

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT QUEENS COLLEGE

THE ARTHUR AND CAROLE ANDERMAN

CULTURE & ARTS
GUIDE SPRING 2013



*The Four Holy Cities, copyright Mark Podwal
Courtesy Forum Gallery*

Middle East Forum

Has the Sun Set on the Two-State Solution?
An Israeli-Palestinian SOS

Ghaith al-Omari in Conversation with Professor Mark Rosenblum

Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 6:30 pm
Student Union Ballroom East,
4th floor
Free and open to the public



Ghaith al-Omari is Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP). Previously he served in various positions within the Palestinian Authority, including Director of the International Relations Department in the Office of the Palestinian President, and advisor to former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. He participated in various negotiating rounds, most notably the Camp David summit and the Taba talks, and was the lead Palestinian drafter of the Geneva Initiative, an unofficial model peace agreement negotiated between leading Palestinian and Israeli public figures. Mr. al-Omari is a lawyer by training and a graduate of Georgetown and Oxford

universities. Prior to his involvement in the Middle East peace process, he taught international law in Jordan and was active in human rights advocacy.



Professor Mark Rosenblum is an award-winning historian at Queens College, where he directs the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, and the Michael Harrington Center for Democratic Values & Social Change. He has been involved in track-two Middle East diplomacy for more than 30 years, and has met with all the major players in the region, including the past six presidents of the U.S. and President Obama. His most recent academic article is "The Quest for Impact: Lessons Learned from the American Jewish Peace Camp," in *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*, Robert O. Friedman, ed., Westview Press, 2012.



CERRU
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Light Kosher and
Halal Dinner.

Cinema on Sunday

FILM/DIALOGUE SERIES

Comedian Harmonists

German with English subtitles, 1997
Director: Joseph Vilsmaier

Sunday, March 17, 2013, 2 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Admission: \$5
Call 719-997-5730 for ticket information.



Founded by a Jewish musician, Harry Frommermann, in Berlin in 1928, the all-male, close-harmony German vocal sextet Comedian Harmonists soon became the international singing rage of the popular music scene, from coffeehouses and cabarets in Europe to the streets and stages of New York. With three Jews and three non-Jews blending their voices in both classical and popular tunes of the day, the Comedian Harmonists symbolized the best of the experimental and ecumenical

spirit of Weimar Berlin at its height. By 1934, however, the original group gave their last performance. The Nazis could not abide their incarnation of German-Jewish harmony. One of Bill Clinton's favorite films of 1997, Joseph Vilsmaier's *Comedian Harmonists* is as entertaining and historically enlightening as it is evocative of a lost time and place.



Discussant: Professor Emeritus Stuart Liebman, a widely published expert on the representation of history in European cinema, retired from Queens College in 2011, where he taught for 37 years and served as the first chair of the newly created Department of Media Studies. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and was a fellow in the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In 2006 he was named an Academy Film Scholar by the Association of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

This program has been made possible by the Jerry* and William Ungar Endowment Fund.

*deceased.

Music and Theater

Co-sponsored with the Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU)

Gerard Ederly Trio in *The Spirit of Sepharad*

Wednesday, March 13, 7:15 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
Free and open to the public

A soul-searching program, *The Spirit of Sepharad* traces the unique migration of the Sephardim from medieval Spain, across North Africa, to the Middle East and beyond. Combining music, narration, and film projections, this dynamic performance brings to life all the rich cultural strains of the Sephardic Diaspora. Featuring songs and instrumental music of secular and liturgical origin from Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Greece, Syria, Turkey, ancient Persia, the Balkans, Israel, and Kurdistan, it is a story of a rich cultural heritage that invites the possibility of coexistence, respect, and peace among all peoples.



Gerard Ederly, recipient of the Sephardic Musical Heritage Award, is recognized as a leading musical folklorist, singer, and guitarist—called “a master of Sephardic song” by the *New York Times*. He possesses a remarkable range of ethnic folk styles and traditions, singing in fifteen languages and speaking four fluently. Highlights of Ederly’s extensive performing career include engagements at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center “Out of Doors,” Merkin Concert Hall, Florence

Gould Hall, and the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. As an educator he preserves songs, stories, and melodies from around the world, prizing formal authenticity and an appreciation for how disparate cultures overlap, parallel each other, and often borrow from one another.

Ederly is joined by classical and jazz musician/composer Meg Okura on violin and Sean Kupisz on bass.

Meg Okura, a classically trained concert violinist with a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Juilliard, is a composer and jazz violinist, entwining her colorful and moving pieces with inspirations from various cultures and countries to create an enchanting experience. She has performed in Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, Lincoln Center, and London’s Barbican Centre. She also has her own group, the Pan Asian Chamber Jazz Ensemble.



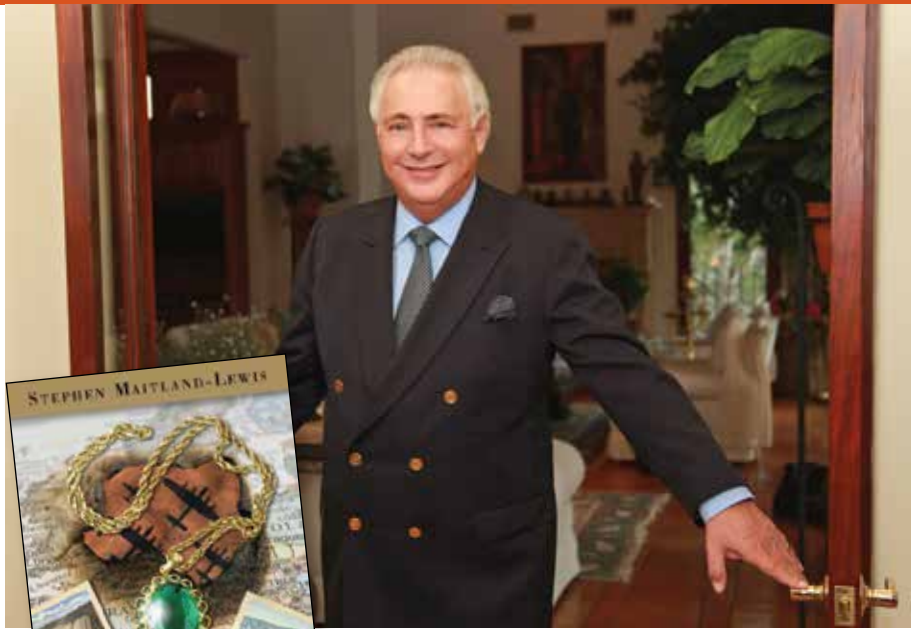
Sean Kupisz has composed music for PBS and has worked with numerous flamenco dance groups. He also is a tenured faculty member of the American Institute of Guitar, and has been involved in Gerard Ederly’s many concerts and recordings since 2000.

This program has been made possible through the generosity of Leon* and Elsi Levy.

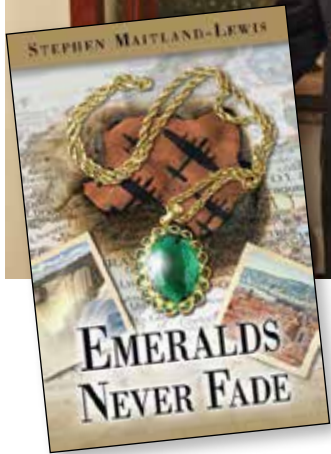
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New! Author Readings

The Journey of Author Stephen Maitland-Lewis from Louis Armstrong to *Emeralds Never Fade* (a story of the Holocaust).

Stephen Maitland-Lewis

Co-sponsored with the Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU)

**Sunday, April 21, 2013, 4 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
Free and open to the public**

As a 12-year-old Jewish boy in England in the post-War period, Stephen Maitland-Lewis wrote a letter to Louis Armstrong and was thrilled—and astonished—when it resulted in a private lunch with the famous musician. He continued to correspond with Louis and Lucille Armstrong for many years, even as his own illustrious career began to take shape.

An award-winning author, British attorney, and former international investment banker, Stephen Maitland-Lewis has held senior positions in the City of London, Kuwait, and on Wall Street before moving to California in 1991. Maitland-Lewis is a jazz aficionado and a trustee of the Louis Armstrong House Museum, a cultural center of Queens College. A member of PEN and the Authors Guild, Maitland-Lewis also serves on the Executive Advisory Committee

of the International Mystery Writer’s Festival. His first novel, *Hero on Three Continents*, received numerous accolades. His second, *Emeralds Never Fade*, a story of the Holocaust, is the 2012 Benjamin Franklin Award winner in the category of Historical Fiction and the 2011 Written Arts Award winner for Best Fiction. His new financial thriller, *Ambition*, was recently published.

In addition to reading from his novel, Maitland-Lewis will share fascinating stories from his life, including what inspired him to write *Emeralds Never Fade* as well as his friendship with Louis Armstrong and how that impacted his own life and career. Michael Cogswell, Director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum, will introduce Maitland-Lewis with a brief

multimedia presentation that highlights the correspondence between Armstrong and Maitland-Lewis from the Museum’s collections, as well as Armstrong’s profound love and respect for Jews. (Armstrong wore a Star of David around his neck and asked Lucille to always keep a box of matzoh in the house.)

Author book signing and reception to follow.



Please visit www.cerru.org



Jewish Lecture Series

New! Ancient Judaism: Lectures augmenting the Biblical Archaeology Slide-Lecture Series

A Different Past: How Models of Jewish Sects in the Roman Empire Have Changed

Arthur Shippee

**Thursday, April 4, 2013, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public**



Recipient of the Queens College President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, **Rev. Arthur Shippee**

has been teaching courses listed in the Jewish Studies Program for many years, covering the Bible, Abrahamic Religions, and Philosophy of Religion. An ordained Presbyterian minister, Prof. Shippee has advanced degrees from the Union Theological Seminary (New York) and Yale University. He has participated in digs at Tel Dan, and was an American Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. He is co-

editor of *The Pastor: Readings from the Patristic Period* (Fortress Press, 1990), and has written a number of articles and reviews on early Christianity. Last summer he served as a Teaching Elder Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA.

Given archaeological discoveries, methodological advances, and social changes, scholars discuss the versions of Abrahamic religions in late antiquity in dramatically different ways from previous generations. What was once "late Judaism" is now sometimes called "early Judaism," with Christian and Jewish scholars teaching each others' courses in a more secularized field. In this inaugural lecture, Prof. Shippee will provide an introduction to a wider focus on the Biblical Archaeology series. He will survey some of the discoveries and advances leading to the contemporary understandings of the range of Judaism in the Roman Empire before the emergence of Rabbinic Judaism and the Christian Church. The lecture will be accompanied by a PowerPoint slide show.

The Rescue of Jewish Cultural Treasures during the Holocaust

David Fishman

**Thursday, April 11, 2013, 7:15 p.m.
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public**



David E. Fishman is professor of Jewish History at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Dr. Fishman

also serves as director of Project Judaica, a Jewish Studies program based in Moscow that is sponsored jointly by the Jewish Theological

Seminary and Russian State University for the Humanities. He is the author of numerous books and articles on the history and culture of East European Jewry, including *Russia's First Modern Jews*, *The Rise of Modern Yiddish Culture*, and, most recently, *Nazi-Looted Jewish Archives in Moscow*. He is currently working on a book about the fate of Jewish cultural treasures in Vilna during and after the Holocaust.

This lecture, commemorating *Yom HaShoah*, will focus on events in Vilna (Wilno), which belonged to inter-War Poland. The lecture will be accompanied by a PowerPoint slide show.

This program is endowed by Marvin and Celina Zborowski.

Center for Jewish Studies

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Director, Center for Jewish Studies

Professor Evan Zimroth
Associate Director of the Jewish Studies Program

Dr. Diane Spielmann
Assistant Director, Center for Jewish Studies

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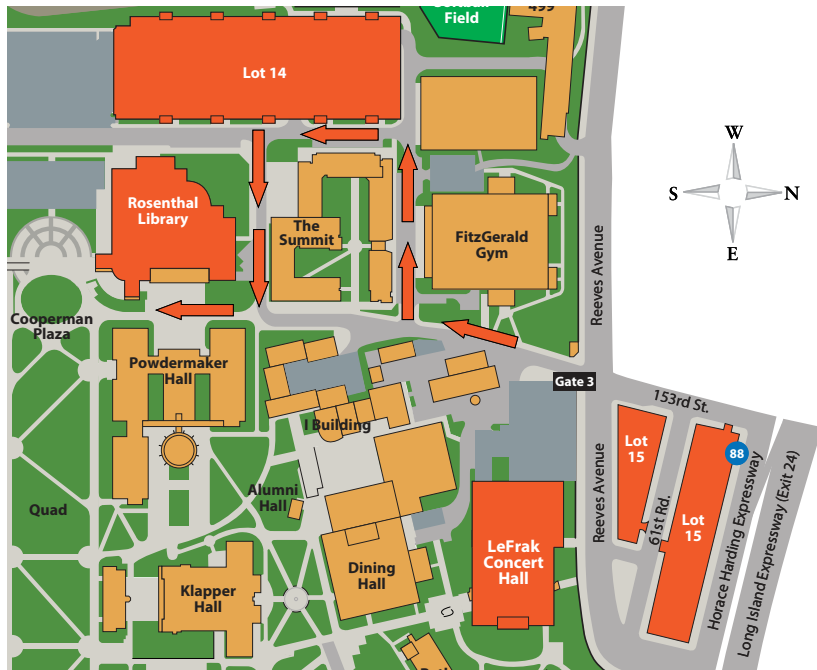
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Getting to Queens College

Free parking available on campus for LeFrak Concert Hall events: Lot 15, Reeves Avenue.



BY CAR

From Long Island and Points East

Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 23 (Main Street). Make a left at the light and an immediate left at the next traffic light (Horace Harding Expressway/L.I.E. service road eastbound). Continue on the service road to Reeves Avenue. Make a right turn onto Reeves Avenue and another right onto 61st Road to parking lot #15.

From Manhattan and points West: Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 24 (Kissena Boulevard) and make the first right turn onto Reeves Avenue and another right onto 61st Road to parking lot #15.

Elevator Access for LeFrak Concert Hall

(no hills or steps to climb): Cross Reeves Avenue and walk through the opening in the big iron fence to the rear entrance of the

LeFrak Concert Hall building. The pathway through the opening in the fence leads directly into the building. Proceed down the entrance hallway until you see the elevator on your left. An attendant will take you up in the elevator to the Concert Hall level.

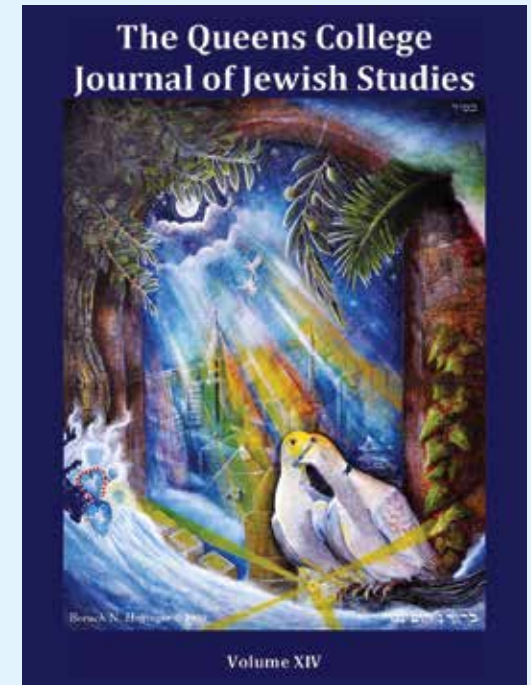
Parking for Rosenthal Library, Room 230: Lot 14 or 5

Make a right turn onto Reeves Ave. (see "By Car," above). Go to Gate 3 to enter the campus. Park in Lot 14 (see area on map above Rosenthal Library) or Lot 5 (beneath Lot 14). Guests will then walk across to the Library. Follow the arrows on the map to the side of the building, and enter the doorway with the handicap sign. Entrance to Room 230 is on the left.

Nine Good Reasons

Why Your Contribution to The Center For Jewish Studies at Queens College Is a Wise Investment:

- **An Award-Winning Public Education Program** that has been singled out by the U.S. Department of Education for a grant to create a new Center For Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding.
- **A Distinguished and Growing Faculty**, six of whom have won the college's coveted Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- **Creative Curriculum That Has Won National Acclaim** and has been featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *New York Times*, *New York Jewish Week*, National Public Radio, CBS-TV national news, and a host of other electronic and print media.
- **A Dynamic and Expanding Culture & Arts Program** that includes world-class scholars and educators, renowned diplomats and political analysts, virtuoso musicians and singers, and compelling cinema.
- **Our Diverse and Talented Students**, who speak dozens of languages and represent a multitude of different ethnic, racial, and religious groups, all studying Jewish topics across more than a dozen academic disciplines.
- **The Only Jewish Studies Journal in the Nation That Is Totally Student-Produced:** The *Journal's* motto, drawn from Pirkei Avot (4:1), is an invitation to join us: "Who is Wise? One who learns from everyone."
- **Breakthrough Courses in Bukharian History and Culture** that have been heralded as some of the first such courses offered in the nation.
- **Asking Difficult Questions and Providing Balanced Answers** to the most pressing issues facing the Jewish people today.
- **New Community Initiative** dramatically expands our outreach program off campus which includes compelling interfaith dialogues and discussions, powerful film series and performances.



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