Directions, Parking & Tickets

For more information, please call the Center for Jewish Studies Office, 718-997-5730.

Parking and Transportation
Free Parking available on campus.
To LeFrak Hall events: Lot 15, Reeves Avenue.

Getting to Queens College
By car:
From Long Island and points East: Long Island Expressway to exit 23 (Main Street). Left at light and immediate left at next traffic light (Horace Harding Expressway/ L.I.E. service road eastbound). Continue on service road to Reeves Avenue. Right turn onto Reeves and another right on 61st Road to parking lot #15. See map.

From Manhattan and points West: Long Island Expressway to exit 24 (Kissena Blvd.) and first right turn onto Reeves Avenue and another right on 61st Road to parking lot #15. See map.

By Public Transportation:
Take the Q17, Q25, Q34, or Q74 bus to the corner of Kissena Blvd. and Horace Harding Expressway (L.I.E. service road). Buses can be coordinated with E, F, N, R, G or #7 subway trains.

Elevator Access to LeFrak Concert Hall: Cross Reeves Avenue and walk through the opening in the big iron fence to the rear entrance of the LeFrak Concert Hall building. Pathway through the opening in the fence leads directly into the building. Proceed down the entrance hallway to the elevator on your left. An attendant will take you up in the elevator to the Concert Hall level. This is not a self-service elevator; it requires the attendant with a special key. Stairs from the ground floor, to the right of the entrance as you enter, take you to the Concert Hall level. See map.

Advance tickets (for individual events or any series) may be purchased in person or by phone and charged to a major credit card no later than one full week prior to the event. Ticket(s) will be mailed at no extra charge. Please visit or call the Box Office in the Colden Auditorium on the Queens College campus during regular Box Office hours to order your tickets: 718-793-8080: Mondays, 10 am–4 pm; Wednesdays, 12 noon–8 pm; and Fridays, 12 noon–4 pm.

Day/Night of event tickets, if available, will be sold in the LeFrak Hall foyer on a first-come, first-served basis approximately one hour prior to the program.
Calendar of Center Events

Fall 2006

September
SEPTEMBER 13
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
LECTURE SERIES: Professor John Maxwell O’Brien, Romans, Christians and Jews: Antisemitism in Historical Perspective

October
OCTOBER 4
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES:
Professor Amihai Mazar, Archaeological Excavations in the Beth-Shean Valley: What Do They Teach About the History of Early Israel?

OCTOBER 18
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
LECTURE SERIES: Dr. Peter Ascoli
Julius Rosenwald: Business Leader, Pioneering Philanthropist, Humanitarian

OCTOBER 25
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
LECTURE SERIES: Professor Raymond P. Scheindlin, Judah Halevi’s Pilgrimage: The Song of the Distant Dove

November
NOVEMBER 2
Thursday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES:
Professor Jodi Magness, Ancient Synagogues in the Land of Israel

NOVEMBER 5
Sunday, 2 pm
Colden Auditorium
MOLLOV MEMORIAL PROGRAM:
Interview with Tovah Feldshuh and musical performance by the David Glukh Klezmer Ensemble

NOVEMBER 8
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
LECTURE SERIES: Professor Warren Zev Harvey, The Earthly and Heavenly Jerusalem in Midrash and Jewish Philosophy

NOVEMBER 15
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES:
Professor Ronny Reich, Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Biblical Jerusalem

December
DECEMBER 3
Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
CINEMA ON SUNDAYS: The Legacy of Jedwabne
DISCUSSANT: Professor Stuart Lieberman

DECEMBER 6
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
LECTURE SERIES: Yale Strom
From Minsk to Manhattan: The Revival of Yiddish Culture Through Klezmer in Di Alte Heym

Spring 2007

This listing does not include the SPRING JEWISH LECTURE SERIES

February
FEBRUARY 25
Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
CINEMA ON SUNDAYS: Left Luggage
DISCUSSANT: Dr. Eric Goldman

March
MARCH 11
Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
CINEMA ON SUNDAYS: Pillar of Salt
DISCUSSANT: Professor Jane Gerber

MARCH 18
Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
MUSIC & THEATER SERIES:
Avi Albrecht & Benjamin Warschawski present Masters of Song
Serving in these positions has been exciting, exhilarating, and, ultimately, exhausting. It has also been enormously fulfilling, and I will remain forever grateful to Queens College for having afforded me the opportunity to serve and lead the Jewish Studies endeavor on campus.

As I reflect back on the numerous initiatives of the Center these last years, I take great pride in its accomplishments. (See pp. 25–28 for a complete list.) These resulted from the pursuit of a single vision: to embrace all the potential stakeholders—students, alumni, faculty, administration, and staff, the broader community off campus, and the world of Judaica scholars nationally and internationally—in a common enterprise, and to provide each of these groups with points of access through which they could participate in our activities. I wanted Jewish Studies to be and to be perceived as a thriving academic and cultural center, one that is vibrant, dynamic, interesting, engaging, worthwhile, and open to all.

All of my efforts these last years have focused on translating this vision into reality, and were animated by a single goal: to secure Jewish Studies at QC as a preeminent Jewish intellectual and cultural resource in the Queens/Long Island region, and beyond. I believe we have succeeded in that mission.

That Jewish Studies has achieved what it has, that it has gained enormous credibility and visibility on and off campus, is due to the synergistic efforts of whole cadres of people. No one person can take full credit. I thank my superb faculty colleagues, nationally and internationally recognized scholars and award-winning teachers, without whose participation our interdisciplinary program and sense of intellectual community would flounder. I offer special thanks to those who more recently served as my informal advisory kitchen cabinet: Professors Thomas Bird, Elisheva Carlebach, Stuart Liebman, and Evan Zimroth. I thank our excellent students, without whom Jewish Studies on campus would be dull and uninspiring. I thank the QC administration and the college’s numerous academic and non-academic units without whose support every Center initiative would have been stillborn. I thank the voluntary lay Advisory Board of the Center, chaired so wonderfully by Arthur Anderman, without whose wisdom, work, and wealth the Center could not be sustained. I thank the public elected officials who help underwrite, and hence make possible, so many Center programs: State Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn, State Senators Frank Padavan and Toby Ann Stavisky, and City Council Representatives James Gennaro, Melinda Katz, and David Weprin. And I thank so very much all of you who attend our diverse programs and those of you who annually join our Friends of the Center group. The Center could simply not function without your participation and support.

Finally, I express my deep gratitude to my two secretaries, Rita Shliselberg of the Center for Jewish Studies, and Pat Tortorici of the Jewish Studies Program. They are exceptional people who perform their jobs above and beyond the call of duty, with great love, dedication, and unwavering commitment to Jewish Studies at this college. In very large measure, the success of Jewish Studies at Queens College is their success. I will miss very much our sense of teamwork, our working, joking, and sharing good times together.

To my successors, Professors William Helmreich and Mark Rosenblum, all I can say is that I hope and trust that they will build on the existing foundation of Jewish Studies, without, however, feeling unduly constrained by what has been done in the past. I encourage them to stamp their own imprint on the Center and its academic program, to provide both units with their creative energy and acknowledged great talent, and to implement their own visions and dreams for the future of Jewish Studies on this campus. I wish them only the very best of luck and success. Judging by some of their ambitious plans noted in their Prospective (p. 5), the Center is in very good hands indeed.

Enjoy this Culture & Arts Guide, which outlines many of the wonderful events already planned for the coming academic year, and which highlights some very special programs of the past year.

I extend my very best wishes to all.

Professor Benny Kraut
Former Director
Center for Jewish Studies and Jewish Studies Program

This is the final Culture & Arts Guide produced under my direction. As most everyone knows by now, after eight-and-a-half years of administrative leadership, I have stepped down as Director of the Center for Jewish Studies and the Jewish Studies Program as of July 1, 2006.
As we prepare to build on the solid foundation that Professor Benny Kraut— with his boundless energy, imaginative programming, and bold leadership—has left us, we want to share a few of our ideas and potential new initiatives for the future.

In the works is a possible Conference on the State of World Jewry. Suggested participants include Thomas Friedman, Bernard Lewis, Malcolm Hoenlein, John Ruskay, Norman Podhoretz, and Yossi Klein Halevi.

Preliminary discussions have already been held with Tel Aviv University about a student exchange program. A chief component of the program would be to have Israeli students spend a year of study at Queens College, and, through courses, internships, and conferences, to have them learn about the American political system and how significant aspects of it might be usefully appropriated by Israel. Israel has had 32 governments in 58 years and there are growing calls among its leaders, led by President Moshe Katsav, for genuine reform and change.

Also under consideration is the creation of a major center for the study of Bukharan and Persian Jewish history and culture. There are hundreds of students from these communities at Queens College, and its leaders have already been approached about the idea.

Contacts have been initiated with scholars in Hispanic studies to explore the possibility of establishing an institute that would study the relationships between the Jewish and Hispanic communities. Jews have had a long history of contacts with both Spain and Latin American countries and there are unique aspects of that experience worthy of further study. One example is that of Jews who found shelter during the Holocaust in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and elsewhere. Another is the political ties forged between the communities in this country.

The academic program in Jewish studies is also in the process of enriching its curriculum in Jewish ethics with the presence of renowned Jewish scholars, including Moshe Halbertal of Hebrew University.

As the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel approaches, we have begun planning a special mini-course and series of lectures with some of Israel’s most distinguished statesmen and scholars, who will share their insights on the founding of their nation and the challenges it currently confronts. Potential participants include former President of Israel Yitzhak Navon and the former Defense Minister and Ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens.

If we can implement most or even some of these ideas, Jewish Studies on campus will have been substantially enriched. We very much look forward to addressing the challenges ahead, and to have our engaging and stimulating programs sustain or ignite your interest in Jewish Studies on this campus. We hope to greet you at Jewish Studies events in the future.

Professor William B. Helmreich
Director, Center for Jewish Studies
Professor Mark W. Rosenblum
Director, Jewish Studies Program

Meet the New Directors

William B. Helmreich

William B. Helmreich is Professor of Sociology and Judaic Studies at the City University Graduate Center and CCNY. He has also taught at Yale, Yeshiva, and Hebrew Universities. A former Woodrow Wilson Fellow, he is the author of 11 books, including Against All Odds: Holocaust Survivors and the Successful Lives They Made in America, winner of the 1992 National Jewish Book Award. His areas of interest include Jewish education, Holocaust, the Middle East, religion, history, and the study of prejudice. Professor Helmreich has written for The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Newsday, as well as for scholarly journals. He has appeared frequently on radio and TV, including “Larry King Live,” “Oprah,” “The CBS Morning News,” and “Sally Jesse Raphael.” Most recently, he was a guest anchor on NBC TV. Currently, he is working on a book about the sociology of risk behavior, or, to put it another way, why people do stupid things.

Mark W. Rosenblum

Mark W. Rosenblum is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Michael Harrington Center, Queens College. The author of numerous scholarly and popular articles on his field of expertise, the Middle East, Professor Rosenblum has appeared as a Middle East analyst on CNN, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, and National Public Radio. He has met with virtually all the major players in the region, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, King Abdullah II, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. His project, “The Middle East and America: Clash of Civilizations or Meeting of Minds,” seeks modes of reconciliation for all interested in the Middle East, and recently won a major Ford Foundation grant. He was also one of two winners of an award in the field of Religion, Conflict, and Reconciliation by the Clinton Global Initiative. In 1999 the Forward newspaper named Professor Rosenblum as one of the 50 most influential American Jews, and in 2003 he received the Queens College President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Romans, Christians, and Jews: Antisemitism in Historical Perspective

SEPTEMBER 13
Wednesday, 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

John Maxwell O’Brien is Professor of History at Queens College. Holding a PhD in Ancient and Medieval History from the University of Southern California, Professor O’Brien is renowned for his biography of Alexander the Great, which has been translated into Greek and Italian. He has written extensively on the Crusades, the Inquisition, and Jews and heretics in Medieval France. Having lectured widely on the topic of Antisemitism, and a contributor to the Encyclopedia Judaica, he was the recipient of a Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Currently Professor O’Brien is engaged in research for a book entitled The Anatomy of Persecution: A Comparative Study of the Roman Persecution of Christians and the Christian Persecution of Jews. A member of the Queens College faculty since 1965, he has been awarded the Presidential Citation for Outstanding Teaching by three Queens College presidents.

The Jacob & Rose Gold and Abraham & Esther Smith Memorial Lecture, endowed by Simon Gold, Esq. and Dr. Roslyn Gold.

Julius Rosenwald: Business Leader, Pioneering Philanthropist, Humanitarian

OCTOBER 18
Wednesday, 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

Peter Ascoli is on the faculty of Spertus College in Chicago. He has taught history at Utah State University and later served as director of development for the Chicago Opera Theater and Steppenwolf Theater Company, and has worked as a fund-raiser for both the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago. His articles
and reviews have appeared in the *Journal of Illinois History, Reviews in European History, Sixteenth Century Journal, American Historical Review, Journal of Modern History,* and *French Historical Review.* He holds degrees from the University of California, Berkeley (PhD), Northwestern University (Master of Management), University of Chicago (BA), and St. Catherines College in Oxford, England (BA).

Following the lecture, Dr. Ascoli will participate in a book signing of his recently published work, *Julius Rosenwald: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South,* which the Center is happy to sell at a substantial discount.

The Jack Lummer, Louis & Ida Lummer and Rose Lummer Memorial Lecture, endowed by The Lummer Fund.

**Judah Halevi’s Pilgrimage: The Song of the Distant Dove**

**OCTOBER 25**

Wednesday, 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

Raymond P. Scheindlin is Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary and directs the Seminary’s Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry. He holds a PhD in Arabic literature from Columbia University. His first books were a study of an eleventh-century Arab poet from Seville and a reference book, *201 Arabic Verbs,* which is widely used by students. Professor Scheindlin’s main field of research is the encounter of Hebrew and Arabic cultures in Spain, especially as embodied in the poetry of the two traditions. He also pursues an interest in literary translation, having published translations of medieval and modern Hebrew works of fiction and a verse translation of the biblical book of Job (1998). His two books on medieval Hebrew poetry—*Wine, Women, and Death: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Good Life* (1986), dealing with secular poetry; and *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel, and the Soul* (1991), dealing with religious poetry—reflect both the academic and the literary aspects of his career. His most recent books are the widely used textbook *A Short History of the Jewish People* (1998) and *The Literature of Al-Andalus* (2000), a volume in the Cambridge History of Arabic Literature series, of which he was co-editor. A Guggenheim fellow in 1988, Professor Scheindlin is a fellow and executive board member of the American Academy of Jewish Research; he received the Jewish Cultural Achievement Award of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture in 2004.

*The Morris Levy Memorial Lecture, endowed by Leon and Elsi Levy.*

**The Joyce Mollov Memorial Program**

**NOVEMBER 5**

Sunday, 2 pm, Golden Auditorium

Interview with celebrated actress *Tovah Feldshuh,* and a musical program by the *David Glukh Klezmer Ensemble.*

*The Joyce Mollov Memorial Program, endowed by Norman Mollov, Family & Friends.*

**The Earthly and Heavenly Jerusalem in Midrash and Jewish Philosophy**

**NOVEMBER 8**

Wednesday, 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

Warren Zev Harvey is Professor of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. An expert on Medieval Jewish philosophy, he has published scores of critically significant essays on major philosophical thinkers such as Moses Maimonides, Hasdai Crescas, Joseph Albo, and Benedict Spinoza. He has illuminated vital themes in the areas of Jewish theology, ethics, biblical exegesis, and messianism. His books include *Physics and Metaphysics in Hasdai Crescas.* Professor Harvey served as co-editor of *Tarbiz,* the preeminent Israeli journal in Jewish studies, and as director of Misgav Yerushalayim, the Center for Research and Study of the Sephardi and Oriental Heritage at the Hebrew University. Before moving to Jerusalem, he taught at McGill University. He has also been Visiting Professor at Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown, and Yeshiva University. Professor Harvey was the inaugural Dean Ernest Schwarcz Eminent Visiting Professor of Jewish Philosophy at Queens College in Fall 2000, and returned to Queens in Fall 2003 and Fall 2006 in the same capacity.

*The Dean Ernest Schwarcz Memorial Lecture, underwritten by the Marta & Ernest Schwarcz Endowment Fund and by Queens College.*

**From Minsk to Manhattan: The Revival of Yiddish Culture Through Klezmer in *Di Alte Heym***

**DECEMBER 6**

Wednesday, 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

Yale Strom, director, composer, musician, writer, and photographer, is a pioneer among klezmer revivalists. Having done extensive field research in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans, he has become the world’s leading ethnographer-artist of klezmer. He has formed two klezmer bands, Hot Pastrami in New York and Klazj in San Diego, and has composed his own Jewish music, ranging from quartets to a symphony, which combines klezmer with Hasidic nignim, Rom, jazz, classical, Balkan, and Sephardic motifs. His many CDs, including *Garden of Yidn, Café Jew Zoo,* and *DVEYKES,* have been celebrated internationally as outstanding landmark musical treats. Hailed as a “commanding bandleader and composer,” “one of the best klezmer musicians in the country,” Mr. Strom has also contributed to nine books based on his musical research, and directed five award-winning documentary films.

*The Laura H. Levitan Lecture in Yiddish Culture, Language, and Literature, established by L. Jules Levitan, daughter Dr. Emily Shore, and son Peter Levitan, Esq.*
Archaeological Excavations in the Beth-Shean Valley: What Do They Teach About the History of Early Israel?

OCTOBER 4
Wednesday, 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

Amihai Mazar holds the Eleazar Sukenik Chair in the Archaeology of Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Formerly head of the University’s Institute of Archaeology, he has served as a member of the Archaeological Council of Israel and of the Council of Israel Antiquities Authority. He has also held visiting positions at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University, and he is currently Vice President of the Anglo-Israel Archaeology Society.

A dedicated and prolific field archaeologist, Professor Mazar has been director of 11 major archaeological projects, including the aqueducts of Jerusalem, Khirbet Abu et Twein, Giloh, Hurvath Shillah, Tell Qasile, and, more recently, the digs at Tel Beth Shean and Tel Rehov, both part of the Beth Shean Valley Archaeological Project. He has lectured around the world on his finds, at both scholarly and popular lectureships, including such preeminent venues as the British Academy, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Oxford University, the University of Vienna, and the Semitic Museum at Harvard University.

Among his major publications are:
- Excavations at Tell Qasile, Part One: The Philistine Sanctuary; Excavations at Tell Qasile, Part Two: Various Finds, the Pottery, Conclusions, Appendices; Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, which has been translated into Russian, Japanese, and Portuguese;
- Timnah—A Biblical Town in the Sorek Valley; Timnah I: Stratigraphy and Architecture; Timnah II: The Finds from the First Millennium BCE; and most recently, Excavations at Tel Beth Shean 1989–1996, Volume I, From the Late Bronze Age II B to the Medieval Period.

Reserved seating: $5 for each program or $12 subscription discount for all three. Please visit or call the Colden Box Office for tickets, 718-793-8080, during its regular hours. If available, tickets are on sale in the LeFrak foyer prior to each lecture.

Free parking in Lot 15 on Reeves Avenue (behind the Music Building) and easy elevator access to the Concert Hall. For travel directions to Queens College and parking/elevator information, please turn to p. 2.

This series has been made possible by a New York State Legislative Grant obtained by the Honorable Frank Padavan, New York State Senator, 11th District.
Ancient Synagogues in the Land of Israel

NOVEMBER 2
Thursday, 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

Jodi Magness holds the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism Chair in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From 1992 to 2002 she was Associate/Assistant Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology in the Departments of Classics and Art History at Tufts University, Medford, MA. She received her BA in Archaeology and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1977), and a PhD in Classical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania (1989). From 1990 to 1992 Professor Magnes was Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology at the Center for Old World Archaeology and Art at Brown University.

Professor Magness’ book *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls* won the 2003 Biblical Archaeology Society’s Award for Best Popular Book in Archaeology in 2001–2002, and was selected as an “Outstanding Academic Book for 2003” by *Choice*. Her other books include *The Archaeology of the Early Islamic Settlement in Palestine, Debating Qumran*, a co-edited festschrift entitled *Hessed ve-Emet: Studies in Honor of Ernest S. Frerichs*, and *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology circa 200–800 C.E.* In addition, she has published numerous articles in journals and edited volumes. Her research interests, which focus on Palestine in the Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic periods, include ancient pottery, ancient synagogues, Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Roman army in the East. Between 1978–2002, Professor Reich served at the Israel Antiquities Authority as field archaeologist, director of documentation, and district archaeologist. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles on *Miqwat*: Ancient Jerusalem; neo-Assyrian architecture in the Land of Israel; and various aspects of life in the Second Temple period. In 2000 he was awarded the distinguished Jerusalem Prize for Archaeology.

As a hobby, Professor Reich is deeply involved in translating into Hebrew works of poetry, prose, and treatises on architecture, such as Vitruvii *De Architectura, libri decem*, Andrea Palladio’s *I Quattro Libri dell’Architettura*, 1570, and Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola, *Regola delli Cinque Ordini d’Architettura*, Venezia, 1562.
The Gerard Edery Ensemble
presents
*Flamenco Sepharad*

**NOVEMBER 19**
Sunday, 2 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall

Join master singer/guitarist *Gerard Edery*, percussionist extraordinaire *Rex Benincasa*, acclaimed soprano *Nell Snaidas*, brilliant Flamenco guitarist *Cristian Puig*, gifted bass/cajon player *Sean Kupisz*, and the beguiling Flamenco dancing of *Rick Santiago & Barbara Martinez* and be enchanted by a passionate program of music, song, and dance from the Sephardic and Andalusian worlds.

This magnificent ensemble explores the rich complex of musical traditions bequeathed to us by a cosmopolitan Renaissance civilization that reached its peak in the Golden Age of Spain. Commanding songs in some dozen languages, including French, Spanish, Ladino, Hebrew, and Arabic, these gifted musicians and dancers engage the antique repertoire as a living legacy, combining stylistic authority with an immense creative flair.

This unique combination of Sephardic song and flamenco rhythm makes for a fiery performance unlike any other. With new arrangements of traditional Sephardic repertoire and original compositions by Gerard Edery, the ensemble seamlessly fuses the world’s most passionate music with the brilliant and sensual dancing of Barbara Martinez and Rick Santiago. Emotive vocals, flamenco guitars, world-beat percussion, and Spanish dance make this show a must see!
Avi Albrecht & Benjamin Warschawski present Masters of Song

MARCH 18
Sunday, 5:45 pm (note special time), LeFrak Concert Hall

Avi Albrecht and Benjamin Warschawski join to perform an unforgettable program featuring a potpourri of musical favorites, including Opera, Broadway, Mamoloshen, and Hebrew favorites.

Avi Albrecht has appeared in every Cantors Concert with International Stars at Queens College for the Center for Jewish Studies. He has sung in every major city in the USA, Canada, and Israel (his homeland), receiving accolades and standing ovations at every concert, from Portland, Oregon to Portland, Maine and from the icy plains of Edmonton, Canada to the warm shores of Miami, Florida.

It was in Israel as Chief Soloist of the Army Choir that Mr. Albrecht honed his skills. He entertained thousands of troops in army camps and outposts, always pushing himself to give the best possible performance, a trait that continues in every concert, no matter where or for whom it may be. Now at home on any stage from cabaret to concert hall, Mr. Albrecht weaves his large repertoire skillfully and passionately. He has performed in Avery Fisher Hall of Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, the Kravis Center, the Meyerhoff Concert Hall, the Mall in Washington, DC, and Mann auditorium, among countless other venues.

Mr. Albrecht performed with the Israel Philharmonic in celebration of Israel’s 50th year anniversary in a stirring event in the presence of President Ezer Weizmann. The performance was repeated in New York with the Queens Symphony Orchestra with Mayor Rudy Giuliani and many Jewish leaders in attendance. In addition, Mr. Albrecht has had many engagements with the Prague Symphony in Czechoslovakia, the Jerusalem Symphony in Israel and the USA, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Major national conventions and main events that have featured Mr. Albrecht include Hadassah, the GA (Council of Jewish Federations), CAGE, American Sephardi Federation, Ellis Island Re-opening Celebration, Shaare Zedek Hospital Benefit concerts, B’nai Zion and the International Assembly of Bar Ilan University. Recently, Mr. Albrecht has embarked on a passionate volunteer task of supporting with concerts and events throughout the USA a campaign to “Feed the Hungry Children” in Israel through the Israeli philanthropic organization, Meir Panim. Many cantors in the USA are performing in their communities with no compensation other than the great satisfaction of helping where help is needed.

Benjamin Warschawski recently concluded a triumphant season appearing as Alfredo in Verdi’s La Traviata and Pinkerton in Madame Butterfly with New York City Opera at Lincoln Center. During that same year, he sang the title role in Puccini’s Edgar with Dicapo Opera, Cavaradossi in Tosca with Augusta Opera, and concert engagements with the Great Neck Opera, North Kansas Symphony Orchestra, and recitals in New York, Miami, Boca Raton, Los Angeles, Montreal, and Toronto.

Mr. Warschawski has previously appeared in Rigoletto with Annapolis Opera, Carmen with Tri-Cities Opera, Un Ballo in Maschera, Dialogue of the Carmelites, and L’Incoronazione di Poppea with the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv. He has sung with the American Symphony Orchestra in Alice Tully Hall; performed in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the Fairfax Symphony; Handel’s Messiah; and Menotti’s Amahl and the Night Visitors with the National Chamber Orchestra; and was guest artist for a holiday concert at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton.

Benjamin Warschawski has performed with Sherril Milnes, Jerome Hines, Dominic Cossa, Brent Ellis, and William Warfield. He was a Metropolitan Opera Regional winner, and also appeared in the Rose Ponselle Competition Winner’s Concert for three years.
The Jolly Paupers
(Freylekhe Kabtsonim)

OCTOBER 29
Sunday, 2 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall
(DVD; Yiddish, with English subtitles; 65 minutes; 1938)

A heartwarming musical comedy, starring the famed comic duo Dzikaj and Shumacher, the film portrays two small-town "entrepreneurs" who believe they have struck oil in a local field. The whole town finds out and thus begins a hilarious comedy of errors, including millionaire investors, American schemers, and insane asylums. Despite many setbacks and intramural quarreling, the two heroes persevere and are relentless in their efforts to escape their misery and their refusal to give in to despair. The film combines the rare talents of the Warsaw Art Players, and is a wonderful example of a comedy revue theater, full of satirical monologues and skits, which provided Jews of that day, as of today, with an escape and an opportunity to laugh.

Discussant: Professor Emanuel S. Goldsmith

Emanuel S. Goldsmith is Professor of Hebrew and Yiddish at Queens College. He is the author of Modern Yiddish Culture: The Story of the Yiddish Language Movement and the two-volume Yiddish Literature in America (in Yiddish). He is also the co-editor of Thinkers and Teachers of Modern Judaism; The American Judaism of Mordecai Kaplan; Events and Movements in Modern Judaism; and Dynamic Judaism: The Essential Writings of Mordecai Kaplan. Professor Goldsmith is a member of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought and on the executive committee of the Congress for Jewish Culture. His essays and articles have appeared in numerous collective volumes, journals, and anthologies.

The Legacy of Jedwabne

DECEMBER 3
Sunday, 2 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall
(DVD; 65 minutes; color and b&w; 2004)

The Legacy of Jedwabne is a feature-length documentary that tells the story of a pogrom in Jedwabne, Poland, a town in which Jews lived side by side with local
Poles for over two centuries, and in which they constituted more than half of the town’s 2500 residents. Relations were peaceful for the most part until July 10, 1941, just days after Nazi occupation, when almost the entire Jewish population was murdered by their Polish neighbors. This deeply moving and troubling film explores the incident but also probes the far-reaching implications for the importance of historical memory and its use by groups in the construction of group identity. Specifically, it asks what are the ramifications of history for Jewish-gentile relations, and how can positive contemporary intergroup relationships be promoted in the wake of sharply conflicting memories of the past?

**Discussant:** Professor Stuart Liebman

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**Left Luggage**

**FEBRUARY 25**

**Sunday, 2 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall**

(DVD; 100 minutes; color; 1998)

A survivor of the Holocaust (Maximilian Schell) had buried all of his possessions when he fled Antwerp with his family during World War II. Twenty-five years later, he is obsessed with finding the hiding place. Meanwhile, he and his wife, also a survivor, have raised a daughter to be a non-religious Jew. On the other side of town, a Hasidic mother (Isabella Rosselini) is looking for a nanny for her children. The survivor’s daughter, desperately in need of money to support herself, takes the job, though she admits to “detesting these people.” The development of relationships is dramatically compelling, the acting powerful, and the story endearing.

**Discussant:** Dr. Eric Goldman

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**Pillar of Salt**

**MARCH 11**

**Sunday, 2 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall**

(DVD; 60 minutes; French, with English subtitles; color; Israel, 1980)

Based on the acclaimed autobiographical novel by Tunisian-born Jewish philosopher Albert Memmi, this film is an unusual coming-of-age drama about young Alexander, age 13, set in the Jewish quarter of Tunis. It mixes the story about childhood, family ties, and community with insights into class, colonialism, and religious conflict. It evocatively captures and recreates the atmosphere of the day, using Tunisian music, poetic narration, and attention to detail. The film affords a rare opportunity to see the unique customs of Jewish life in Tunisia, including Sabbath dinner and Alexander’s bar mitzvah.

**Discussant:** Professor Jane Gerber

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*Stuart Liebman* is Professor of Media Studies, former chair of the Department of Media Studies at Queens College, and coordinator of the Film Certificate Program at the CUNY Graduate Center. Specializing in early European and postwar German cinema, his publications include the award-winning 1995 issue of the journal *October*, which analyzed the mass rape of German women after World War II. He has written extensively on early French filmmakers such as Renoir, Dulac, and Epstein. He is now engaged in teaching and research on the representation of the Holocaust in film, and recently returned from a sabbatical in Washington, DC, where he held a prestigious fellowship from the Holocaust Museum to study postwar European films on the Holocaust.

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*Eric Goldman* is founder and president of Ergo Media, Inc., a video publishing company specializing in Jewish and Israeli videos. He received his PhD in Cinema Studies from NYU, and holds graduate degrees in Contemporary Jewish Studies and Theater Arts from Brandeis University. A former director of the Jewish Media Service, he was a curator of film for the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, organizer of an Israeli film series at the 92nd Street Y and the Yiddish film series of Hebrew Union College. Currently, he curates and moderates film programs for YIVO at the Center for Jewish History, is film reviewer for New Jersey’s *The Jewish Standard*, and is artistic director of the Philadelphia Jack Wolgin Jewish Film Festival. He has taught at Queens College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the University of Pennsylvania, and published the soon-to-be reissued book, *Visions, Images and Dreams: Yiddish Film Past and Present*.

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*Jane S. Gerber* is Professor of Jewish History and director of the Institute of Sephardic Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the author of numerous books and articles on the history of Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewry, including *The Jews of Spain*, which won the National Jewish Book Award in 1993. She is the past president of the Association for Jewish Studies, and has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Jewish Theological Seminary.
Faculty Speakers Bureau: Bringing Higher Education into the Community

The Queens College Center for Jewish Studies Speakers Bureau has been established as a public service to the community to foster learning and education about Jews and their culture. Supplementing the Center’s numerous, varied, and rich cultural programs on the campus, the Speakers Bureau seeks to serve organizations and agencies that wish to sponsor stimulating, appealing programs for their members in the community. Its faculty resources are also available to educational institutions, such as high schools and colleges.

The Speakers Bureau is composed of outstanding faculty members from Queens College who are associated with the Jewish Studies Program on campus. Many are award-winning scholars and teachers and internationally recognized figures whose opinions on historical and contemporary issues are much sought after by academicians and laymen alike. They are specialists in Jewish history, sociology, philosophy, political science, music, media, and language and literature. Specific subject areas in which they will speak include:

- American Judaism
- Antisemitism
- Biblical Studies
- Hasidism
- Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture
- Holocaust: History, Film, Literature, and Theology
- Zionism
- Contemporary Israel
- American-Israeli Relations
- Israel-Arab Conflict and Peacemaking
- Jews and Film
- Jewish-Christian Relations
- Jewish History: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern
- East European Jewry
- German Jewry
- Sephardi Jewish History and Culture
- American Jewry
- New York City
- Jewish Humor
- Jewish Labor Movement
- American Jewish Literature
- Jewish Music/Jews and Music
- Jewish Thought, Philosophy, and Messianism
- Women in Judaism and Jewish Life
- Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture

Participating Faculty

In addition to its own faculty, the Queens College Center for Jewish Studies annually hosts visiting faculty from the United States and abroad who may also be available to participate in the Speakers Bureau. Please keep in mind that faculty also go on leave from time to time and may be unavailable.

For updates on available speakers, please call the Jewish Studies Office, 718-997-4530, or consult the Center’s Web site, www.qc.cuny.edu/Jewish_Studies. Speakers must be booked at least six weeks in advance.

Professor William Helmreich is also available for speaking engagements.

A comprehensive booklet on the Speakers Bureau listing all the faculty and their specific topics is available from the Jewish Studies Office.
Over 100 people—faculty, students, and their families and friends—participated in the 18th annual Jewish Studies Program Graduation and Awards Ceremonies held May 18, 2006. The program graduated 14 students, and awarded 15 student awards and prizes.

The 2006 Graduates

Tamar Aharon
Nitza Aharoni
Issac Ambalu
Allison S. Baer
Jordan E. Brodsky
Anita Dayan
Becky Helen Gabin
Meira Glass
Sarah B. Hershenov
Sharona O. Nissimi
Deborah Joy Shulman
Estee M. Siegal
Ilana Tachauer
Sharon Beth Zimmelman

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Center for Jewish Studies Award
David Greenberg
Lauren Talerman

William Fenster Memorial Scholarship
Ricki Newman

Helen Rudolph Memorial Scholarship
Blimie Twerski

Morris Flatow Memorial Award
Tamar Aharon
Nitza Aharoni
Jordan E. Brodsky
Anita Dayan
Becky Helen Gabin
Ilana Tachauer

Jewish Studies Academic Excellence Prize
Meira Glass
Sharona O. Nissimi

Stefa Berger Communal Service Award
Aviva Pearlman

Jan Sinnreich Award for Writing Excellence
James Cassidy

The M. Hratch Zadoian Student Essay Prize in Holocaust Studies
Victoria Sliva

Graduates plan to pursue careers in education and Jewish education, medicine, dentistry, law, international relations, physical and occupational therapy, social work, and art. Some of the schools which they will attend include Hunter College PhD program in Physical Therapy; Tel Aviv’s Sackler School of Medicine; Hebrew University’s International Relations Program; and Georgetown University School of Law.
Within the festivities celebrating student achievement, the Center paused to pay special tribute to Professor Jerome Acker, who retired at the conclusion of the Spring 2006 semester, after having taught at Queens College for 42 years in the Department of Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages and Cultures.

Professor Acker was one of the pivotal faculty members of the Jewish Studies Program; his courses were foundational to its curriculum. He coordinated the Hebrew language program and supervised the Hebrew major. He taught the full range of Hebrew language and literature courses, from beginners to advanced, as well as teaching upper division courses in biblical and rabbinic texts and Medieval prose and poetry. He was beloved and much respected by the thousands of students who entered his classroom, all of whom admired him for his great linguistic mastery, pedagogic clarity, human sensitivity, and unimpeachable integrity. A master teacher, Professor Acker made a lasting contribution to the study of Hebrew language, literature, and culture, and hence contributed enormously to the success of the Jewish Studies Program and of the college.

At the tribute, Professor William McClure, chair of the Department of Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages and Cultures, spoke in honor of Professor Acker, as did Chaim Apfel, a CUNY Honors Scholar pursuing a major in political science, with minors in BALA and Hebrew. Professor Kraut then heartily praised Professor Acker as an exemplary teacher, and, on behalf of Jewish Studies, presented him with a Proclamation of Distinguished Achievement and a substantial gift certificate for the purchase of books.

Professor Acker then responded, regaling the audience with some of his favorite QC educational experiences of years gone by. In one tale, he reminisced about having taught not only students but their children; indeed, in one such story, Professor Acker recalled that an infant first accompanied her mother to his class in a bassinet, only to return two decades later to the very same class as a matriculating student. As he wryly remarked, “I hope she learned more the second time around.”

The Center for Jewish Studies delights in honoring Professor Acker, and wishes him a wonderful retirement, full of health, fulfillment, and joy.
The Faculty associated with Jewish Studies at Queens College are exceptional scholars and award-winning teachers. Some faculty highlights of the 2005–2006 academic year are listed below.

**Thomas Bird** (European Languages and Literatures) published the entry “Yiddish Literature” in the Britannica Book of the Year (2006). He gave public lectures on I.B. Singer’s *In My Father’s Court* and “The World of Yiddish,” and was part of a lecture series on “Contemporary Jewish Writing” at the East Meadow (NY) Library. He presented (with Professor Jane Gerber) “Jewish Studies: Sources and Resources” at a recent Faculty Development Workshop of Nassau Community College, and led a QC Jewish Studies faculty reading group session on I.J. Singer’s *Father’s Court*. He gave public lectures at the Schottenstein Printing the Talmud: From Bomberg to Schottenstein (Sharon Liberman Mintz and Gabriel M. Goldstein, eds., 2005, pp. 451–480) and “The Status of the Talmud in Early Modern Europe” in Printing the Talmud: From Bomberg to Schottenstein (Sharon Liberman Mintz and Gabriel M. Goldstein, eds., 2005, pp. 79–88). She delivered several scholarly lectures, of which the following are samples: “Secrecy and Blasphemy: On the Meaning of Anti-Christian Invective in Early Modern Yiddish,” at Princeton University (April 2006); “The Early Modern Period in Jewish Historiographical Perspective,” at the Association for Jewish Studies’ 37th Annual Conference, in Washington, DC (December 2005), where she also was moderator of the workshop, “Studying the Early Modern Period in Jewish History”; “From Luach to Volkskalender: Calendars as Agents and Mirrors of Jewish Modernization,” in Jerusalem at the Leo Baeck Institute 50th Anniversary Conference (May 16, 2005). She also served as a member of the executive committee for the History program at the City University Graduate Center and as chair of the Academic Advisory Council, Center for Jewish History.

**Harriet Davis Kram** (History) has been working on revising *No More a Stranger and Alone*, a study of immigrant Jewish women during the Progressive Era. She published an article on the Clara de Hirsch Home (1897–1927), and has lectured widely on behalf of the Center for Jewish Studies in communal organizations. She also lectures for the New York Council for Jews, Judaism, and the Jews, “at the Biennial Meeting of the American Bach Society, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, a PSC-CUNY grant, and a CUNY fellowship award.

**Ray Erickson** (Music) delivered a paper in Leipzig, Germany, on “Leipzig Theologians and the Early Enlightenment: A New Avenue to the Issue of Bach and the Jews,” at the Biennial Meeting of the American Bach Society. His research, most of which was undertaken at archives and libraries in Leipzig and Dresden, has been supported by a William H. Scheide Re-


Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz (Comparative Literature) completed the book, The Colors of Jews: Racial Politics and Radical Diasporism. She won the Union Square Award at the Fund of the City of New York for Grassroots Activists, 2005, in recognition of notable contributions to the educational, economic, and cultural life of New York City. She was featured in the Boston Exhibit Jewish Women’s Archives, “Jewish Women and the Feminist Revolution” (2005). She gave academic talks at the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs’ Chicago conference; at Minnesota State University, St. Cloud; at Syracuse University, as part of a series on the Transnational Feminist Scholarship for Social Justice; Workman’s Circle/Arbeiter Ring; and at the University of New Hampshire. She also did poetry readings at the United for Peace and Justice National Convention; a Women in Black Circle/Arbeiter Ring; and at the University of New Hampshire. She also did poetry readings at the United for Peace and Justice National Convention; a Women in Black rally commemorating Israeli Occupation; an Anti-Iraq war protest, preparation for civil disobedience (Washington, DC); and a Beyond the Pale live broadcast (New York City).


Steven Kruger (English) published The Spectral Jew: Conversion and Embodiment in Medieval Europe (Minnesota, 2006).

Stuart Liebman (Media Studies) edited Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah: A Casebook (2006), and published the following articles: “Introduction: Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah,” in Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah: A Casebook (Stuart Liebman, ed.); “Les Juifs dans le cinéma polonais depuis la deuxième guerre mondiale,” in Juifs et polonaise (Annette Wieviorka and Jean-Charles Szurek, eds.); “Les premières images des camps: l’Exemple de Maidanek,” in Les Cahiers du Judaïsme (No. 15, a special issue edited by Anne Gryenberg and Christian Delage, Winter 2004: 49–60); “Bed and Sofa by Abram Room,” in Cineaste (Vol. XXX, No. 3, Summer 2005: 71–77). He reviewed Holocaust and the Moving Image, edited by Toby Haggith and Joanna Newman; The Cinema of Krzysztof Kieślowski: Variations on Destiny and Chance, by Marek Haltof; and Imaging Russia 2000: Films and Facts, by Anna Lawton. He was awarded a Presidential Research Award from Queens College, and was named an Academy Film Scholar by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Los Angeles), which also awarded him a major grant for “The Cinema of the Holocaust: The First Decade.” He gave aca-
demic lectures on film and the Holocaust at LaGuardia Community College and the Museum of Jewish Heritage.


**Mark Rosenblum** (History) saw his project “America and the Middle East: A Clash of Civilizations or a Meeting of Minds” garner considerable acclaim and media attention for its requirement that Jewish and Muslim students immerse themselves in the opposing group’s history relative to the Middle East conflict and construct a compelling “narrative” that supports the opposing viewpoint. In December 2005 the project received a $100,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. He was also recently selected by the Clinton Global Initiative as one of two winners of an award for work in the field of Religion, Conflict, and Reconciliation. His project, “Insight on Incitement: A Public Education Program on Israeli-Palestinian Understanding,” will bring together Israeli, Palestinian, and American scholars, policymakers, diplomats, and educators in an effort to analyze what went wrong with the Oslo Accords’ trilateral anti-incitement effort, as well as identify the components of a new anti-incitement regime. In December 2005, students participating in his “America and the Middle East” project co-sponsored and helped to organize a college-wide education program “The Art of Islam: A Glorious Tradition,” with renowned scholar and Queens College alumnus Dr. Nasser David Khalili. During the Fall 2005 semester, Professor Rosenblum organized a three-month installation of a photographic-narrative exhibit, *This Land to Me*, at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, featuring a broad range of Israelis and Palestinians. The exhibit was accompanied by a series of educational programs with Israeli, Palestinian, and American scholars, security experts, public opinion analysts, and films representing a cross section of opinions. Over one hundred high school teachers participated in the exhibition and developed educational materials aimed at building understanding and countering incitement and violence.

**Sheila A. Spector** (English) published “Orientalism in Disraeli’s Alroy,” in *Interrogating Orientalism: Contextual Approaches and Pedagogical Practices* (Diane Long Hoeveler and Jeffrey Cass, eds); and “A Kabbalistic Reading of Jerusalem’s Prose Plates,” in *Women Read William Blake: “Opposition Is True Friendship”* (Helen Bruder, ed., London). She organized and chaired “Romanticism and Translation,” a special session for the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism’s 2006 Conference, Scientia and Technê at Purdue University, and presented “The Perennial Others: Byron and the Yiddishists” at the special session. Other presentations include: “The Perennial Other: Yiddish Literature in Comparative Contexts,” at the Annual Conference of the American Comparative Literature Association at Princeton University (March 2006); “Blake’s Jerusalem and the Mystification of Fiction,” a commissioned presentation at Secret Truths, Novel Truths: Myth and the Work of Fiction in Western Esotericism, a conference held at the Esalen Institute (May 2006); and “Blake and Kabbalism” and “Five Reasons Why I Like Alroy,” two commissioned presentations at the Cooper Honors Program in English at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock (February 2006).

**Evan Zimroth** (English) gave a lecture on “Lydia & Maynard: An Improbable Romance,” in October 2005 as part of the ASH Lecture Series at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. She has continued to serve as Associate Director of the Center for Jewish Studies Advisory Board.
At the annual Joyce Mollov Memorial Lecture & Performance, sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies on November 20, 2005, internationally celebrated architect and urban designer, Daniel Libeskind, received the Center’s Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award, following which, at his request, he was interviewed by the Center’s Director, Benny Kraut.

In a revealing, far-reaching discussion, Mr. Libeskind responded to questions ranging from the professional to the personal. He discussed the unusual evolution of his architectural career, his overarching conception for the Jewish Museum Berlin, his vision for the World Trade Center, and the impact of contemporary politics on the realization of that massive rebuilding project. He responded to questions about the nature of the architect’s creative process, and how projects are conceived. He also touched on the state of architecture in New York in comparison to other major urban centers around the world, the trials of growing up in Poland after the Holocaust, the enduring impact of Judaism and Jewish values on both his Jewish and non-Jewish architectural assignments, and the impact of his cosmopolitan intellectualism and cultural sensibilities on his Jewish identity.

Daniel Libeskind was chosen as master plan architect for New York’s World Trade Center reconstruction in February 2003. Born in Poland to Holocaust survivors, he immigrated to Israel in 1957 and settled in New York in 1959. A virtuoso musician before he studied architecture, Mr. Libeskind has designed buildings around the world, including the much acclaimed Jewish Museum Berlin and the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester, England. He is currently building museums in Denver, Toronto, and San Francisco, as well as commercial and cultural projects in Switzerland, Italy, Germany, England, and Ireland.

Mr. Libeskind is principal design architect in Studio Daniel Libeskind, which he founded in 1990. He has taught architecture and lectured at universities around the world, and has held several distinguished university chairs. Numerous prestigious awards and honorary degrees have recognized his pathbreaking work. In 2004, he was appointed the first Cultural Ambassador for Architecture by the US Department of State. He published his memoir, Breaking Ground, in that same year.

On Sunday, November 6, 2005, the Center for Jewish Studies proudly presented the 25th anniversary screening of Tell Me a Riddle as part of its Cinema on Sundays Film/Dialogue series. The film, directed by Academy Award- and Emmy Award-winning actress and director, Lee Grant, and co-produced by Rachel Lyon of the Queens College Media Studies Department, starred Academy Award-winning actors Melvyn Douglas and Lila Kedrova. A poignant, sensitive movie, restrained and dignified yet absolutely riveting, it won the Best Picture and Best Actor Awards at the Edinburgh Film Festival and Best Actress Award at the Taormina Festival in Italy.

The sold-out program was a phenomenal success in every respect. It opened with Professor Kraut presenting Ms. Grant the “Center’s Lifetime Achievement Award,” which was followed by Professor Lyon’s stimulating introduction to the movie. After the screening, Professor Lyon engaged Ms. Grant in a spirited dialogue, which quickly gave way to a lively interchange between Ms. Grant and the audience. The famed actress revealed much about the making of this film and others, about her career generally, and about her defiance of the House Un-American Activities Committee and its blacklist in the 1950s. Thoroughly engrossing, refreshingly candid, and exceptionally charming, Lee Grant enthralled the audience. It was a memorable program indeed.
On Sunday May 21, 2006, the Center for Jewish Studies held its fifth annual Cantors Concert with International Stars, featuring the renowned Dudu Fisher and Avi Albrecht, who sang fantastic solos and magnificent duets. An overflow, standing-room-only crowd of over 500 heard their enchanting repertoire, which included cantorial masterpieces, Yiddish nostalgia, Broadway gems, and special musical material that only these two Israeli army buddies/best friends/brothers-in-law could perform. The program was an outstanding success, and left everyone clamoring for more. A sumptuous reception for VIP patrons followed.

Prior to the second half of the program, the Concert paid tribute to the inimitable Elsi Levy, Center Executive Board member and chair of its Cultural Arts subcommittee, a one-of-a-kind woman of enormous grace, artistry, and generosity, who herself had accompanied the performers on the piano for some of their numbers. Speaking at the tribute were New York City Councilman John Liu, who presented Elsi with a Council Proclamation, the Hampton Synagogue’s Rabbi Marc Schneier, Advisory Board Chair Arthur Anderman, who presented Elsi with two beautiful pieces of artwork, and Center Director Professor Benny Kraut, who presented her with a bouquet of 18 red roses.

“Elsi’s inspired vision, creativity, and meticulous attention to detail initiated and sustained the Center’s superb Jewish cultural programs, of appeal to all,” remarked Professor Kraut. “Her sage wisdom, intensive labor, and philanthropic beneficence have profoundly impacted the Center, and made possible its programmatic excellence. May she continue to go from strength to strength.”
ON MAY 24 IN THE LEFRAK CONCERT HALL, I had the great pleasure of hosting the Special Tribute Program honoring Professor Benny Kraut as he stepped down from his position as Director of both the Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Jewish Studies. Over 400 people attended this unique event, organized by the Jewish Studies faculty and the Center for Jewish Studies Advisory Board, to celebrate Professor Kraut’s eight-plus years of stellar, visionary leadership. From the moment the doors opened—to faculty, students, alumni, administrators, friends, and members of the wider Jewish Studies community—one could feel the outpouring of affection and admiration for Benny, both on a personal level and for his record of unparalleled success in creating and enhancing Jewish Studies at Queens College. (A listing of Jewish Studies achievements can be found on pages 25–28.)

The Tribute Program featured two components. The first was the annual Dr. Irving Taynor Memorial Lecture, endowed by Lillian Taynor and family, and given by Professor of History Elisheva Carlebach. Her beautifully evocative presentation, entitled “Jewish Letters: Love and Longing, History and Literature,” reflected on the literary and cultural significance of private letters written in European Jewish communities over many centuries, from Medieval to modern times. These letters, both homespun and eloquent, open a window for us on the daily life of European Jews, their tensions and problems, joys and sorrows, and, as Professor Carlebach declared, represent a unique source for understanding Jewish history.

In opening her talk, Professor Carlebach lauded Professor Kraut and his inspiring leadership, calling it “a shining moment when we rose beyond the ordinary business of academe to attain excellence.” She thanked him for his “brilliance and dedication . . . [for his] great dignity, eloquence, integrity and sense of humor.” These comments set the tone for what followed in the second half of the program, which was totally dedicated to tributes for Benny. That half began with three majestic proclamations presented to him on behalf of key elected public officials who are great supporters of Jewish Studies at Queens College: New York State Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn of the 27th district, New York State Senator Frank Padavan of the 11th district, and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall. David Weprin, New York City Councilman of the 23rd district, overcame a very tight schedule and made a special effort to join us in the midst of our proceedings. QC President James Muyskens, speaking on behalf of the administration and staff, was the first of a panel of speakers to extol Professor Kraut’s achievements. Asserting the college’s great pride in the Center, he remarked that Benny Kraut “was the right person at the right time” for the job, and that he “injected the Center and the Program with new energy and ideas, and helped turn them into first-class” institutions.

Arthur A. Anderman, chair of the Center’s Advisory Board, then spoke on behalf of the board and the larger community. He presented Benny with a Certificate of Distinguished Achievement, which enumerated the many imaginative and exciting programs initiated during his leadership. And, he observed, “the best thing that I ever did for this college was participate in the search committee that unanimously endorsed his hire from a list of over 80 applicants from around the world.” One of the most charming and poignant moments of the evening was to see Arthur and Benny warmly embrace, in testimony to their many years of friendship and joint endeavors.

On behalf of Professor Kraut’s students, Aylana Meisel, an Honors College student who graduated in 2005 with a Jewish Studies major and minors in History and Journalism, told us why students think of Benny so fondly and with such unbounded admiration, both as a professor and as a mentor to them in college and beyond. (Her generous, tender tribute to her teacher, friend, and guide is found on page 24.)
Aylana greatly amused the audience (not to mention Benny) when she presented him with a plaque on which was mounted a large, gilded fish that opened its wide mouth to sing, over and over “Don’t worry! Be happy!” I’m sure everyone in the audience shared the fish’s sentiments.

Professor Thomas Bird of European Languages and Literatures then concluded the tributes, speaking on behalf of the faculty. He underscored Benny’s “generosity, constancy and tenacity of purpose” in achieving “his remarkable vision for Jewish Studies” and perceptively described a quality that all who come into contact with Benny sense immediately, “his authenticity in every situation.” Tom, who at faculty gatherings always affectionately addresses Benny as “Fearless Leader,” ended his eloquent tribute by turning to Benny as his colleague, and calling him an “exemplary scholar, teacher, director, and guter-bruder, cherished friend.”

Professor Stuart Liebman of Media Studies then came on stage and presented Benny with several witty gifts from the faculty, to the great delight of both the audience and the honoree. One of these was a “kaballah energy drink,” to provide Benny (who has more intellectual and physical energy than a battalion) with a much-needed boost, and another was a special piece of jewelry, a red-string kaballah bracelet, which I had the honor of tying on his wrist after reading a (bogus, of course) congratulatory telegram from Madonna. Indeed, the four of us from the faculty on stage that night—Stuart, Tom, Elisheva and I—as members of what Benny informally called his “Kitchen Cabinet,” all wished to honor Benny by contributing to this festive but poignantly bittersweet event.

The highlight of the evening was Benny’s stirring response, which marvelously articulated his commitments as an academic and institution-builder, but also demonstrated the human qualities that have made him so beloved to his colleagues and peers. Passionately affirming the centrality of Jewish Studies for a university liberal arts curriculum, he shared his penetrating perceptions about the role and mission of Jewish Studies on the university campus, all punctuated with gentle humor and reminiscences of some of his more telling experiences in academe. He then thanked all those cadres of people, on and off campus, who over the years were instrumental in contributing to the success of the Center. In one of the evening’s most memorable instances, Benny choked up and had to fall silent a moment when it came time to express his particular gratitude to his two secretaries, Rita Shliselberg and Pat Torrici, for their utter devotion and professionalism, and for the great friendship the three of them share. Finally, he wished best of luck to his two successors, Professors William Helmreich and Mark Rosenblum, urging them to stamp their own imprint on the Center and its academic program, to provide both units with their own creative energy and talents, and to implement their own visions and dreams for the future of Jewish Studies on this campus.

A bounteous reception followed, where all had the opportunity to congratulate Benny personally, to meet his proud family, and to enjoy the delicious desserts and beautiful flower arrangements provided with special care by Lenny Kusnetz, our long-time kosher caterer.

To judge from the many letters, emails, and phone calls praising the event and its incredibly warm, festive, and genuinely moving program, I would have to say that the tribute, as we had hoped, was a magnificent success. “Simply spectacular,” noted one person. “A stunning program,” said another. “It was a truly heartfelt outpouring for one who is so deserving,” remarked a third. “I have not witnessed such an outpouring of genuine affection and support for one person . . . in a dog’s age,” a fourth guest wrote. And a member of the faculty called it “the best event at Queens College I’ve ever seen.”

In sum, this was a truly unforgettable occasion, honoring a remarkably deserving educational leader for a job exceedingly well done. Benny Kraut’s dynamism, abundantly overflowing energy, and creative drive inspired so many on this campus to join with him in building a renowned Jewish Studies program and a fabulously diverse cultural Center. On a personal note, I want to say what a thorough joy it’s been to work with Benny on a day-to-day basis, to experience his unremitting integrity and passion, and to share in his vision for Jewish Studies. We all wish him great fulfillment and joy in the next stages of his career as he goes on his well-deserved sabbatical.
Remarks by Aylana Meisel in Honor of Professor Kraut

Good evening. I have been, as you heard, a student of Dr. Kraut’s for several years. In that time, he has been a teacher to me, a mentor, a confidante, and a great friend. I do not exaggerate when I tell you that if time and the authorities permitted, this stage would be considerably fuller, holding other students of his that wish to tell you that exact same thing. So tonight, if you’ll permit me, I’d like to share with you why we feel that way—how Dr. Kraut has earned our gratitude, respect, and affection during his tenure at the head of the Jewish Studies Program.

Dr. Kraut matters so much to us, because we know that we matter so much to him. He has always taken the time to get to know us, taken hours to sit and converse with us in his office, to advise us on academic and personal matters. From the first second that each of us met him, he has been an active, engaged part of our lives. His involvement doesn’t stop at conversation—it extends to ensuring that we eat a good dinner (that’s mostly for me) to helping arrange a marriage proposal in his Holocaust class (not for me). He cares not just about our grades and our papers, but about us, and it is obvious in every moment of our interactions with him, as well as in general. For that reason, we sought, seek, and will continue to seek his counsel and his company well beyond graduation, and for as long as we possibly can. And so a warning to his future students: Dr. Kraut is not just an education, he is a lifestyle choice.

Focusing in on education however . . . As a teacher of seminars on the Holocaust, Dr. Kraut excelled. He did not the impossible, but the very difficult, as he passionately conveyed to us the horror, the grief, and the suffering, as well as those moments of triumph and valor that underlie the simple text of the history books. He didn’t simply teach us material, but he taught us lessons—lessons about history and how to approach it intellectually, lessons about human nature and how to understand it, lessons about our place and our role in this world. There are many professors who would wish to boast of such an accomplishment, of leaving such an imprint. I don’t know how many can, but I am confident that Dr. Kraut is among them, and will continue to be so when he resumes his position as professor of history at QC.

I would like to touch now on why Dr. Kraut was so special to his students in the capacity of head of Jewish Studies. First and foremost, he ensured that we could draw a broad and diverse education from an ever-widening selection of classes. He coordinated any number of special programs that brought to life, to the mental foreground, and to our discussions, aspects of our language, culture, religion, history, and arts. He produced an educational package that has not only enhanced our knowledge base, but also carried us on to schools and careers in Jewish Studies, medicine, law, and other fields.

So I’d like to insert a personal remark on why we think he, in particular, was so successful in that effort. We believe that Dr. Kraut was keenly attuned to what Jewish Studies is, and he helped to build a program that reflects that. Our perception of him—formed through those office conversations I mentioned before—our perception of him is of a man who knows, practices, and loves Judaism and Zionism. It is specifically because a love of Torah, a love of Israel, and a love of Am Yisrael are so pervasive and so inherent in his non-academic life, that he has managed to translate them into a university setting, and transmit those things to us. Good thing too, for what is Jewish Studies without that?

And so in closing, Professor, here’s what we want you to know: we appreciate all that you’ve done, and we appreciate you—your humor, personal warmth, and your heart.

If you ever need a letter of recommendation, we’re your man.

On that note, I’d like to present to you, in keeping with your fine tradition, your graduation “gag award.” [She held up the award to the audience.] This is mine from last year, presented to me at the graduation. As you can see, there’s a fish mounted on a plaque, which although dedicated to my swimming relationship with Jewish Studies faculty, really refers to Dr. Kraut’s nickname for me. The name—Kipper—goes back to a day when Dr. Kraut was feeling cheerful, but, sadly, lacked a dictionary. And although I informed him that one definition of the word “kipper” was “a male trout during or shortly after the spawning season,” the name stuck. I stand before you today as Kip.

One good turn deserves another. Here, Professor, enjoy the Singing Bass. Painted gold for your viewing pleasure, he does “Don’t Worry Be Happy” and “Take Me to the River.” I figured you’d need something to do on your sabbatical year other than work on a manuscript.

Thank you again for everything you’ve given us. And thank you all for allowing me to be here and tell these things to you.

Aylana Meisel graduated from Queens College and the CUNY Honors College in 2005, with a major in Jewish Studies and minors in History and Journalism. She enters Georgetown University Law School to pursue a degree in international law in Fall 2006.
The Center is now one of the largest and finest such enterprises in the country. Listed below are some of its signal achievements.

**Programs**

- Sustained the Fall and Spring Jewish Lecture series (12–14 presentations per year)
- Initiated the Cinema on Sundays Film/Dialogue series
- Inaugurated the Jewish Music & Theater series
- Introduced the Biblical Archaeology Lecture series
- Established the Annual Cantors Concert with International Stars
- Created a lunchtime lecture/book-signing series, focusing on recent authors
- Hosted Kristallnacht memorials
- Organized six cutting-edge international conferences and national symposia
  - From Zionism to Post-Zionism: The History of Modern Israel
  - On Eagles’ Wings: The Dynamic Culture of Yemenite Jewry
  - Moses Maimonides: Communal Impact, Historic Legacy
  - The Jew in American Film
  - Reflections on Zionism: Past, Present and Future
  - The Enduring Legacy of Yitzchok Leybush Peretz
- Organized several special events, including a campus memorial tribute to Dean Ernest Schwarz, Center founder, and various Friends of the Center receptions in the community.

**Publications**

- Created new publication series:
  - Herbert Berman Memorial Lecture
  - Occasional Papers (five to date)
  - Conference Proceedings: Maimonides; I.L. Peretz; and Zionism
  - Queens College Journal for Jewish Studies: A Student Journal

**Students**

- Attracted record numbers of students to courses, with annual enrollments at over 1800, and majors and minors at about 50.
- Stimulated students to establish the annual student journal
- Instituted student internships in the community
- Formalized the Hratch Zadoian student essay contest in Holocaust studies
- Expanded student merit awards and introduced new awards: the Berger Prize in Communal Service; the Sinnreich Prize for Excellence in Writing
- Augmented and reformatted the annual student graduation/awards ceremony

The Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College these past eight years has witnessed notable accomplishments in cultural and intellectual programming, expanded student educational opportunities, enhanced curricular offerings, renewed faculty interest and involvement, administrative changes, and successful fund-raising.
Distributed student newsletters each semester and established contact with Jewish Studies alumni

Established student-faculty seminars in conjunction with other departments

Curriculum

- Enriched the Jewish Studies curriculum with several new courses each year, through various appointments [see Faculty Development below]
- Created, named, and funded adjunct positions [see Faculty Development below]
- Encouraged QC faculty in various departments to offer Jewish Studies courses for the first time
- Re-instituted the teaching of Yiddish language for both students and community members

Faculty Development

- Attracted new QC faculty to seek affiliation with Jewish Studies—current number is about 25
- Organized interdisciplinary Faculty Reading Group in Jewish Civilization [4 times per year]
- Created a regular Faculty Colloquium [4 times per year]
- Inaugurated the annual Dean Ernest Schwarz Eminent Visiting Professorship in Jewish Philosophy
- Established the Danzig Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies
- Created the Danzig Visiting Professorship in Jewish Studies
- Conceived and organized the QC Faculty Speakers Bureau, which has assembled 28 QC faculty from 9 disciplines, Jews and non-Jews, to give lectures to communal organizations and institutions in Queens and on Long Island; the Speakers Bureau averages about 35 postings per academic year

Administration

- Augmented and enhanced the Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish Studies and revised Center By-Laws
- Created working board subcommittees, including development committee, membership committee, political action committee, and program committee
- Created a database of 17,600 people who receive Center mailings
- Established a Friends of the Center support organization, with an annual membership of over 300 that contributes over $100,000 each year

- Produced informative and attractive brochures outlining Jewish Studies and its various programs, including the annual comprehensive Culture and Arts Guide
- Gained new faculty space for adjuncts and visiting professors
- Began construction of the Simon Gold and Dr. Roslyn Gold Jewish Studies Library/Academic Resource Room in Jefferson Hall, third floor. This is the Center’s most recent exciting project, with a projected completion date of Fall 2006.

Fund-raising

Raised $1.5 million dollars for programs and endowments from different sources, including private individuals, foundations, public elected officials, and corporations.
The Center for Jewish Studies has a growing number of significant academic publications, of interest to scholars and laymen alike. The complete list appears below; several publication covers are also reprinted below.

These publications are mailed free as they are published to all paid-up members of the Friends of the Center membership support group. To join, call the Center office at 718-997-5730.

Individual publications may be purchased directly from the Center. If you wish to obtain a specific publication, please contact the Center, either by calling the number above, or by email (rita.shliselberg@qc.cuny.edu).

The Herbert Berman Memorial Lecture


Occasional Papers


Conference/Symposium Proceedings


Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies: A Student Publication

Volume I Spring 1999 Michael Adler & Daniel Chung, eds.
Volume II Spring 2000 Elana Ducat & Malka Epstein, eds.
Volume III Spring 2001 Dena Bieler & Leah Rabinovits, eds.
Volume IV Spring 2002 Rifka Libman Schulman & Justin Engel, eds.
Volume V Spring 2003 Rebecca Finkel & Deborah Kahan, eds.
Volume VI Spring 2004 Nicole Iny & Russel Neiss, eds.
Volume VII Spring 2005 Michael Gutman & Bracha Feit, eds.
Volume VIII Spring 2006 David Greenberg & Lauren Talerman, eds.

Purchase price of publications, including shipping:

The Herbert Berman Memorial Lectures $ 4.00 each
Occasional Papers $ 4.00 each
Conference/Symposium Proceedings
Maimonides Conference $12.00
Peretz Symposium $ 7.00
Student Journal of Jewish Studies (Volumes I—VIII) $13.00 each
About the Center for Jewish Studies

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Jewish Studies is the research and outreach arm of Jewish Studies on campus, promoting Jewish knowledge, scholarship, and culture outside the formal classroom setting. Serving as a bridge between the academic program and the community, the Center’s wide array of exciting extracurricular events makes it a preeminent Jewish intellectual and cultural resource for the entire region. Through its imaginative programming, the Center seeks to:

- Engage the college and general public in Jewish education and culture by organizing lectures, symposia, conferences, films, music and theater performances, and cantors concerts.
- Foster Jewish learning in the community.
- Publish and disseminate scholarly proceedings to laypeople and scholars.
- Promote academic community among students and faculty.
- Encourage and sustain the pedagogic and scholarly activities of the faculty and students within the Jewish Studies Program at Queens College.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Biblical Archaeology Slide–Lecture Series
Lecture/Book Signings
International Symposia and Conferences
Kristallnacht Memorials
Jewish Visual Arts Programs
Cantors Concerts with International Stars
Student Seminars

PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

Faculty Speakers Bureau

PUBLICATIONS

The Herbert Berman Memorial Lecture
The Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies: A Student Publication
Occasional Papers Series
Conference/Symposium Proceedings

SUPPORTERS OF ENDOWED LECTURES

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VISITING AND ADJUNCT PROFESSORSHIPS
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The Rabbi Israel and Libby Mowshowitz Adjunct Professorship in Politics and Religion, supported by the Mowshowitz Endowment Fund
The Jerry and William Ungar Adjunct Professorship in Holocaust Studies, supported by the Jerry and William Ungar Endowment Fund
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STUDENT AWARDS AND PRIZES
Center for Jewish Studies Award Jewish Studies Program Prize
Stefa Berger Communal Service Award, supported by Eva and Lenny Zimmerman
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Jan Sinnreich Award for Writing Excellence, supported by Lenore Sinnreich
M. Hratch Zadoian Essay Prize in Holocaust/Genocide Studies, endowed by M. Hratch Zadoian

Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies

Like all Queens College Centers and Institutes, the Center for Jewish Studies must also be financially self-sustaining. Its numerous free or nominally-priced programs, publications, enhanced academic curricular offerings, and student scholarships simply would not be possible without external funding assistance. The Center for Jewish Studies is, therefore, most grateful for the gifts and grants that it receives from alumni, program patrons, elected public officials, and foundations, and is particularly thankful for the membership gifts of those who have joined the Friends of the Center organization.

The Friends was established as an annual membership organization to maintain the functions and activities of the Center. Monies of the Friends underwrite student scholarships, the student Journal of Jewish Studies, new courses, and public programs. Members of the Friends become active stakeholders in the Jewish Studies’ initiatives at Queens College and can take heart that they are supporting vital and dynamic Jewish academic and intellectual/cultural programs. During 2005–2006, over 490 individuals and families joined the Friends of the Center. Tangible benefits received by the Friends include:

■ Early notification of course offerings
■ Early notification of upcoming events and best seat selections
■ All Center publications free
■ Participation in annual Jewish Studies Graduation/Awards Ceremonies
■ Invitations to Friends-only events
■ Public recognition of gifts

It is with deepest gratitude and appreciation that we publish here the names of those who have contributed to the Center for Jewish Studies at all levels as of June 1, 2006.

For additional information on the Center for Jewish Studies, to learn how to become a member of the Friends support group, or to receive back publications or course information, please call the Center office, 718-997-5730. You may also consult the Center Web site at: www.qc.cuny.edu/Jewish_Studies.
FRIENDS OF THE CENTER  
(July 1, 2005 to June 1, 2006)

We have attempted to list names as accurately as possible. If by chance your name has been omitted, misspelled, or misidentified we apologize. Please alert our office and we will correct our database. Call 718-997-5730.

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(Left to right) Avi Albrecht, Arthur Anderman, Carole Anderman, Mae Anderman, Elsi Levy and Dudu Fisher at the 2006 Cantors Concert reception

(Left to right) Arthur Anderman, Professor Tom Bird, Professor Elisheva Carlebach, Aylana Meisel, Professor Evan Zimroth, and President James Muyskens with Professor Benny Kraut following the tribute program in his honor.