ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY Center for Jewish Studies fall 2011 newsletter

As the Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University welcomes a new year, I wish to convey my thanks to the community and Friends of Jewish Studies for your exceptional support, making for a most successful and rewarding season of events in the 2010-2011 year. It was my pleasure to see so many of you in attendance, and I look forward to welcoming you again at this year's programs.

RESEARCH CONFERENCES

The primary research activities of the Center are conferences that bring top-level scholars to campus, create new knowledge and stimulate existing academic discourses. The formation of the Judaism, Science and Medicine Group (JSMG) at the Center for Jewish Studies in 2008 established the reputation of the Center for Jewish Studies as a place for innovative, interdisciplinary work. On October 10-11, 2010, the Center conducted the third annual meeting of the JSMG on ASU's Tempe campus. The "Judaism and the Neurosciences" conference generated dynamic discussion between leading brain scientists and Judaica scholars. "Phenomenology, Existentialism and the Neurosciences: A Jewish Approach to Medicine," the fourth annual meeting, will take place October 30-31, 2011 at the Center for Ethics at Emory University, in Atlanta.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Center for Jewish Studies is committed to enhancing the intellectual quality of Jewish life in metropolitan Phoenix and serves as an educational resource to the community, offering public events which explore various dimensions of Jewish history and culture in the Diaspora and the State of Israel. The Center regularly collaborates with civic and religious institutions for these events, as exemplified by the 2010-2011 programs:

Rediscovered Masters Series

The Center's foremost event series in 2010-2011 was a significant, year-long, collaboration with The Phoenix Symphony: "Rediscovered Masters," a concert and lecture series honoring the music of Jewish composers who were silenced by the Nazi regime. Seven speakers presented well-attended lectures at Congregation Beth Israel, in Scottsdale, and also at Symphony Hall preceding a performance of correlating pieces by The Phoenix Symphony.

The Center for Jewish Studies, in collaboration with the ASU School of Music, also presented a free concert, "Composers in the Concentration Camp," on February 16 at Gammage Auditorium, featuring a distinctive repertoire conducted by Maestro Israel Yinon (Berlin). High school students, state-wide, were additionally encouraged to join in the celebration of cultural rediscovery, through a fall-semester essay contest: "Resistance through Arts in the Holocaust". The awards were presented at a special reception featuring a talk by Maestro Yinon. The Center is planning a follow-up event, focusing on the music of Erwin Schulhoff and Viktor Ullmann.

The Center for Jewish Studies brought the following scholars to Arizona in collaboration with other campus organizations or Jewish institutions:

Professor Conrad Jarausch, Pottsdam University Beyond the National Narrative: Implications of Reunification for Recent German History and Reluctant Accomplice: A Wehrmacht Soldier's Letters from the Eastern Front | October 5

Avner Moriah Artist in Residence Lecture Series | November 15-17 Special thanks to Marcie Lee for her dedication in organizing this series.

Jeremy Benstein, The Heschel of Environmental Learning and Leadership Modern Miracles: Israeli Solutions to Global Challenges | December 12

2011 Albert and Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence lecture Mel Scult, Brooklyn College **Mordecai M. Kaplan: The Challenge of His Heresy** | January 31

Gershon Baskin, Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information Is Israeli-Palestinian Peace Possible? Obstacles and Opportunities (Tempe campus) and The Israeli Palestinian Conflict and the New Middle East: Is Peace Possible? (West campus) | March 1

Christine Hayes, Yale University Moses: God's Partner or Adversary? Rabbinic Exegesis of Exodus 32:9-14 | March 9

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

You, the Friends of Jewish Studies, renewed your support of Jewish Studies at ASU, with contributions in excess of \$19,000 between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. I am most grateful for your generous financial support, which sustains our operation and makes our community programming possible.

I also wish to express sincere gratitude to The Binah Yitztrit Foundation for its gift of \$40,000 to support curriculum development and research in religion and evolutionary theory.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

This year, the Center for Jewish Studies welcomes Anna Cichopek-Gajraj, Assistant Professor in East-European Jewish History and Culture in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, who joins the ranks of the Center's faculty.

In the past year, the Center has supported the teaching and research endeavors of the following faculty members: Don Benjamin (School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies (SHPRS) and Barrett, The Honors College), Adam Cohen (Department of Psychology); Anna Holian (SHPRS); Michael Rubinoff (Film and Media Studies) and Norbert Samuelson (SHPRS).

The Center also continues to offer generous financial support to undergraduate and graduate students focusing on Jewish Studies. During the 2010-2011 year, students were awarded \$27,500 to support their research and academic endeavors. These students will present their research findings and experiences at a special reception on April 17, 2012. We encourage you to attend, and learn more about the thought-provoking work Jewish Studies students are doing.

PLANS FOR 2011-2012

I look forward to seeing you once again at some of the engaging events (see pages 3-4) the Center has planned for the coming year, including:

Memory and Countermemory: Memorialization of an Open Future

This research symposium will convene distinguished scholars who will discuss the relationship between trauma, memory, representation, memorialization and education. Contributing perspectives from a variety of geographical places

and transdisciplinary approaches, leading scholars of Holocaust studies will reflect about conflicted sites of memory with specialists in genocide studies, postcolonial studies, East European Studies and trauma studies. jewishstudies.asu.edu/memory

David Halperin, emeritus professor of Religious Studies and author of *Journal of a UFO Investigator*

David Halperin will present a series of lectures at Beth El Congregation and the Tempe campus of Arizona State University which will examine the beauties and dangers of the Jewish-Islamic traditions about Jerusalem, and ask why the Talmudic rabbis preferred to keep their distance from them. He will also talk about what those traditions mean to him personally and how they have been a source of inspiration for this novel *Journal of a UFO Investigator*.

Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence

We are pleased to announce Kenneth W. Stein, Director of the Middle East Research Program and Institute for the Study of Modern Israel at Emory University as this year's Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Stein will present a public lecture at the Arizona Jewish Historical Society on Israel and the politics of the new Middle East.

I encourage you to visit our website (jewishstudies.asu.edu) regularly. There you will find news and event updates and can sign up for event reminders via e-mail.



Allow me to reiterate how grateful I am to the community and Friends of Jewish Studies for your ongoing support and interest in Jewish Studies at ASU. Without you, none of this would be possible.

With sincere wishes for a happy, healthy and productive new year,

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson

Director

JUNE 12-14	conference
	15th Annual Latin American Jewish Studies Association Conference Arizona State University, by invitation only
SEP 11	community event The Jewish Community Conversation Project 1-5 p.m. Memorial Union Arizona State University, Tempe campus sponsored by the Jewish Community Foundation
SEP 14	film screening Jews and Baseball: an American Love Story 7 p.m. Hillel Jewish Student Center 1012 South Mill Avenue, Tempe snacks will be served sponsored with Hillel, Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival
OCT 24	panel discussion Listening to the Land: Desert Spiritual Traditions 7 p.m. Desert Botanical Garden Papago Park, Phoenix \$20 per person register online at asufoundation.org/pcep
	Comparative perspectives on the desert in world religions shed light on the spiritual significance of living in a desert and enhance our appreciation for living in the unique landscape of the Sonoran desert. Panelists: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Judaism; Talitha Arnold, Christianity; Shahla Talebi, Islam; Tod Swanson, Native American Religious Traditions
	sponsored by the Phoenix President's Community Enrichment Program in partnership with the Desert Botanical Garden
OCT 30-31	conference Phenomenology, Existentialism & the Neurosciences: A Jewish Approach to Medicine Fourth annual meeting of the Judaism, Science & Medicine Group Center for Ethics at Emory University, Atlanta program and additional information available online: jewishstudies.asu.edu/science
NOV 3	community panel discussion Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People in Historical Context: A Panel Discussion George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center 415 East Grant Street, Phoenix Panelists: Stephen Batalden, Director, The Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (panel chair); Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Director, Center for Jewish Studies at ASU; Anna Cichipek-Gajraj, School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies at ASU
NOV 6	community symposium On the Cutting Edge Today's Jewish Woman 8:30 a.m. Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus preregistration required for additional information contact Linda Feldman at 480-634-8050
NOV 6-8	research symposium Memory & Countermemory: Memorialization of an Open Future Arizona State University, Tempe and West campuses Distinguished scholars from the United States and Europe will discuss the relationship between trauma, memory, representation, memorialization and education. This event is part of the Arizona State University Project Humanities 2011: "The Humanities at a Crossroads: Perspectives on Place." Public events program and additional information online: jewishstudies.asu.edu/memory
NOV 18-20	lecture series Otherworldly Jerusalem: When a City Becomes a Myth David Halperin, author of <i>Journal of a UFO Investigator</i> Beth El Congregation 1118 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix open to all r.s.v.p. for all events by Friday, November 11 to Renee at 602-944-3359 co-sponsored by Beth El Congregation
	NOV 18 6:15 p.m. The Lure of the Otherworldly: A Personal Story (discussion following dinner) 7 p.m. Shabbat dinner \$18 per person (checks payable to Beth El)
	NOV 19 9 a.m. during Shabbat services Muslim City, Jewish City: The Legends 12:30 p.m. Jewish City, Muslim City: The Land
	NOV 20 9-10 a.m. teen session: The Lure of the Otherworldly: "Four Entered a Garden …" (reading together from the Talmud; adults also welcome) 10:30-noon adult session: The Lure of the Otherworldly: Ascension or Abduction?

NOV 21	lecture Reimagining Myth: How a Scholar of Jewish Mysticism Came to Write a Novel About UFOs David Halperin, author of <i>Journal of a UFO Investigator</i> 10:30 a.m. Lattie F. Coor Hall (COOR), room 4403 Arizona State University, Tempe campus <i>co-sponsored by the Faculty of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies</i>
	516)
JAN 30	lecture Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence Narratives and History: telling Israel's story without polarization Dr. Kenneth W. Stein, Emory University
	7 p.m. Arizona Jewish Historical Society, Phoenix 122 East Culver Street, Phoenix reserve your spot online at jewishstudies.asu.edu/eckstein or by calling 480-727-5151
	Because there is so much emotion involved in telling, understanding, and connecting with Israel's history, it is difficult at times to tell what is history and what is narrative, what is accurate and what is invented. How can Israel's story be told without polarization and how can it be taught with equal attempts at objectivity? Looking back into 150 years of Zionist and Israeli history and using the investigative tools of the historian informs these answers.
	The Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence program is made possible through an endowment established by the late Dr. Albert and Mrs. Liese Eckstein, with additional contributions from the Eckstein family and Friends of Jewish Studies. The program features annual lectures by experts—professors, authors, and others—in the field of Jewish Studies.
FEB 7	multi-week course Humanities and Human Origins: The Creation of Beginnings The Evolution of Nature: Creation, Nature and Human Origins* Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Director of Jewish Studies 1-3 p.m. Northern Trust 2398 East Camelback Road, Phoenix
	Because origins inquiries combine ideas about causation, boundaries, and chronology and link the factual with the ethical and the empirical with the theoretical, the study of origins requires an interdisciplinary approach that draws on the humanities as well as the natural sciences.
	sponsored by the Phoenix President's Community Enrichment Program
	*This is the first session in a five-part course, featuring five different speakers, held from 1-3 p.m. on Tuesdays: February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 6. Full-course registration required. \$175 per person. For additional information and to register, visit asufoundation.org/pcep
MAR 4-5	conference Reimagining Erwin Schulhoff, Viktor Ullmann, and the German-Jewish-Czech World An international research conference and festival devoted to the life, times and musical legacy of Viktor Ullmann and Erwin Schulhoff. <i>additional details to be announced</i>
APR 17	Annual Student Recognition Event 7 p.m. Memorial Union, room 202 (Alumni Lounge) Arizona State University, Tempe campus reserve your place online at jewishstudies.asu.edu/students or by calling 480-727-5151
	Join us for a dessert reception and evening of celebration, as we recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the 2010-2011 Jewish Studies award recipients. Each student will give a brief presentation of their research and share their experiences funded by endowments generously established by Jewish Studies donors.

Center for Jewish Studies events

Arizona State University events featuring Jewish Studies faculty

Community events supported by the Center for Jewish Studies

visit our website for additional information and updates jewishstudies.asu.edu/events

From October 2010 to May 2011, the Center for Jewish Studies collaborated with The Phoenix Symphony, in association with The OREL Foundation, and with resources from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., to present The Rediscovered Masters Series. Through concerts, lectures (at Congregation Beth Israel and Symphony Hall) and films, the music of composers who were silenced by the Nazi regime was performed, studied and celebrated. Works by Pavel Haas, Hans Krása, Mieczyslaw Weinberg, Erwin Schulhoff, Marcel Tyberg and Kurt Weill were featured, and the series shed light on two of the world's most influential 19th century composers—Felix Mendelssohn and Richard Wagner.

High school students throughout the state of Arizona were encouraged to join in the celebration of cultural rediscovery, through a fall-semester essay contest: "Resistance through Arts in the Holocaust." The essay review committee had a lot of reading to do, thanks to the great response to the contest, and selected four outstanding essays to receive awards.

Community response to The Rediscovered Masters Series was outstanding, and it was a pleasure to see everyone at the lectures and events.

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THE SPEAKERS

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson

Director, Center for Jewish Studies Arizona State University

Dr. Tirosh-Samuelson is director of Jewish Studies at Arizona State Univeristy and writes on Jewish intellectual history with a focus on philosophy and mysticism in premodern Judaism, feminism and Jewish philosophy, Judaism and ecology, Jewish bioethics and Judaism and science.

spoke on October 6-7 "Rediscovered Masters: From Mendelssohn to the Holocaust"

Marsha Rozenblit

President, Association of Jewish Studies Board of Directors University of Maryland

A social and cultural historian of the Jews of Central Europe, Dr. Rozenblit is the author of *Reconstructing a National Identity: The Jews of Habsburg Austria During World War I*, which explores how the Jews, a group profoundly loyal to the multinational Monarchy, coped with the collapse of that supranational state and the creation of nation-states.

spoke on November 10-11 "The Jews of Central Europe: Assimilation or Jewish Identity"

R. Larry Todd

Duke University

Author of *Mendelssohn: A Life in Music* and professor of Musicology at Duke University, Dr. Todd has published widely on Mendelssohn and his time, and on 19th century music. *The New York Times* called professor Todd "the dean of Mendelssohn scholars in the United States." **spoke on November 22**

"The Young Felix Mendelssohn: The Making of a Musical Genius"

David Schildkret

Professor of Choral Music, School of Music Arizona State University

Educated at Rutgers and Indiana Universities, Dr. Schildkret has taught at the University of Rochester, Centre College and Salem College, where he was Dean of the School of Music from 1995 until he came to ASU in 2002. In addition to his work at ASU, he is music director at Scottsdale United Methodist Church in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the Mount Desert Summer Chorale in Bar Harbor, Maine. He has conducted orchestras and choirs at a variety of levels. His overseas teaching includes a series of master classes in conducting at Keimyung University in Daigu, South Korea, and a two-week visit to Merida, Venezuela, as a Fulbright Senior Fellow.

spoke on February 2 "Judaism and Christianity: Shared Heritage, Diverse Interpretations"

David Conway

University College, London

An Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at University College, London, David Conway is the author of Jewry in Music:

Entry to the Profession from Enlightenment to Richard Wagner (2011) and director of the Indian Summer in Levoca film festival. spoke on March 2-3 "An Hebraic Art Taste: Wagner, Jews and the **Business of Music**"

Robert Elias

President

The OREL Foundation Mr. Elias is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he also served as a teaching assistant while pursuing graduate



Essay award winners pictured from left to right: Daniel Niv, Samuel Brebner, Brian Eckhardt, Caitlin Ostrander

studies in Historical Musicology. Between his undergraduate and graduate work, he spent a year in Hungary studying the educational methods of composer-pedagogue Zoltán Kodály at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. Mr. Elias is now the president of The OREL Foundation, an organization devoted to the music of European composers who were suppressed during the Nazi years.

spoke on March 23 and 29

"Theresienstadt: Hitler's Unwitting Gift"

Christopher Hailey

Musicologist

Educated at Duke and Yale Universities, Christopher Hailey is a specialist in 20th century music history. His many publications include a biography of the Austrian opera composer Franz Schreker, an edition of the correspondence between Alban Berg and Arnold Schoenberg, a translation of Theodor W. Adorno's biography of Berg, and several editions of scores by Berg and Schreker. Mr. Hailey is director of the Franz Schreker Foundation and from 1999-2003 was the visiting professor at the Arnold Schoenberg Institute in Vienna.

spoke on May 18-19

"Between Dream and Reality: German Jewish Composers after Wagner"

caust

essay contest award recipients

Resistance Through Arts in the Holocaust

Brian Eckhardt Sonia Minuskin Memorial First Place Prize (tie)

Mir Zaynen Do

Daniel Niv Sonia Minuskin Memorial First Place Prize (tie)

The Arts During the Holocaust: Rebellion and Inspiration Samuel Brebner second place

A Jazzy Fight Caitlin Ostrander third place

November 19, 2010 - JEWISH NEWS OF CREATER PHOEN

Masters worth rediscovering Editor:

We attended the inaugural concert and lecture the Rediscovered Masters Series presented by Th Phoenix Symphony and the Center for Jewish Stud ies at Arizona State University. Through multimedi performances for this 2010-11 concert year, this serie will honor Jewish composers suppressed during the

Holocaust, by playing their lost music. The symphony and ASU have combined to present

these works with sensitivity, scholarship and creativity. To open the series, the symphony unveiled the children's play "Brundibár," by Hans Krasa, originally performed in Theresienstadt. Ella Weissberger, who at age 11 performed a role in this musical folk tale while imprisoned at the camp, attended the symphony's performance, joined the cast on stage and spoke passionately about her experiences. This

memorable evening evoked both thrills and chills. We commend the symphony and the Jewish studies center for collaborating and sponsoring this yearlong event, an expensive and challenging project. We all should take great pride in this series and believe both groups merit our personal and financial support. As members of the Phoenix community, we urge Jewish News readers to do both.

Neal and Sue Kum

Erwin Schulhoff Jazz Suite . Pavel Haas The Charlátan excerpts . Gideon Klein Trio fo

World-renowned maestro, Israel Yinon, has dedicated his career to performing the works of Jewish composers. On February 16, 2011, Maestro Yinon led the Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra in "Composers in the Concentration Camp," a free, community concert, at ASU Gammage. The performance featured the music of four brilliant composers lost in the Holocaust.

g Orchestra . Viktor Ullman Symphony in D Major



LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE



EDNA AIZENBERG LAJSA Co-President

The XV International Research Conference of LAJSA, the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, was held June 12-14, 2011 at Arizona State University.

Founded in 1982, LAJSA promotes scholarship concerning the Jewish experience in Latin America through research, publication, and teaching at universities, colleges and other research centers. At the conference, the presentations highlighted the topics of immigration, discrimination and related issues. A timely keynote lecture was given by Professor José C. Moya (Barnard College), titled "The Arizona Immigration Debate: Xenophobia in a Historical and Global Perspective." Other scholars from the United States, Israel, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Europe discussed subjects such as immigration and rescue during the Shoah, Latin American Jewish identity in a transnational world, and the place of Israel in Latin America's literary imagination. The conference also featured literary readings and art presentations. Prominent academics presenting at the conference included LAJSA's copresidents, Professors Raanan Rein (Tel Aviv University) and Edna Aizenberg (Marymount Manhattan College) as well as conference co-organizers, Professors David William Foster (ASU) and Margalit Bejarano (Hebrew University). Professor Foster was also the conference host.



Memory & Countermemory: Memorialization of an Open Future

a research symposium at Arizona State University November 6-8, 2011

The Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for Critical Inquiry & Cultural Studies, with faculty research cluster in Philosophy, Rhetoric & Literature will play host to a university-wide event, "Memory & Countermemory: Memorialization of an Open Future." This symposium will gather distinguished scholars from the United States and Europe who, together with scholars from ASU, will discuss the relationship between trauma, memory, representation, memorialization and education. This event is part of the Arizona State University Project Humanities 2011: "The Humanities at a Crossroads: Perspectives on Place."

public programs preview

film screening | "The Klezmatics—On Holy Ground"

Sunday, November 6 | noon | Turquoise Room (220) | Memorial Union ASU Tempe campus

"The Klezmatics—On Holy Ground" Erik Greenberg-Anjou's 2010 documentary film on the rebirth of U.S.-East European-Yiddish musical memory

keynote address Cathy Caruth, Cornell University

Monday, November 7 | 7:15 p.m. | La Sala ASU West campus welcome: Neal Lester, Dean of Humanities, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the ASU Tempe campus introduction & moderator: Patricia J. Huntington

film screening | "Jubanos" and play performance | "Parted Waters" followed by audience discussion

Tuesday, November 8 | 6-9 p.m. | Kiva, ASU West campus "Jubanos" (2010, Spanish with English subtitles). An independent, award winning documentary by Brazilian-born filmmaker Milos Silber of New York tells the history of Jews on the island nation before and after the advent of communism. "Parted Waters" by Robert Benjamin. One-hour dramatic reading of the play performed by actors of AZ Jewish Theatre Co. dramatizes the struggle of a contemporary Southwest Catholic family with its newly discovered Sephardic crypto-Jewish legacy.

full program of events @ jewishstudies.asu.edu/memory_events

011 ANNUAL MEETING

HENOMENOLOGY, XISTENTIALISM & HE NEUROSCIENCES: JEWISH APPROACH O MEDICINE

ctober 30-31, 2011 enter for Ethics mory University, Atlanta

UNDAY, OCTOBER 30

JNCH

ESSION 1

ersons, World-Relatedness, Scientific Medicine d the Philosophy of Life chael Schwartz | *Texas A&M University* sborne P. Wiggins | *University of Louisville* espondent: Jonathan Crane | *Emory University*

NNER

EYNOTE ADDRESS inciples of Neurotheology

drew Newberg | University of Pennsylvania

ONDAY, OCTOBER 31

ESSION 2

nderstanding the Moral Dimensions of Disability: Phenomenological Approach to Rehabilitative Care ary Goldberg | *Virginia Commonwealth University* uce Greenfield | *Emory Univeristy* espondent: Michael Broyde | *Emory University*

ESSION 3

elusional Psychosis in Early Schizophrenia: istentialism Meets Neuroscience? Iron Mishara | Chicago School of Professional Psychology chael Schwartz | Texas A&M University espondent: David Blumenthal | Emory University

ENARY TALK

Ibjectivity and Healing in the Neurogenetic Age:nere is the Person? Where is the Culture?elvin Konner | Emory University

NEL DISCUSSION

niel Callahan | Yale-Hastings Program in Ethics and ealth Policy an Astrow | Maimonides Medical Center .ul Root Wolpe | Emory University

JSMG UPDATE

The Judaism, Science & Medicine Group (JSMG) will hold its fourth annual meeting on October 30-31. The meeting will be held at the Center for Ethics at Emory University, and is organized by Hava Tirosh-Samuelson and Paul Root Wolpe (Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Bioethics and Director, Center for Ethics). The conference will focus on Phenomenology, Existentialism & the Neurosciences: A Jewish Approach to Medicine, and will feature internationally renowned scholars including Andrew Newberg (University of Pennsylvania), Melvin Konner (Emory University) and Daniel Callahan (Hastings Center).

In fall 2012, the JSMG will focus on Judaism and the theory of evolution and will hold a special workshop at ASU.

If you wish to join the group, please contact Ilene Singer, Assistant Director of Jewish Studies, at Ilene.Singer@asu.edu or 480-965-8094.

WINTER 2012 JUDAISM & SCIENCE SPECIAL ISSUE OF CCAR JOURNAL

The path-breaking work of JSMG co-founder Norbert Samuelson will be featured in the winter 2012 special issue of CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly (published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis) which will be devoted to Judaism and Science.

Expressing the vision and mission of the Judaism, Science & Medicine Group, founded at ASU in 2008, the CCAR Journal volume features the work of Professor Norbert Samuelson (Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies, ASU) and is edited by Rabbi Philip Cohen (Ph.D., Brandeis University) and Professor Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Director of Jewish Studies, ASU). Professor Samuelson's lead essay, "The Challenges of the Modern Sciences to Jewish Faith," generated essays either in direct response to his claims, or as general reflections on the relationship between contemporary science and Judaism. The essays are written by Judaica scholars, rabbis, scientists and educators, and the contributors come from all streams of contemporary Judaism: Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Orthodox. We hope that the publication of the volume will stimulate a public discourse about the need to rethink Judaism in light of contemporary science.

THE BINAH YITZRIT FOUNDATION has generously donated \$40,000 to the Center for Jewish Studies to support curriculum development and research in the area of religion and evolutionary theory at ASU.

A LOOK BACK AT MY FIRST YEAR

FRANÇOISE MIRGUET

Jess Schwartz Assistant Professor of Hebrew & Near Eastern Cultures School of International Letters & Cultures



It is a pleasure to reflect on this first year of my tenure-track position as assistant professor of Hebrew and Near Eastern Cultures at the School of International Letters & Cultures, with an affiliation with the Center for Jewish Studies. It has been wonderful to be part of a community of scholars and teachers, be involved in the life of my school, and contribute to the growth of the Jewish Studies program.

I am happy to report that the curriculum in Biblical Hebrew is now complete, with four semesters of

study, satisfying ASU's second language requirement. We have been very fortunate that Dr. Michael Moore, already teaching courses in Biblical Studies at ASU, accepted the responsibility of two levels of the curriculum. The program is steadily expanding—in level one, three times as many students as the first year are already enrolled for Fall 2011. After teaching level one in the fall, I had the joy to teach level four in the spring, for an overview of Classical Hebrew poetry, from the Bible to Bialik, to a group of enthusiastic students.

In addition, I was glad to offer two courses directly connected to my research: Judeo-Hellenistic Literature, an exploration of documents written in Greek by Jewish communities in Late Antiquity and differently reacting to Hellenism, and Literary Readings of the Bible, an introduction to the literary conventions of biblical prose and poetry.

The year has been particularly productive in terms of research. The Jess Schwartz professorship offered me the opportunity to spend three weeks in Jerusalem this summer, at the library of the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française. In July, I organized a special session at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, with the title "Embodiment and the Construction of Identity." I then coordinated the publication of most of the papers for a thematic issue of the Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha. This academic year, Dr. Joel Gereboff, head of Religious Studies, and I have led a research cluster on "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Emotions." The cluster was funded by a grant from the ASU Institute for Humanities Research, and brought together around ten faculty members from different fields in the Humanities and in Social Sciences. With a main paper at a conference of francophone biblical scholars in Ottawa in May, the organization of another special session at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in July, and a grant from the Institute for Humanities Research for 2011-2012, this year ends with new projects and many exciting future prospects.

2011-2012 Fellowship Institute for Humanities Research

From Land to Body: Reinterpretations of the Self in Jewish Narratives from the Hellenistic Diaspora

What happens to a society's conception of identity, for the most part defined i relation to a land, when parts of this societ leave that land and establish in a worl dominated by a totally different sense of self? This is the situation of the Jewis Diaspora during the Hellenistic period usually situated between the late fourt century BCE and the early fourth centur CE. Most Judeans leave their homelan deliberately, attracted by new busines opportunities or by the Hellenistic culture Diasporic communities have to reinterpre their traditional notion of identity, and cra a new conception of the self, which doe not rely on autochthony. Identity is rathe inscribed on the body, while embodie markers of identity compensate spatia roots. My research will be focused o narratives written in Greek by Judeo Hellenistic communities, in differer Mediterranean urban centers. My propos is that the expression of Jewish identit in embodied terms does not date from the Rabbinic times, as usually held, but well before, when the Jewish Diaspor encounters the Greek culture. The Fello program at the Institute for Humanitie Research, devoted in 2011-2012 t human migrations, will offer the opportunit to work closely with colleagues in th Humanities, compare different phenomen of migrations and diaspora, and integrat new methodologies.

http://ihr.asu.edu/research/fellow

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHAEL RUBINOFF Film & Media Studies Program

Arizona State University welcomed more than 70 pre-service teachers on February 25, 2011 for a day-long conference on Holocaust education. The event was co-sponsored with the Belfer First Step Program and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Whereas previous USHMM workshops have been directed at in-service teachers, the Belfer initiative is aimed at undergraduate students. The program goal is to provide background, content, and hands-on resources for future teachers so they can incorporate Holocaust/ Genocide Studies content in their classrooms. Most of the students were identified as English or history majors.

While many students came from ASU, other participants were from Grand Canyon University, Northern Arizona University and University of Phoenix. Following welcoming remarks from Dr. Neal Lester, Dean of Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Dr. Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, director of the Center for Jewish Studies, presentations focused on various dynamics of Holocaust and genocide. These included: A Brief History of Anti-Semitism; Workshop on Nazi Propaganda; Guidelines for Teaching Holocaust Content; Introduction to ASU Library Resources and Contemporary Genocides. The day concluded with the testimony of Holocaust survivor Harold Minuskin and his presentation of excerpts from his mother's published memoirs.

The ASU session was one of six regional programs sponsored by Belfer, including sessions at Syracuse University; University of Pittsburgh; University of South Florida; Indiana University-Purdue and University of Washington. The enrollment for the session at ASU was among the highest in Belfer's inaugural year.



Sherman Elliott and Harold Minuskin

This program was the result of extensive preparation in Washington, D.C. and in Arizona

with a working group including Dr. Michael Rubinoff (Film & Media Studies, Arizona State University); Dr. Sherman Elliott (Chair of Secondary Education, Grand Canyon University); Melissa Cohen (Program Coordinator of the Martin-Springer Institute, Northern Arizona University); Kimberly Klett (Regional Educator, USHMM) and the Center for Jewish Studies staff.

Kimberly Klett, the USHMM's regional educator, has taught a course on the Holocaust in Literature at Dobson High School in Mesa, Arizona since 2000. She observed, "The Holocaust is a sensitive, sometimes difficult subject to teach. Workshops such as the Belfer First Step are necessary in giving pre-service teachers tools to use when approaching the topic in their future classrooms. Whether they teach in the social studies or language arts, they most likely will face teaching a unit either on the Holocaust directly, or on a Holocaust-related book."

Dr. Sherman Elliott urged many of his students from ASU and Grand Canyon University to attend the program in Tempe. He said, "If we want our teachers to stand up to violations of the dignity of each person and ultimately be empowered to embrace moral challenges with morally just actions, we must include moral development in their education. The Holocaust provides a powerful lesson in defining responsibilities of citizens of the world

and projecting future teachers into a moral decision-making stage where they can halt behaviors that trample civil rights in their schools, classrooms, society and beyond."

Belfer First Step is organized by the USHMM on a regional basis across the country, partnering with different universities each year. "If we want our teachers to stand up to violations of the dignity of each person and ultimately be empowered to embrace moral challenges with morally just actions, we must include moral development in their education."

Dr. Sherman Elliot

While Belfer's 2012 workshop will be at Louisiana State University, they intend to work with existing institutional partners like ASU for similar programs in future years.

2011 CURT C. AND ELSE SILBERMAN SEMINAR FOR FACULTY TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

DANIEL GILFILLAN

Associate Professor of German Studies, School of International Letters & Cultures

Daniel Gilfillan was accepted to participate in the 2011 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar "Teaching about the Holocaust: An Integrated Approach," sponsored by the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., June 6-17, 2011.



The seminar was led by Doris L. Bergen (University of Toronto) and Barry Trachtenberg (University at Albany-SUNY) and aimed to deepen participants' understanding of how the Holocaust occurred; analyze the complex interactions among perpetrators, victims and bystanders; explore problems of representation and memory; and equip faculty with the knowledge base and pedagogical techniques required to teach this complex topic and to address the questions that arise most frequently in the classroom. The seminar is designed to model and

encourage approaches that integrate a wide range of disciplines, sources and perspectives.

During the seminar, I was be able to engage with a multidisciplinary group of scholars, each of whom are currently teaching, or preparing to teach, a course focused on the Holocaust. I also had the opportunity to utilize one-of-a-kind resources and integrate insights from fellow seminar participants, to revise and update a course I designed and have taught twice with much success.

My course, "Holocaust and German Media" examines representations of the Holocaust from the perspective of its survivors, perpetrators and victims, with respect to its immediacy and generational impact. The course utilizes examples of dramatic and documentary film; photography; narrative; poetry; memoir; graphic novel; cyberspace; in addition to critical theory and architectural monuments and memorials. Beginning with anti-Semitic, National Socialist manipulation and propaganda, and continuing forward as each successive generation of Germans has sought to confront and understand their country's National Socialist past, the course also examines the ways each successive generation of survivors has coped and engaged with their personal and familial experiences.

With its focus on pedagogical approaches to representation and memory, and to understanding the complex set of interactions among victims, perpetrators and bystanders, the Silberman Seminar provided a firmer set of footholds into the historical, political and sociocultural underpinnings that led to the Holocaust. In addition, the seminar's multidisciplinary approach helped address the wide range of student questions that arise in the classroom. Given the seminar's interactive approach with presentations, discussions and group activities, it also offered opportunities to learn about assignment models, and approaches that will benefit students' learning outcomes for this course at Arizona State University.

Finally, access to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's extensive collection of resources for research and teaching about the Holocaust helped to expand my knowledge of key materials that students will be able to use for learning and teaching beyond the boundaries of the classroom setting.



WealthWatch: A Study of Socioeconomic Conflict in the Bible

Michael Moore, faculty School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

Wipf & Stock Publishers (May, 2011)

THE REFUGEE IN THE POSTWAR WORLD

ANNA HOLIAN

Associate Professor of History, School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

In April 2010, the Center for Jewish Studies played host to the interdisciplinary conference "The Refugee in the Postwar World" organized by Anna Holian (School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies), Daniel Cohen (History, Rice University) and Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Center for Jewish Studies), and attended by scholars from the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Italy.



The key objective of the conference was to gain a better understanding of a pivotal period of global population upheavals, which was also a critical moment in the formation of the "international refugee regime," the system of norms and rules that govern how states respond to forced migration. The conference explored the causes, consequences and contemporary interpretation of the refugee crises that followed the end of World War II. Taking a global perspective, it focused on the four geographical regions most deeply affected by displacement in the postwar period: Europe, the Middle East, South Asia and East Asia. It examined the relationship between

the construction of nation-states and the formation of refugee populations, the uneven development of the international refugee regime, the practices of refugee relief and refugees' efforts to make sense of their dislocation.

The keynote address was delivered by Peter Gatrell, Professor of History at the University of Manchester and a well-known scholar on the history of modern refugees. Individual papers focused on issues such as the American response to Jewish Holocaust survivors in postwar Germany; the formation of a professional cadre of refugee relief workers in postwar Europe; the development of a distinctive South Asian refugee regime in the wake of the Partition of India; and the international response to refugee crises in and around China.

Selected papers from the conference will appear in a special issue of the Journal of Refugee Studies (Oxford University Press), the premier academic journal in the field of refugee studies. Edited by Holian and Cohen, the special issue is slated for publication in 2012.

This project was made possible by a generous grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.



The Refugee in the Postwar World conference poster

ISRAEL AND THE ARAB SPRING: WHAT DEMOCRACIES CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

AMIT RON

Assistant Professor of Political Science, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

In the days and weeks following the momentous changes that came to be described as the Arab Spring, many asked whether democratization in the Arab world is a positive development in the region. There is fear that the new freedoms will create fertile ground for extremist movements and divisive forces. In fact, from the days of the first democracy in ancient Athens, critics of democracy feared that giving power to the people will lead to chaos, and chaos will turn into tyranny. The historical experience of the 20th century shows that such concerns are not unfounded. Yet, it also shows that in the long-run democratic regimes are far less fickle than critics tend to believe.

Looking from the outside, democracies often appear to be on the verge of chaos. To see this, we need to look no further than Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. There is a familiar claim that Israel's electoral system is flawed in that it is too democratic. Israel's electoral system allows a large number of parties to be represented in the Israeli parliament. In many situations, parties that represent minority groups gain disproportional power and they use it to advance sectarian interests of their constituency. Many observers argue that Israel's political system should be reformed to limit representation and to increase governability.

While some improvements in Israel's electoral system are desirable, my own view is that this argument for major reforms is misguided. To put it (perhaps too) bluntly, what is "screwed-up" in Israel is not the electoral system but the entire society. Israel is a deeply divided society that is able to hold together, almost miraculously, despite enormous pressures. I believe that the ability of the society to hold together is in part because the diverse groups in society have a voice in the political system. The Knesset provides an arena for bargaining between different social forces. While the system sometimes amplifies the voice of small groups and the political system sounds like an intolerable cacophony of screaming and shouting, pressing the mute button toward some voices would not make the groups and the interests they represent go away.

I think that a similar argument can be made about Israel's neighbors, which, not unlike Israel, are deeply divided societies. In deeply divided societies, any regime—democratic or not—will face enormous challenges. But a democratic regime is much more likely to produce policies that are in the interest of most groups in society. Some Middle Eastern leaders held the mute button for too long, and the cacophony of open debate can appear loud and even scary, especially when it is coming from places where we got used to hearing silence. To be sure, sometimes there are good reasons to be scared of the voices democracy allows us to hear. Still, in the long-run it is better to have these voices aired in the public sphere than conspire in silence.

ASU LIBRARIES: THE ISRAELIANA COLLECTION

RACHEL LEKET-MOR Jewish Studies Librarian

The Jewish Studies collections at ASU Libraries—available to students, faculty and community users—offer a vast array of materials supporting scholarly needs, including the study of Israel. Various aspects of Israeli history, society, politics, languages and literatures, arts and culture are studied at ASU. A section of the Jewish Studies collections—the Israeliana Collection—caters to these areas. Our collection includes scholarly books, journal articles, e-books, e-journals, CDs and DVDs. Written by Israel Studies scholars, most of our books are written in English but we also have a large collection of Hebrew books or English translations of books written originally in Hebrew and/or other languages.

An active buying program from Israel provides a wealth of current resources representing the fine research done in Israel, including academic and non-fiction books published by university presses and leading publishers, scholarly journals and reference works. This scholarly output is supplemented with books, magazines, CDs and DVDs that capture current Jewish thought and cultural life in Israel. Prominent authors and prizewinners are represented in the collection alongside new voices that add to the local color of the Israeliana Collection.



Tarzan in the Gulf of Suez Tarzan's Tricks, Vol. 1, #13, 1960



The Prairie Man Buck Jones Series, #1, 1960s



FalafelMan Fights Monster Antishemiyah FalafelMan Comics Series, #2, 2008 Dorit Maya-Gur

What makes the ASU Israeliana Collection distinctive from all others is our IsraPulp collection, comprised of Hebrew chapbooks—published as early as the 1930s—neither preserved nor collected in libraries due to their marginality in mainstream culture. Many of these rare materials were printed on cheap paper and bound in flashy covers, masqueraded as translations, and were published anonymously by peripheral publishers. The chapbooks that survive express subversive voices rejected by established publishers on account of digression from contemporary literary conventions and on political grounds. They include genre fiction representing American values (Westerns, superheroes, serialized stories, comic books, early science fiction), international erotic intrigues (detective stories, crime and espionage series, "stalags"), alternative accounts of activities leading to the establishment of Israel, and non-canonized children's literature—written materials that were unacceptable in the eyes of culture plannes who practiced Mapai values. The original Hebrew texts provide a wealth of material for undocumented aspects of social and cultural life in Israel. The IsraPulp Collection is the only research collection of its kind in the world. It is housed in Special Collections and may be viewed at the Luhrs Reading Room at Hayden Library on the Tempe campus.

Materials may be searched under the keywords "popular literature Israel 20th century" in the ASU Libraries catalog (http://lib.asu.edu). An article about the collection will publish later this fall in *Judaica Librarianship* 16/17.

Questions about this collection or other libraries resources? Please contact Rachel.Leket-Mor@asu.edu

ewishstudies.asu.edu/scholarships

The generosity of our donors enables the Jewish Studies Program to offer a variety of scholarships, fellowships and grants to ASU students at every academic level.

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ewish Studies scholarship, fellowship and grant applications are accepted once per semester. Please visit the Jewish Studies vebsite for application deadlines, eligibility equirements and application forms. Congratulations to our outstanding students who received scholarships during the 2010-2011 academic year!

celebrating our outstanding students

Please join us for an evening event honoring the outstanding accomplishments of the 2010-2011 Jewish Studies award recipients. Enjoy coffee and dessert as the students present their research findings and share their experiences.

R.S.V.P. by April 21 to 480-727-5151

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research: In Search of Survival: Jewish Migration and Life in Peru in the 20th Century through the Eyes of the Wolloh family Morris & Julia Kertzer Scholar



April 28, 2011 The University Club

2009-2010 awards recipients presented their research at a special reception in their honor.

pictured from left to right:

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Director of Jewish Studies Marco Cabrera Geserick Rabbi Darren Kleinberg Mariam Cohen John Rosinbum Norman Shamas

MY SUMMER IN ISRAEL

NORMAN SHAMAS Great Students Scholarship; Jess Schwartz Scholar; Jewish Studies Scholarship and Morris & Julia Kertzer Scholar

Last summer I experienced life in Israel firsthand. As a student of ancient religions, Israel is an ideal place to study due to the ancient sites and the infusion of ancient identity into modern narratives. My time in Israel was spent participating in an archaeological excavation, studying Hebrew and exploring Israeli culture.

I began my trip by excavating with students from American colleges and universities. The site, Horvat Omrit, is located in the Upper Galilee, along the 1967 border. Of primary interest is a Roman temple dated to the time of Augustus. During the excavation, I stayed in a small kibbutz, on whose land the temple remains were found.

During the excavation season, the Gaza flotilla incident happened. As a way to understand the response of this event, we went to an Arab-Israeli dialogue group at a nearby college with a large percentage of Arabs in the student body.

After the excavation, I spent the remainder of my time in Israel studying Hebrew at the University of Haifa. The participants of the program were from numerous countries and various faiths. The friends I made varied greatly, including: Czech Christians fluent in Hebrew, an Israeli-Arab who was studying pre-law, and Jews in the process of making Aliyah. By the end of my studies, I was speaking only Hebrew, both at the university and within Haifa.

During this trip to Israel I learned about a less commonly taught aspect of Israeli culture, that of the Mizrahim, Jews from the Middle East and North Africa. In contemporary Israel, Mizrahim have become well integrated, but this was not always the case, especially at the beginning of Israel's history. Their struggle is documented in maabara literature, named after the refuge camps they lived in.

Throughout the summer, I continually saw how the Jewish past has transformed into the contemporary Jewish state. The modern story would not be able to survive without the ancient narrative, both of which I hope to be able to contribute to in the future. "The modern story would not be able to survive without the ancient narrative, both of which I hope to be able to contribute to in the future."

Norman Shamas

JEWISH STORIES OF MY LAND: ANTI-SEMITISM & JEWISH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN COSTA RICA

MARCO CABRERA GESERICK 2010-2011 Great Students Graduate Fellowship and Research, Study & Travel Grant

With the help of Vilma Faingezicht and Carlos Morales, director and assistant of the Jewish Museum in the Centro Israelita Sionista de Costa Rica, and the support of Dr. Tirosh-Samuelson of the Center for Jewish Studies at ASU, I started my research on anti-Semitism in Costa Rica. The main finding focused on the anti-Semitic campaign of 1960. The campaign started with pro-fascist and nationalist groups filling newspapers with anti-Jewish propaganda. They also printed hundreds of leaflets with cartoons denouncing Jewish merchants. By the end of that year, anti-Jewish sentiments reached a peak when a fire was started in the old Synagogue. Among the surviving parts of the building, swastikas were drawn, as well as anti-Jewish slogans. Interestingly enough, this act was considered by the authorities to have gone too far. The Costa Rican government reacted immediately and called for the leaders of the Anti-Semite Committee for a meeting. After that, the anti-Jewish campaign ended.

This must have created a sense of relief and insight for the Jewish community. It seemed that in Costa Rica the government had the power to control these groups, and would use it in order to keep the social order. Soon, the new

Jewish generations of Costa Ricans were groomed for entering politics in order to assure the protection of the Jewish community and the insertion of the community in the political life of the country. The fruits of their labor came true soon. In 1994, Rebecca Grinspan Mafus, a member of the PLN was elected vice president of Costa Rica. She was only the first of many. In 1998, Astrid Fischel Volio, a member of the PUSC, was elected vice president. In 2002, the PUSC won the elections again, and Luis Fischman Zonsinski became vice president. Fischman became such an important figure in the party that during the last elections in 2010 he became the presidential candidate for his party. That year the PLN won, making Luis Liberman Ginsburg, another member of the Jewish community, vice president. Outside of Costa Rica, only Israel has more Jewish politicians in such high positions.

My project reveals the importance of continued support for Jewish Studies. When it comes to Latin American Jewish Studies, the main focus is always on Argentina, known for having the largest Jewish community in the region. But sometimes, essence does not come in barrels, but in diminutive vessels.

The study of the Jewish community in Costa Rica demonstrates how a small country can also contribute important information for Jewish Studies. In terms of political success, the Jewish community in Costa Rica shines capably not only in terms of Latin American Studies, but also in the global context.

No producen Nada, consumen mucho y EMPOBRECEN EL PAIS. JUNTA DATIFICIPITA A CONSTANTINICIENSE COSTA REA ARGY REALEMENT PARA

Anti-Jewish cartoon leaflet, 1960

ESTIMADO LECTOR: ¿Sabe Ud. que es la Junta Patriótica Costarricense?

Pues es una agrupación numerosisima; de la que Ud, puede formar parte activa. Estas personas amantes de la PATRIA, esta-

mos trabajando empeñosa y desinteresadamente por LIBRAR a COSTA RICA de las garras o mojor dicho de los TENTACULOS del Pulpo POLACO-JUDIO, interpretando el sentir del pueblo costarricense.

Anti-Jewish leaflet, 1950s

photograph of 1949 Synagogue by Marco Cabrera Geserick



DECLARING SANCTUARY: NO ONE JEWISH SOLUTION

JOHN ROSINBUM

2010-2011 Benjamin Goldberg Memorial Scholar; Cabot Family Scholarship; Great Students Graduate Fellowship and Morris & Julia Kertzer Scholar

During the 1980s, widespread poverty and civil wars between leftist rebels and right-leaning autocratic governments in Guatemala and El Salvador drove over one million men, women and children north to the United States and Canada. When they arrived in the United States and Canada their presence prompted a decade-long debate over the goals, formation and implementation of refugee policy in the two North American countries. A wide variety of stakeholders entered the debate, arguing for or against a restrictive refugee policy on political, economic, moral and religious grounds. By the end of the decade, less than 10% of Guatemalan and Salvadoran asylum-seekers were granted refugee status in the United States, a result that has widely been criticized as motivated by the Reagan administration's ties to the militantly anti-communist governments in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Controversy raged in synagogues across North America as community leaders and rabbis asked their congregations if they wanted to become involved with Central American refugees by joining the inter-faith Sanctuary Movement, a collection of 500 houses of worship that hid Central Americans from government officials. For some, such as Rabbi Joseph Weizenbaum of Tucson's Temple Emanu-el and Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple, the choice was clear. Weizenbaum traveled all across the continent, imploring synagogues to declare Sanctuary. For Plaut, it brought back powerful memories; in 1935 he had escaped Nazi Germany and went on to write numerous treatises outlining the legal and moral framework for sanctuary. For others, helping Central American refugees was tantamount to giving aid to the communists. Still others worried that synagogues should spend their limited resources on Jewish problems, such as poverty within the Jewish community and the influx of Soviet Jews during the late 1980s.

The Center for Jewish Studies has funded a project that explores, in part, the ways that Jewish communities responded to the influx of Central Americans. Whether they joined the Sanctuary Movement, defended religious activists in court, served as border patrol officers, or adjudicated asylum decisions, Jews were intimately involved in the implementation and negotiation of refugee policy. Those who participated in what became known as the Central American Refugee Crisis rationalized their actions with varying combinations of political, moral and spiritual arguments, vividly demonstrating the moral, spiritual and intellectual diversity of the Jewish community.

JEWISH BUENOS AIRES, A STUDY TOUR

DAVID WILLIAM FOSTER

Regents Professor, School of International Letters & Cultures

With generous support from the Jewish Studies Program, ASU graduate students Ileana Baeza, Edith Marsiglia, and Solem Minjárez, from the School of International Letters and Cultures, joined Professor David William Foster in Buenos Aires March 12-17, 2011 for a round of meetings, interviews, and cultural events designed to introduce them to Jewish Buenos Aires. As home to the largest Jewish diaspora community in Latin America and one of the largest in the world, Buenos Aires is the seat of a rich and vibrant Jewish community, with a wide array of academic and cultural institutions and publications related to Jewish life.

In conformance with one of the guiding principles of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, of which Professor Foster is immediate past President, the tour was grounded



El Once, the "Hester Street" of Buenos Aires

in the proposition that Latin American culture cannot be properly understood without an understanding of Jewish influence and contributions. Such a proposition breaks with the tradition of viewing Latin America as essentially Catholic and Hispanic, with immigrant cultures viewed merely as accidental supplements, to be valued or regretted, according to one's stance with regard to cultural pluralism.



Only Kosher McDonald's in the world outside Israel, in the Abasto shopping center (closed for Shabbat)

In Argentina, as elsewhere in Latin America, Jews have played a determining role in many important social and cultural enterprises. In the case of Argentina, it is particularly vital for students of culture to understand Jewish involvement, and the tour included a specific emphasis on literature, theater, music and film. Although only Ms. Marsiglia is in the process of developing a dissertation topic on Jewish culture, as in the case of two previous study tours involving ASU students (one to Argentina and one to Mexico), in addition to identifying specific research sources and academic programs, the goal of the trip was to grasp the extent of the Jewish presence in Buenos Aires by actually seeing the city, sensing its overall urban design,

and appreciating the ways in which immigrant culture is an integral fabric to this day of that design.

Activities included meeting with authors Ana María Shua, Alicia Steimberg, Elsa Drucaroff and photographer Silvio Fabrykant; researchers from the Jewish studies nucleus of the Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social; co-founder of the Feria del Libro Elida Messina; as well as visits to the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina and the Parque de la Memoria. Walking tours of historic Jewish neighborhoods were complemented by theater and dance programs and visits to specialized bookstores. In addition, Marsiglia, because of her dissertation topic, was able to establish an array of individual contacts and visit additional research collections.

As a consequence, participants of these tours return with a crucial understanding of the role Jews have played in the intellectual and social life of a major Latin American country and understand the need to take such ethnic and immigrant experiences into account in their research on Latin American societies. Most Latin Americanists, with the exception of those involved in Jewish Studies, have a fragmentary or virtually nonexistent understanding of Jewish life in Latin America. Thus, the academic profile of these students will now allow them, in their subsequent professional experience, to be spokespersons for the need to take Jewish issues in Latin America into serious account.

Arizona State University Jewish studies & public history internship opportunities



Arizona Jewish Historical Society

Founded in 1981, the Arizona Jewish Historical Society preserves the rich heritage of Arizona's Jewish communities and educates the public about the Jewish contributions to Arizona and American life. In addition, the society serves the larger community by promoting greater awareness of Arizona's diverse history more generally.



To fulfill its mission, the AZJHS maintains an extensive archival collection of over 50,000 photographs, documents and artifacts. The collection also contains over 250 oral and video history interviews. In 2002, the society purchased the site of Phoenix's first synagogue and has restored it as a museum and cultural center. The society currently hosts exhibitions and educational programs at the newly rehabilitated site.

Students interested in working with the society can gain valuable experience in a number of public history fields, including:

- Original research and publication
- Presentations and public programs
- Archives operation and management
- Oral history
- Exhibition design and development
- Website development and information technology
- Administration and business development

offered in cooperation with the Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University jewishstudies.asu.edu

learn more about the AZJHS www.azjhs.org | 602-241-7870

SEMESTER AT BEN GURION UNIVERSITY

DID YOU KNOW? The Arizona State University Study Abroad office offers students the opportunity to study abroad at Ben Gurion University (BGU).

Ben Gurion University is located in Beer Sheva, Israel's fourth largest city, situated in the Negev desert. The partnership between ASU and BGU offers students the opportunity to focus their study abroad experience by providing a structured, semesterlong, mini-program. Students will select one of the following academic tracks: Israel Studies, Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice or Global Health.

The Israel Studies Track, and the broader curriculum offered to international students includes courses representing a multidimensional and complex analysis on the state of Israel as a political, social, cultural and ideological phenomenon. Students enjoy academic and professional training, and will explore the rich research field surrounding the University. The Israel Studies Track combines past and present, text and context, while offering its participants an opportunity to experience present day Israel.

Each track has its own academic head, typically a leading Ben Gurion Scholar, a distinct academic structure involving a variety of educational elements such as courses, research projects, internships, stages, study tours, etc., and a clear set of expected learning outcomes.

studyabroad.asu.edu



Ben Gurion University photo by Avishai Teicher

A YEAR IN ISRAEL SHAUNA TASA-BENNETT

I have always had a very strong connection to Israel, growing up in a Zionistic household, and it made perfect sense for me to experience living in Israel for a year with study abroad in order to help me decide if I want to "make aliyah," or move to Israel.

My year in Israel combined my knowledge, experiences and visions with a realization of my historical ties to the Jewish community and the world, transforming my life forever. My venture from my America to Israel seemed like giant leaps into an abyss of wisdom and beguiling knowledge beckoning me toward the future.



The Western Wall, the Jordan River, the Golan Heights and the Dead Sea became real places with their own auras of religious and historical significance. I was engulfed with 4,000



years of Jewish history, 4,000 years of Jewish continuity and 4,000 years of Jewish heritage. How could I not absorb it into my own life and be inspired to pass it onto my own posterity? I felt a mystical, yet genuine connection to those individuals who laid the foundation for the Israeli homeland. The best part of course, was that I was able to experience life as a normal Israeli in the country of my passion. I was not only able to live in one, but in two, significant cities representing the diversity in Israeli culture, and studied at the University of Haifa and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

It was great living in the laid-back city of Haifa, but living in Jerusalem was an unexplainable experience. To me, Jerusalem is the epitome of Israel and moreover, brought me closer to Judaism. I wrote a paper last semester on the Jewish connection to the land of Israel in Prayer. For over 2,000 years my ancestors prayed to return to Jerusalem and there I was, living there! The year I spent in Israel is definitely the highlight of my college experience.

ASU STUDY ABROAD RECEIVES MASA ISRAEL JOURNEY SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Masa Israel Journey, a project of the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel, is seeking to increase the number of North American students who choose Israel as their study abroad destination by increasing the number of study abroad programs in Israel offered in conjunction with their home universities. As such, Masa Israel has awarded a grant to Arizona State University to develop semester-long undergraduate study abroad programs in partnership with Israeli institutions of higher education, such as Ben Gurion University. Through this grant program, universities such as ASU are eligible to receive up to \$50,000 for the development and execution of partnership initiatives with academic institutions in Israel. The ASU-Masa partnership ensures participating students receive ASU's full support in meeting prerequisites and receiving full direct credit for their studies in Israel.

To learn more about this grant and its impact on ASU Study Abroad in Israel, please contact the Study Abroad office at (480) 965-5965.

ways to give

Outright gifts can be made with cash, credit cards, securities or other property and are used to support current needs of Arizona State University.

Many companies provide **gift matching programs** that enable employees, and sometimes retirees and employee's spouses, to increase their support to the causes important to them. Corporate matching gifts are a powerful companion to outright gifts, and we appreciate the extra effort our Friends make to secure such gifts!

Pledges allow Jewish Studies donors to plan a personal giving program that is convenient for them. A pledge may enable a donor to consider a more significant gift than may have been possible otherwise. Terms for payment on pledges are flexible.

Charitable trusts, gift annuities and bequests are examples of **planned gifts**—giving arrangements often offering tax advantages and allowing you to maximize your giving potential. Investing in education makes a positive impact on your community.

\$1000 or more	patron
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\$250 to \$499	sustainer
\$100 to \$249	friend

become a Friend of Jewish Studies make your donation online at asufoundation.org/jewishstudies

Not surprisingly, many of the nation's best universities also have the largest permanent **endowments**. Endowed funds provide a predictable, annual stream of operational income which enables Jewish Studies to provide quality public programs, scholar-in-residence programs, visiting professorships, research conferences and numerous student scholarships.

All funds will be deposited with the ASU Foundation for a New American University, a separate nonprofit organization that exists to support ASU. Your gift may be considered a charitable contribution. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of charitable contributions.

erennial support and depends on your continued generosity and investment. THANK YOU FRIENDS OF JEWISH STUDIES!

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gifts as recorded at the ASU Foundation from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Temple Chai



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cover art

"Tree of Change" 20"x16" acrylic mixed-media on canvas artist: Nova Hall

"Tree of Change" represents a deepening focus on personal growth within my study of Judaism and Kabbalah. Inspired by my passion for leadership and the positive commandments that direct us in being good Jews, this piece focuses on the change at the center of the Tree of Life, compassion and change through love of humanity. The painting is literally built upon my own recent instrument of artistic change, my pilgrimage to Burning Man in 2010.

David Halperin author of Journal of a UFO Investigator

Otherworldly Jerusalem: When a City Becomes a Myth November 18-20 | Beth El Congregation co-sponsored by Beth El Congregation

Reimagining Myth: How a Scholar of Jewish Mysticism Came to Write a Novel About UFOs

November 21 | Tempe campus of Arizona State University co-sponsored by the Faculty of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

- Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence Narratives and History: telling Israel's story without polarization Dr. Kenneth W. Stein, Emory University
- January 30 | 7 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society
 - reserve your spot at jewishstudies.asu.edu/eckstein or 480-727-5151
- How can Israel's story be told without polarization and how can it be taught with
- v equal attempts at objectivity? Looking back into 150 years of Zionist and Israeli
- history and using the investigative tools of the historian informs these answers.