.edu/treasures