The Jewish Studies Program and Center

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Mark Rosenblum, Director

The Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College has just completed another extraordinarily productive and exciting year. There are nine good reasons for our excitement and sense of accomplishment as we enter the New Year.

FALL 2012

SEPTEMBER

September 9, Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
CINEMA ON SUNDAYS
Three Mothers (Shulamit Ima‘ot, 2006), Hebrew with English subtitles, dir. Dina Zvi Kelili
Discussant: Dr. Eric Goldman

September 12, Wednesday, 7 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene
Avi Hoffman performs Itzik Manger

OCTOBER

October 18, Thursday, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SLIDE/LECTURE
Prof. Jodi Magness, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
The Ancient Galilean Synagogue and the Village at Nazqeq

October 21, Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
CINEMA ON SUNDAYS
Little Rose (2011), Polish with English Subtitles, dir. Jan Kidawa-Blonski
Discussant: Professor Emeritus Stuart Lieberman, Queens College

October 25, Thursday, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
JEWISH LECTURE SERIES
Yossi Klein Halevi
Israel Looks Inward: The Emergence of a New Israeli Center

November 1, Thursday, 7 pm
Goldstein Theatre
MUSIC AND THEATRE PERFORMANCE SERIES
Preview, A Dybbuk, adapted by Tony Kushner

November 3, Saturday, 6 pm

November 4, Sunday, 2 pm

November 8, Thursday, 7 pm

November 10, Saturday, 6 pm

November 11, Sunday, 2 pm and 7 pm

Goldstein Theatre
MUSIC AND THEATRE PERFORMANCE SERIES
A Dybbuk, adapted by Tony Kushner

November 14, Wednesday, 7:30 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
JEWISH LECTURE SERIES
Dr. Elissa Bemporad, Queens College
Screening and commentary on the original 1937 film Der Dybbuk

November 18, Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
An Annual Commemoration of Kristallnacht and Recommitment to Combating Anti-Semitism and Hatred
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marion Kaplan

November 30, Tuesday, 12 noon
Rosenthal Library, President's Conference Room 2
JEWISH LECTURE SERIES
Dr. Godela Weiss-Sussex, University of London
Femininity, Jewishness and the City: Jewish Women Writers in Early 20th-Century Berlin

December 3, Sunday, 2 pm
Goldstein Theatre
MUSIC AND THEATRE PERFORMANCE SERIES
Itzik Manger & Friends, 2006,
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marion Kaplan
Combating Anti-Semitism and Hatred, Kristallnacht and Recommitment to the Other Sides' Neighborhood,” a fascinating street-level experience of Queens’s rich ethnic, racial and religious neighborhoods led by scholars of the urban landscape, to foster cross-cultural understanding. As we begin our fourth year with this new initiative, we have trained more than 400 Queens College students to pursue difficult dialogues and engage in reflective listening in order to enhance conflict-mitigation work. The student facilitators and their experiences on campus. But, at the first dialogue session, I met Patrick, a U.S. soldier who was a part of this program, I didn’t expect it to have much of an impact on me, or my experiences on campus. However through the center these false constructions have been broken down. I have gained many good friends of Orthodox Jewish faith.”

And a Muslim student said: “The dialogue series held at the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding is truly and absolutely the most amazing initiative. I have to admit, when I first decided to engage in negative stereotyping and behaviors. Typical of the evaluator’s findings were two comments from student facilitators. An African-American student said:

The Jewish Studies Program and Center

The Department of Education honor was bestowed upon the Center for Jewish Studies in part because of the Center’s award-winning curriculum and public education programs as well as the college’s stunning diversity, with students from more than 170 countries, speaking more

We would like to thank Forsen Gallery and Mark Podwal for making available his beautiful art that graces our cover.

Creative Curriculum that has Won National Acclaim:

“The dialogue series held at the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding is truly and absolutely the most amazing initiative. I have to admit, when I first decided to be a part of this program, I didn’t expect it to have much of an impact on me, or my experiences on campus. But, at the first dialogue session, I met Patrick, a U.S. soldier who has been to Iraq and a few other Muslim countries, and I realized the power of this project. I realized the power of dialogue. The fact that we sat in the same room and shared each other’s views, morals, beliefs, and experiences, without pulling each other’s hair out, was a real eye-opener for me.”

The Department of Education honor was bestowed upon the Center for Jewish Studies in part because of the Center’s award-winning curriculum and public education programs as well as the college’s stunning diversity, with students from more than 170 countries, speaking more.
than 90 languages. Our nationally acclaimed curriculum has been featured in the New York Times, the Chronicle of Higher Education, CBS-TV National News, National Public Radio, the Jewish Week, the Forward and a host of other electronic and print media.

A Dynamic and Expanding Culture & Arts Program: This past year we offered 16 major programs. These included world-class scholars and educators, renowned diplomats and political analysts, virtuoso instrumentalists and singers, compelling cinema, a captivating musical drama, and an uplifting evening devoted to honoring those who have engaged in uncommon courage.

Many of these superb and creative programs were free to the public, and several of them included a sumptuous complimentary banquet. (Please see the detailed review of this past year’s Culture & Arts Guide as well as our exhilarating programs for the fall semester that follow this report.)

Distinguished and Growing Faculty: Our excellent Jewish Studies faculty, drawn from 15 different departments within the college, includes some of America’s most eminent scholars. More than half a dozen of our professors have won the coveted Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Strong as our faculty is, we are still growing. This fall we welcome back six recently hired young, gifted scholar-teachers to our program:

Dr. Francesca Bregoli (The Joseph and Oro Halegua Professor in Greek and Sephardic Jewish Studies), Dr. Sari Kisilevsky (Philosophy of Law and Ethics), Dr. Elissa Bemporad (The Jerry and William Ungar Professorship in Jewish Studies), Dr. Arnold Franklin (Medieval Jewish History in the Arabic-Speaking World) and Miryam Segal (Modern Hebrew Literature and the Bible). Joining this stellar group is Dr. Abigail Donkhan (The Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Professor in Ethics and Tolerance).

Diverse and Talented Students: At our spring 2012 commencement, yet another overflow crowd of parents, relatives, friends and faculty filled the Patio Room, kvelling as our graduates and awardees demonstrated anew their staggering academic achievements and demographic diversity. Nearly all our minors and majors were graduating with honors or high honors, and they and our awardees had a cumulative GPA of over 3.8 out of 4.0, with two graduates receiving a perfect 4.0. These graduates and awardees are among the more than 2,000 students who have mastered all aspects of the publication process: soliciting contributions, selecting those to be included, editing all materials, preparing camera-ready copy, and scouring the marketplace for the best printer at the most competitive price.

The editor-in-chief, Camelia Serghie, and her equally talented and exuberant editorial board—layout editor Rachel Lifshitz, Natalie Davidson, Nicola Komblih, Eitan Kuperberg, Benjamin Kasin, and Jacqueline Welpoo—produced a memorable work. Special recognition to Camelia for her diligence and commitment to see this project through. This beautiful and inspiring publication is worth having in your collection. It is available for $12 from the office of Jewish Studies, Jefferson Hall, Room 307; (718) 997-4530.

A Breakthrough Course in Bukharian History and Culture: Another example of the excellence of our students that has allowed us to reach a segment of the Queens College Jewish student population significantly under-enrolled in our classes is Immanuel Rybakov. A talented recent QC graduate, Mr. Rybakov is a 27-year-old activist within the Bukharian Jewish Congress who organized and took the lead in teaching the first-ever
The latest grant from the Department of Education has helped us through these difficult economic times. However, you no doubt continue to read in the Jewish press and elsewhere that like all institutions—for profit and not-for-profit—CUNY and Queens College have been impacted by the great recession and the very fragile and weak recovery. We are carefully addressing these challenges to ensure our long-term health, but we rely on your steadfast support to enable us to continue to offer so many free programs and to play such a pivotal role in the world of Jewish Studies.

There are very few institutions of higher education in the United States that can offer such a broad range of courses in Jewish Studies, taught by such a learned and vibrant faculty, with such talented and engaged students, on a campus where diversity and respect are so twinned.

We thank you for your past support and hope you will take a few moments to fill out the enclosed envelope and join us as a new member or renew as a Friend of the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College. Join us and experience the nine reasons why we are excited and proud.
Review of Center’s Culture & Arts Programming for 2011–12

Diane Spielmann, Assistant Director

“WOW!” was the comment this past fall from keynote speaker Deborah Lipstadt, world-renowned Holocaust historian and distinguished professor, at the conclusion of the annual Kristallnacht program in November. She related that never before had she been at such a poignant and powerful event as the one at Queens College. (See page 10 for details)

And it all begins with our programming in September . . .

This past year the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding (CERRU), born out of the Center for Jewish Studies, opened the season by hosting a moving memorial on Sunday, September 11, commemorating 10 years since the attack on the World Trade Center.

A traditional piece on trombone and shofar, performed by Haim Avitzour, lent a solemn note to the occasion. In addition to poignant reminiscences, including those of Professor Mark Rosenblum, and then readings from The Legacy Letters: Messages of Life and Hope from 9/11 Family Members, a compilation of 100 letters written to those lost by their family members, the program had a constructive component in a question-and-answer period among audience participants of all ethnicities and religions, facilitated by students trained by CERRU in Religious Understanding (CERRU), born out of the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding (CERRU), born out of the Center for Jewish Studies, opened the season by hosting a moving memorial on Sunday, September 11, commemorating 10 years since the attack on the World Trade Center.

Additional fall and spring programs in the community, which reached almost 2,000 people, featured virtuoso musicians and compelling cinema at Temple Sholom in Roslyn, Temple Emanuel in Great Neck, Temple Gates of Prayer in Flushing, and the Central Queens Y in Forest Hills. Programs included engagements with 2012 Nobel Prize Peace Prize Nominee Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, author of Shall Not Hate and Tony Perry, singer and songwriter. The music and voices were magnificent, exceeded only by the “soul” that was expressed. To paraphrase the Yiddish translation of Lisa’s rendition of “A Wonderful World” (Louis Armstrong), the evening was truly a prekhtike nakht!

In the meantime, back on campus . . .

Programming continued with the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene as they presented Soul to Soul: Yiddish and African-American Music Meet in Celebration of Two Cultures, sponsored by the City University of New York. Conceived by Folksbiene’s artistic director Zalmen Mlotek, the show masterfully wove together the shared struggles and victories of the Jewish and African-American communities through music and voice in Yiddish and English, which included a photomontage. The audience was enthralled as they sang along with Lisa Fishman, singer, songwriter and actress; Elmore James, an internationally acclaimed baritone reminiscent of Paul Robeson; and Tony Perry, singer and songwriter. The music and voices were magnificent, exceeded only by the “soul” that was expressed. To paraphrase the Yiddish translation of Lisa’s rendition of “A Wonderful World” (Louis Armstrong), the evening was truly a prekhtike nakht!

The next musical event, made possible by the generous endowment of Arthur and Carole Anderman, Rise Up Singing, was in the best cabaret tradition and featured the program’s creator, Susan Winter, a multi-award-winning singer and veteran of the New York cabaret scene. Joined by Jared Egan on bass, Alezea Walder on violin, Sean Harkness on guitar, music director Alex Rybeck on piano and director Barry Kleinbort, Winter delivered an amalgam of songs in English, Yiddish, Spanish and Hebrew that embrace the Jewish heritage and lessons of the past, while squarely facing the future. This unmatched array of songs from Broadway, Yiddish theater, folklore and film melded into one unforgettable program for the ecstatic audience.

As in the recent past, the annual Leon and Morris Levy Memorial Lecture, endowed by the Levy Family, opened the fall lecture series with “Cultural Integration and Social Separation: The Jews of 18th-Century Livorno,” presented by Professor Francesca Bregoli, the Joseph and Oro Halegua Professor of Greek and Sephardic Studies at Queens College. In her presentation Professor Bregoli emphasized the unique situation of the Jews in the port city of Livorno, where they were fully integrated socially as compared to most other leading cities in Europe of the time, and yet not totally accepted within the political sphere, and thus were socially separated. She presented numerous examples and scenarios to support her thesis. A captive audience, many of Italian descent, participated in a lively question-and-answer session with queries ranging from the early modern era through to the present, with Professor Bregoli offering hard facts as well as her interpretations.
This year our Biblical Archaeology Slide/Lecture Series came to us directly from the source: two distinguished archaeologists of the Israel Antiquities Authority, protector of antiquities in the nation, brought us back to the ancient world. Emmanuel Eisenberg, senior research archaeologist who has directed countless digs, presented “The Biblical City of Hebron in Light of Archaeological Excavations.” Through his talk and slides the audience was taken from the earliest times during the Bronze Age beginning in 2400 BCE through to the destruction at the end of the First Temple period in 586 BCE. A week later, Dr. Donald T. Ariel unfolded the splendor of Herod’s period through his coins, as he presented “In Herod’s Pockets: A Numismatist’s View of Herod the Great.” The audiences participated in a lively question-and-answer period following each talk.

As noted above, in November we observed perhaps the most poignant of our programs as we commemorated Kristallnacht: Combatting Anti-Semitism and Hatred, in conjunction with CERRU as well as the Kupferberg Holocaust Center of Queensborough Community College and the Queens Jewish Community Council. Made possible through the Resnick Family and Sinai Chapels in Fresh Meadows, the afternoon highlighted world-renowned historian and distinguished professor Deborah Lipstadt, who delivered the keynote address to an enthralled audience.

Six Survivors of the Holocaust, who each lit a memorial candle, escorted by a student facilitator from CERRU, the students, representing different races, religions and ethnicities, read short biographies of the respective survivors, and then made a commitment to combat hatred in the future, leaving a deep impression on the audience, including keynote speaker Deborah Lipstadt. The following is the commitment given by one of those students: “As a Muslim I am a proud facilitator for the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding. . . . We are all human beings and share more in common than we can ever imagine. We all carry hopes and dreams, have feelings and emotions, and seek happiness and most of all, peace. . . . My commitment to combat hate for the upcoming year would be to continue educating myself on the beliefs of my fellow brothers and sisters and educating them about mine. . . . I would like to conclude by quoting Martin Luther King, ‘Injustice anywhere is a danger to justice everywhere,’ and a quote from Mahatma Gandhi, ‘You must be the change you wish to see in the world.’”

The fall season concluded with President James Muyskens’ welcoming address to the campus community, where he expressed his commitment to the campus community and the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Given the timing, the film ultimately foreshadowed the juxtaposition of the impending destruction with the achievements of a culture about to be decimated on the threshold of the Holocaust. In the introduction and subsequent discussion of this semi-biographical film, Diane Spielberg, an expert in German-Jewish studies, provided the key elements of Schmidt’s all-too-brief life, including his 13-year career that ended with his death at age 38 in a Swiss detention camp in 1942.

The screening of Everything Is Illuminated focused on the aftermath of the Holocaust, based on the best-selling novel by Jonathan Safran Foer. In the film a young Jewish American is on a quest to find answers to his grandfather’s survival two generations earlier in Ukraine. The film, which leaves you with an equal number of questions and answers, is an insightful study of Jewish identity far beyond the years of the Holocaust. Eric Goldman, an expert on Yiddish, Israeli and Jewish film, conducted a riveting discussion in his introduction and remarks following the film, probing the reality of Foer’s own experiences intertwined with his creative abilities to underscore the salient elements of the film and the history it depicted.

And the pulse continued for the spring. . . .

A diplomatic breakthrough occurred at the first spring program, “The Audacity to Imagine Peace: The RAND’s Arc Project and the Hard Realities of Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” a visionary multimedia program sponsored with CERRU. Our role in bringing together panelists who represent major institutions in Washington involved at the highest levels in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict was critical in inspiring the panelists to begin work on examining and defining the security matrix necessary to implement the Arc vision in its various stages. As a result, current meetings are being arranged for Israeli security experts and Palestinian authorities in the West Bank to consult on how to sharpen the Arc vision with support from Washington, Ramallah and Jerusalem.

“Timeliness” with another twist constituted our next program, which was made possible by Marc and Kenneth Rovin in memory of their mother, Miriam, all graduates of Queens College. On March 14 a tumultuous “welcome” was awaiting Professor Elishava Carlebach, currently Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture, and Society at Columbia University, and formerly Professor of History at Queens College. She opened the spring Jewish Studies Lecture Series with a discussion of her groundbreaking publication, Palaces of Time: Jewish Calendar and Culture in Early Modern Europe. Who would have thought that a shoebox full of neglected, tiny, handwritten books from early modern Europe would be uncovered in a Queens Public Library by one of our own former professors, and subsequently took her around the world finding a new source of heretofore hidden cultural treasures?! Step by step in a clear and coherent sequence accompanied by numerous illustrations, Prof. Carlebach outlined the intriguing history and origins of the calendar in general, and the Jewish calendar specifically. Fascinated by the discussion, the audience afterward engaged in a lively discussion with Prof. Carlebach. Everyone left with a new awareness of “time.”

After the introductory lecture’s focus on the universal—the calendar that affects the entire world—the focus for spring was on the Jewish experience in its diversity. We began with the Middle East. Queens College Professor
Arnold Franklin explored the dynamic interaction between Judaism and Islam in the medieval era that served as a backdrop to a formative period in Jewish literature and religion. Dr. Franklin opened with the contemporary perspective with the question that has been asked throughout history, “Is it/was it good for the Jews?” leading the audience into the time and place for the topic: Iraq and Egypt of the 10th through 13th centuries. Prof. Franklin described and provided specific examples of how Islam influenced the way the rabbinic community adapted traditions in both literature as well as religious concepts and practices into the Jewish tradition. He suggested that there was a peaceful coexistence and interchange of ideas within both the Islamic and Jewish communities. From there, he demonstrated how these ideas percolated into the everyday stratum, most notably through the Cairo Geniza. With copious illustrations, Dr. Franklin highlighted such treasures from the Geniza as a Koran written in Arabic with Hebrew characters, among other examples, such as personal correspondence, organizational records and the like to the delight of an intensely interested audience. A wonderful learning experience for those familiar with the topic as well as those who were not, the evening was most enjoyable for all.

Encore! Soul to Soul, a smash success in the fall, was not exceeded, the knowledge, enthusiasm and passion conveyed during the lecture itself. And the answers from Dr. Surowitz-Israel matched, if not exceeded, the knowledge, enthusiasm and passion conveyed during the lecture itself.

Two events closing the spring semester offered reflections. During May we held our third annual Evening of Uncommon Courage, in which we celebrated those who have made a difference for humanity. The three categories are for Queens College students, an alumnus, and an outstanding individual from the global community. The event sponsored by CERRU honored four of its exceptional students and trained facilitators: Batya Septimus for her deep inquiry, leadership and faith; Alexandra Ruiz for standing up for new Americans; Charlie Wohlberg for being a religious ambassador and a healer in both the spiritual and physical realms; and Razia Khan for the pursuit of interfait understanding. The two other honorees were Dr. Dennis Liotta, a Queens College alumnus and professor of chemistry at Emory University who discovered one of the most effective HIV drugs and created iThemba (hope) Pharmaceuticals to benefit underdeveloped communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Rachel Lloyd, honored next, is an anti-human trafficking advocate and founder/Executive Director of the New York-based Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), dedicated to ending human trafficking while empowering its victims. Musical interludes by indigenous Chiapas rock band Sak Tzevul and master of Sephardic song, Gerard Edery, alternated with the equally powerful statements given by each of the honorees.

The final event of the academic year commemorated Yom HaShoah and was endowed by Marvin and Celina Zborowski, both Holocaust survivors. This year we remembered the children with a screening of the last Yiddish feature, Undzere Kinder (Our Children), filmed in Poland in 1948, and banned there soon after its debut due to its “Jewish content.” Lost for many years, rediscovered and recently remastered through the National Center for Jewish Film, Undzere Kinder is now considered a classic. Professor Gabriel Finder, the Ida and Nathan Kolodiz Director of Jewish Studies at the University of Virginia, offered a thorough introduction. Having screened the film throughout the world and written extensively on Undzere Kinder in countless publications in a number of languages, Dr. Finder is the leading expert on this topic. The film portrays the encounter between two Jewish actors and the children in a Jewish orphanage, who recount their experiences during the Holocaust. All of the children in the film were actual survivors of the Holocaust. Both poignant and powerful, the screening resonated deeply with the packed audience, which included a significant number of child Holocaust survivors as well as Queens College students of Holocaust, Genocide, and Polish history. Prof. Finder skilfully led the moving discussion that ensued.

In sum, 2011–12 was an exceptional year as Queens College touched audiences not only on campus but also beyond, achieving diplomatic breakthroughs while disseminating knowledge through historical interpretations, discoveries and presentations of the best in culture and the arts.
Music and Theater Performance Series

A Dybbuk
Or Between Two Worlds

The Drama, Theatre & Dance Department and the Center for Jewish Studies collaborate for the first time to present A Dybbuk: Or Between Two Worlds, a classic story adapted by Pulitzer Prize-winner Tony Kushner in an exclusive engagement of eight performances in the newly renovated Goldstein Theatre.

PREVIEW, OCTOBER 31 AT 7 PM | NOVEMBER 1 AT 7 PM | NOVEMBER 3 AT 8 PM | NOVEMBER 4 AT 2 PM*
NOVEMBER 8 AT 7 PM | NOVEMBER 10 AT 8 PM | NOVEMBER 11 AT 2 PM AND 7 PM

Is there such a thing as a marriage made in Heaven? A Dybbuk: Or Between Two Worlds, originally written in Yiddish and Russian by S. Ansky and adapted by Tony Kushner of Angels in America fame, ponders this question in a love story in which worldly concerns collide with destiny.

The production, headed by director and Queens College Professor Susan Einhorn, will uncover what is modern in this traditional story. It will feature an original klezmer score, performed live by Yale Strom and his band Hot P'Stromi.

Preview Admission for October 31: $18/$16 Senior and QC ID
General Admission: $20/$18 Senior and QC ID

Goldstein Theatre

For tickets, please visit or call the Kupferberg Center Box Office or call 718-793-8080

There is free parking in Lot 15 on Reeves Ave. (Behind Lefrak Concert Hall). For directions to Queens College and parking/elevator information, please turn to page 39.

*Sunday matinee performance will be followed by expert commentary and special guest appearances

In addition to the sponsorship of the Department of Drama, Theatre, and Dance, this program has been made possible by the Ruth and Sidney Schindler Memorial Fund, endowed by the Schindler and Stolar Families, Lillian Taynor and Family, and Arthur and Carole Ardenman.

National Yiddish Theatre
Folksbiene

LEFRAK CONCERT HALL

Reflections of a Lost Poet: The Life and Works of Itzik Manger
Starring Avi Hoffman

September 12 • Wednesday, 7 pm
Free and open to the public

This one-man show written by Miriam Hoffman follows the life and times of Itzik Manger. Through his songs and poems, we discover the joy and anguish of one of the greatest Yiddish poets who lived through the best and worst of times.

Binyumen Schaechter, Musical Director, Arranger and Pianist

In Yiddish, with English and Russian supertitles.

Folksbiene at CUNY is a series of free concerts and readings sponsored by the City University of New York.
Three Mothers (Shalosh Ima’ot) Israel, 2006. Hebrew with English subtitles. Director: Dina Zvi-Riklis

September 9 Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall

Dina Zvi-Riklis’s semi-auto-biographical story is about three Jewish sisters, born into Egyptian aristocracy, whose life journeys are changed by the political events of the latter part of the twentieth century. Theirs is a story of love, respect and mutual admiration, changed radically but held steadfast as they are forced to leave their home and move to Israel, a country whose language and culture they must learn. Warm, challenging and empathetic, this film provides a touching portrait of family, while shedding great insight into the course of events that affected and molded Israel these last 60-plus years.

Discussant: Dr. Eric Goldman
An adjunct Associate Professor of Cinema at Yeshiva University, Dr. Goldman received a PhD in Cinema Studies from New York University, and was a fellow of the Max Weinreich Center for Eastern European Studies at Columbia University. He holds graduate degrees in Contemporary Jewish Studies and Theater Arts from Brandeis University, and was adjunct fellow in cinema at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2004, while Dr. Goldman was teaching at Queens College, he conceived and co-chaired a national symposium on The American Jewish Experience as Reflected in Film at Queens. His recent publications include the newly revised edition of his book, Visions, Images and Dreams: Yiddish Film Past and Present. (Holmes and Meier, 2011) and The American Jewish Story through Cinema (University of Texas Press), which is to be published this winter. Currently Dr. Goldman is film reviewer for the Jewish Standard and president of Ergo Media Inc., a New Jersey-based video publishing company specializing in Jewish and Israeli video.

Little Rose
Poland, 2010. Polish with English subtitles. Director: Jan Kidawa-Błoński

October 21 Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall

In 1968 the world witnessed the virtual end of Jewish life in Poland. A desperate Communist regime, embarrassed by Israel’s lightning victory over its Arab allies in 1967, once again used well-established anti-Semitic propaganda to blame the country’s ills on the few thousand Jews— for the most part loyal to the Party and the country—who still lived there. Twenty-five thousand fled to Israel, Scandinavia and Western Europe. This tense, insightful drama, with English subtitles, features a magnificent performance by actress Magdalena Boczarska.

Discussant: Prof. Emeritus Stuart Liebman, an expert on the representation of history in films, retired from Queens College in 2010, where he taught for 37 years and served as the first chair of the Department of Media Studies. He has lectured and published widely on the representation of the Holocaust in world cinema, including in Poland, where he frequently participated in panel discussions. His awards include a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, the Advanced Holocaust Fellowship with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Lucius Littauer Foundation Award. His many publications include special issues of scholarly journals he edited, including Alexander Kluge: Theoretical Writings, Stories and an Interview, and Berlin 1945: Liberators Take Liberties, for which he won an award for Best Issue of a Scholarly Journal.
Biblical Archaeology

SLIDE-LECTURE SERIES
ROSENTHAL LIBRARY, ROOM 230

Admission for reserved seating $5. For further information call 718-997-5730 or 4530.

For Rosenthal Library, Room 230, make a right turn onto Reeves Ave. Go to Gate 3 to enter campus; then follow map and directions on page 39.

Recently Uncovered: The Ancient Galilean Synagogue and Village at Huqoq
Jodi Magness
October 18
Thursday, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230

Since 2002 Professor Jodi Magness has held a senior endowed chair in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism. She received her BA in Archaeology and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and her PhD in Classical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Magness specializes in the archaeology of ancient Palestine, which includes modern Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories in the Roman, Byzantine and early Islamic periods. Her research interests include Jerusalem, Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient synagogues, Masada, the Roman army in the East and ancient pottery.

She is the author of award-winning books, including *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002), which won the 2003 Biblical Archaeology Society’s Award for the Best Popular Book in Archaeology in 2001–02, and was selected as an Outstanding Academic Book for 2003 by Choice Magazine. Another book, *The Archaeology of the Early Islamic Settlement in Palestine* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003), was awarded the 2006 Irene Levi-Sala Book Prize in the category of nonfiction on the archaeology of Israel.

In this slide-illustrated lecture, Professor Magness presents the findings from her 2011–12 excavations in the ancient Galilean village at Huqoq, focusing especially on the remains of a Late Roman synagogue building that is coming to light for the first time. Discoveries to date reveal an unexpected monumental structure.

Huqoq is an ancient village located 1.5 miles to the northwest of the Sea of Galilee. Flourishing through the Late Roman and Byzantine periods, Huqoq is mentioned in I Chronicles 6:75 as part of the inheritance of the tribe of Asher. The ruins are spread over a six-acre area. The village also lies near Capernaum, the center of Jesus’ Galilean ministry, and near the village Migdal, the hometown of Mary Magdalene.

Israel Looks Inward: The Emergence of a New Israeli Center
Yossi Klein Halevi
October 25
Thursday, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library, Room 230

Free and open to the public.

All lectures are free. There is free parking in Lot 15 on Reeves Avenue (behind LeFrak Concert Hall) and easy elevator access to the concert hall.

For Rosenthal Library, Room 230, make a right turn onto Reeves Ave. Go to Gate 3 to enter campus; then follow map and directions on page 39.

For travel directions to Queens College and parking/elevator information, please turn to page 39.

Reoriented: American Jewish History and the Sephardic Presence in Early America
Hilfit S toursowitz-Israel
October 24
Wednesday, 7:15 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
Free and open to the public.

Hilfit Surowitz-Israel, the dynamic Sephardi scholar of Religion and Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, returns to Queens by popular demand. She is a PhD candidate in the Department of Religion at the University of Florida, where she is currently completing her dissertation, “‘Nacoa’: Reconstructing Jewish Identity in the Early Modern Atlantic World.” She has received numerous awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship as well as fellowships from Brown University, Harvard University and the Center for Jewish History. Her research interests include religion in the Americas, the Jewish communities of the Atlantic world and Diaspora theory. Prof. Surowitz is particularly interested in the transatlantic social and religious networks maintained by Portuguese Jews and New Christians during the 16th–18th centuries. She is working on “Religious Authority: An Americas Perspective,” in *The Portuguese Jews of the Caribbean* (working title), ed. Jane S. Gerber (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, June 2013), and “Portuguese Jews of the Caribbean and the Question of Early Modern Secularization” in *The Jewish Diaspora of the Caribbean* (forthcoming).

Prof. Surowitz-Israel will discuss the Sephardic influence on the New World.

Presented by the Annual Leon and Morris Levy Memorial Lecture, endowed by the Levy Family.

Yossi Klein Halevi
is a renowned Israeli journalist and author. He is a contributing editor to the New Republic and a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, where he is a member of the Institute’s Engaging Israel project. Previously, Halevi was a Senior Fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. He is the author of *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew’s Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land* as well as *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist*. Halevi has been a columnist for the *Jerusalem Post*, a regular contributor to the Los Angeles Times, and a frequent guest on CNN and other national and international broadcast media. The 1985 film *Kaddish*, which focuses on Halevi’s relationship with his father, a Holocaust survivor, was called one of the best ten films of the year by the Village Voice.

Halevi suggests that Israel may no longer be divided between left and right. Instead, a new centrist majority...
has emerged that has potential historic implications for Israel's pressing domestic issues. This program has been made possible by the Ernst and Marta Schwarck Endowment fund.

Femininity, Jewishness and the City: Jewish Women Writers in Early 20th-Century Berlin

Dr. Godela Weiss-Sussex

In co-sponsorship with the Department of European Languages and Literatures

October 30 Tuesday, 12–2 pm Rosenthal Library, President’s Conference Room 2

Free and open to the public. Due to space limitations, please reserve in advance: Tel: 718-997-5730 or 4530

Dr. Godela Weiss-Sussex is Senior Lecturer in German at the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies (University of London) and a Fellow in German at King’s College, Cambridge. Her current research project builds on a conference volume she co-edited with Andrea Hammel in 2009, “Not an Essence but a Positioning”: German-Jewish Women Writers (1900–1938). The project aim analyses the discursive and aesthetic strategies through which German-Jewish women writers in the first third of the 20th century participated in key public debates, including those on the role of women in society, the “Jewish question” and eugenics. In her lecture, Dr. Weiss-Sussex will concentrate on two case studies, showing how the seemingly contradictory campaigns for radical feminism, eugenics, and Jewish assimilation are combined in the novel Die Intellektuellen, 1911 (The Intellectuals) by Grete Meisel-Hess, and how Elie Croner, novelist and author of Die moderne Judein, 1913 (The Modern Jewish Woman), uses the discourse of Jewishness to advance her conservative program for the education of girls.

Both perspectives will highlight German-Jewish women's struggle for inclusion in the dynamic Wilhelmine and Weimar periods (1870–1933), and their determination to be heard.

Screening of Der Dybbuk

Elissa Bemporad

November 14 Wednesday, 7:15 pm LeFrak Concert Hall

Free and open to the public.

Dr. Elissa Bemporad is an Assistant Professor of History and the Jerry and William Ungar Professor of East European Jewish History at Queens College. She teaches a variety of courses on Eastern Europe, women in Jewish history and the Holocaust, and lectures widely both in the U.S. and abroad in numerous languages. Professor Bemporad received her BA and MA in Slavic Studies from Bologna University, an additional MA in Modern Jewish Studies from the Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and earned her PhD from the Department of History at Stanford University. She has taught at Stanford, Hunter College and the New School. She is the author of Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Muskh (forthcoming from Indiana University Press, 2013). Following Queens College’s exclusive eight-performance engagement of A Dybbuk (adapted by Tony Kushner), Professor Bemporad will explore the original Dybbuk, filmed in Kazimierz, Poland in 1937, directed by Michal Waszyński and starring Lili Liliana and Leon Liebgold. Along with the screening of copious clips from the original (in Yiddish with English subtitles), which includes scenes of the renowned cantor Gershon Sirota of Vilna, Odessa and Warsaw, Dr. Bemporad will offer her expert commentary on the social and cultural history of the Jews in Poland during the period depicted in the film as well as on the eve of the Holocaust, when the film debuted. She will also delve into the origins of the film itself, including the folktales gathered by S. Ansky, which formed the basis of his play, and the ensuing 1937 production.

This program is made possible through the Ungar Professorship Endowment.

An Annual Commemoration of Kristallnacht and Recommitment to Combating Anti-Semitism and Hatred

Keynote Address: Marion Kaplan, Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History, New York University “Kristallnacht: Jewish Women and Families React”

Presented by the Resnick Family and Sinai Chapels, Fresh Meadows, Queens, NY

November 18 Sunday, 2–4 pm LeFrak Concert Hall

Dr. Marion Kaplan is the Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at NYU. She is a three-time National Jewish Book Award winner for The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in Imperial Germany (1991), Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany (1998), and Gender and Jewish History (with Deborah Dash Moore, 2011) as well as a finalist for Dominican Haven: The Jewish Refugee Settlement in Sosua (2008). Her book on the Nazi era also won the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary European History Book Prize. She has also edited books on German Jewish history, European women’s history and German women’s history, and has taught German and European history as well as European Jewish history, Jewish women’s history and German-Jewish history.

The program will include a candle-lighting ceremony with six Holocaust Survivors, escorted by student facilitators from the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding, each of whom makes a commitment to combat anti-Semitism and hatred after introducing a survivor. In addition, there is a multicultural invocation, remarks by public officials and audiovisual and musical interludes.

Organized by the Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious understanding at Queens College, the Queens Jewish Community Council, Kupferberg Holocaust Research Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College, and others.
Higher Education for the Community

Faculty Speakers Bureau

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, teachers, and internationally recognized figures whose opinions on historical and contemporary issues are much sought after by academicians and laypeople 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
- Anti-Semitism
- Biblical Studies
- Hasidism
- Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture
- Jewish Labor Movement
- 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
- New York City
- Jewish Humor
- Jewish Music/Jews and Music
- Jewish Thought, Philosophy, and Messiahism
- 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 website, www.qc.cuny.edu/jewishstudies. Speakers must be booked at least six weeks in advance.

A comprehensive booklet on the Speakers Bureau listing all the faculty and their specific topics is available from the Jewish Studies Office.

Achievements & Distinctions

FACULTY NOTES

The faculty associated with Jewish Studies at Queens College are exceptional scholars and award-winning teachers. Some of their highlights are listed below.

We extend a special welcome to six scholars who have recently joined the faculty and are working with the Jewish Studies Program:

Elissa Bemporad

History

is an Assistant Professor of History and the Jerry and William Ungar Professor of East European Jewish History at QC. She teaches a variety of courses on Eastern Europe, women in Jewish history, and the Holocaust. Her research focuses on the social and cultural history of Russian Jewry in the 19th and 20th centuries. During spring 2011 Professor Bemporad was invited to speak at the symposium at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem marking the twentieth anniversary of Ephraim Urbach’s death, where she gave a paper entitled “Minisk, ir va-em be-rusiah ha-sovietit” (Minsk, City and Mother in Soviet Russia). During fall 2011 she presented a paper at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies on kosher meat production in interwar Soviet Ukraine, and spoke at the Association for Jewish Studies on the blood libel in the Soviet Union. During summer 2012, with the support of a grant from the Research Foundation of Queens College, she conducted some preliminary research in the Vatican Archives in Rome related to her new book project on Jewish reactions to anti-Semitism in interwar Poland and Russia. Her article, “Empowerment, Defiance and Demise: Jews and the Blood Libel Specter under Stalinism,” is forthcoming in Jewish History in an issue devoted to the ritual murder accusation in modern Central and Eastern Europe. Professor Bemporad is the author of Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevist Experiment in Minsk, which will be published by Indiana University Press in early 2013. She is also co-editor, with Margherita Pascucci, of a book series in Yiddish literature and culture. As part of the series, Professor Bemporad is translating from Yiddish into Italian the work of Y. L. Peretz, which will be published by Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Firenze.

Francesca Bregoli

History

is an Assistant Professor of History and the Joseph and Oro Halegua Family Professor of Greek and Sephardic Studies. Her book manuscript on Jewish integration in the 18th-century port-city of Livorno, dealing with the themes of acculturation, privilege, and social segregation, is currently under review. Since her appointment in 2009, Professor Bregoli has presented widely and published extensively. In 2011 she organized a roundtable on current trends in the study of Italian Jewish history that took place at the Columbia Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. Additionally, she presented on the Hebrew printing press of Livorno at the Scholars Working Group on the Jewish Book (Center for Jewish History) and gave papers at the Fourth International Conference on the Haskalah in Frankfurt (Germany) and at the Early Modern Workshop on Jewish Ego-Document. In fall 2011 she participated in a roundtable on Religious Exile and Migration in the Renaissance and Early Modern World at the CUNY Graduate Center, and gave the Leon and Morris Levy Memorial Lecture at Queens College. This past year Professor Bregoli published “The Port of Livorno and its Nazione Ebreia in the Eighteenth Century: Economic Utility and Political Reforms” in Quest: Issues in Contemporary Jewish History, and “Hebrew Printing in Eighteenth-Century Livorno: From Government Control to a Free Market” in The Hebrew Book in Early Modern Italy, edited by Joseph Hacker and Adam Shear.

Abigail Doukhan

Philosophy

is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and holds the Pearl and Nathan Haledgu Family Professorship in Ethics and Tolerance, supported by the Pearl and Nathan Haledgu Family.
Foundation. She came to Queens College in fall 2010 to teach courses in ethics, contemporary continental philosophy, and Jewish philosophy. Prior to her current appointment, Dr. Doukhan had been Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Elon University in North Carolina, having taught courses in contemporary French philosophy and contemporary ethics. This past year Professor Doukhan presented a number of papers: “Emmanuel Levinas: The Wisdom of Exile” at the Center for Jewish Studies Faculty Colloquium at Queen College, April 2011; “Emmanuel Levinas: A Politics of Exile,” for the North American Levinas Society Annual Conference at Texas A&M University, May 2011; and “Beyond Haverut: Towards an Inter-faith Hermeneutics,” at the Emmanuel Levinas, Biblical Exegesis and Literature Conference at Boston College, March 2012. She also has a forthcoming book: Emmanuel Levinas: A Philosophy of Exile, Continuum, 2012.

### Arnold Franklin

History

is an Assistant Professor of History who holds a BA from Harvard and a PhD from Princeton University’s Department of Near Eastern Studies. A specialist in the field of Medieval Jewish History, Dr. Franklin’s current research project, a book tentatively entitled This Noble House of the House of King David in the Islamic East, explores the profound concern with lineage that developed among Jews living in Muslim lands during the Middle Ages. This past year Dr. Franklin presented “Recent Trends in the Study of Jewish Society in the Near East” at the New Directions in Medieval Scholarship Roundtable at the CUNY Graduate Center. He also organized a panel at the Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies in Boston, entitled “New Trends in Geniza Research.” As a part of the panel, he presented “Family Matters: Reconsidering the Importance of Lineage in the Geniza Society.”

### Sari Kisilevsky

Philosophy

is Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Prior to that appointment she held the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Chair in Ethics and Tolerance. In addition to her affiliation with Jewish Studies, Professor Kisilevsky is an affiliated scholar with the CUNY School of Law. Her areas of teaching include philosophy of law, political philosophy, and ethics. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Faculty Publication Program Fellowship Award for the spring 2011 semester, and in 2010 she received the Teacher Scholar Award for Innovation in Teaching from Queens College. Presentations this past year included “Easy Cases and Social Sources: Towards a New Defense of Legal Positivism” and “The Nature of Law: Contemporary Perspectives,” both delivered at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON. She also presented “Security, Liberty, and Procedural Justice: Rethinking the Balance,” delivered at Nassau College, New York, and at the Social and Political Theory Workshop at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her forthcoming publication, “Equality, Necessity and the Rule of Law,” will appear in the Proceedings of the 10th International Kant Congress (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter).

### Miryam Segal

Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages & Cultures

is an Assistant Professor of Classical, Middle Eastern, and Asian Languages and Cultures. She came to Queens College in 2009 to teach Modern Hebrew language and literature as well as courses in Bible and Rabbinics. She earned her doctorate in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, and is a gradu- ate of Harvard. Previously she was an Assistant Professor at Indiana University and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Harvard Divinity School. Prolific in all of her scholarly endeavors since her appointment, Prof. Segal won the Felix Gross Endowment Award from the City University of New York Academy this spring (2012), which is given annually to two assistant professors working in any field in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences who, through their research, show promise of making a worthwhile contribution to their field, the university, and academia. In 2011 she won the Prize for Innovative Scholarship in Gender and Women’s Studies from the Association for Jewish Studies Women’s Caucus for a paper on women’s poetry in Hebrew. This paper is part of a larger work-in-progress on Rachel Bravdovitz’s poetry. Professor Segal was invited to speak at the faculty seminar of the Department of Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in November 2011 on the topic of her book, A New Sound in Hebrew Poetry: Poetics, Politics, Accent. She was also invited to give a lecture on her book at Columbia University in February 2012. In April Professor Segal participated in the colloquium on Ethnicity, Secularization, Religion and Nationalism in Hebrew Culture at the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University.

### Ricki Asher

Secondary Education

Dr. Asher is the recipient of the New York City Higher Education Award Educator of the Year Award from the New York City City Arts Teachers Association, which was presented to her in a ceremony at MoMA. Dr. Asher lectured in Baltimore at the National Art Education Association conference, When Women Pursue Justice, giving a talk about a mural project in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn in honor of Shirley Chisholm and other women activists. Together with Professor Mark Rosenblum and Dr. Amy Winter, she also co-curated Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan, which was exhibited at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, Dec. 2010–Jan. 2011.

### Thomas E. Bird

European Languages and Literatures

This past year Professor Bird, also a founding member of the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute on “America Engages Russia: 1880-1930,” published a translation in Jewish Currents (Winter 2010) of Beye Schachter-Gottesman’s poem “Dovid Bergelvitz,” citing four of the marveled Soviet Yiddish writer’s best known literary works. Ever active lecturing, Professor Bird presented a paper in June 2011 on “The Russian Emigre Impact on America” at the third National Endowment for the Humanities Institute devoted to Russian affairs at Columbia University. Thereafter he lectured on “The Scholarly Contributions of the Belarusian Institute” in a seminar at the European Humanities University in Vilnius, and was elected Vice President of the North American Association for Belarusian Studies. He spoke on “International Anti-Semitism” and “Anti-Semitism and the Churches” before the Jamaica Study Group. At a hereditary society in Rhinebeck, NY, he spoke about “Loyalists and Patriots.” His other academic activities included serving as an advisor to the course on the Central Asian Bukharian Community, chairing the Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award for literary scholarship for the third year, and reviewing manuscripts for Canadian Slavonic Papers.

### Sami S. Chetrit

Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages and Culture

A Moroccan-born Jew raised in Israel, Prof. Chetrit is the advisor and coordinator of the Hebrew Studies Program. He writes and publishes poetry, prose, and research, and produces documentary films. Dr. Chetrit’s book, Intra-Jewish Conflict in Israel: White Jews, Black Jews, was published by Routledge, New York and London (2009). Other recent books by him are Yehudim (Jews), a poetry book released by Nahar Brooks, Israel (2008), and Ein Hababu (Doll’s Eye), a novel, Harriet Davis Kram

Harriet Davis Kram

History

Professor Davis Kram is working on a revision of No More a Stranger and Alone, a study of immigrant Jewish women during the Progressive Era. She published an article on the Clara de Hirsh Home (1897–1927), and is completing a study on “The Inmates of the Clara de Hirsh Home.” She lectures widely on behalf of the Center for Jewish Studies at communal organizations, and also lectures for the New York Council for the Humanities, which has listed her as one of its “star lecturers.” Two of her extremely popular lectures include “Jewish Communal Organizations” and “Rebels in Red Kerchiefs” about Jewish women activists in the U.S. and Eastern Europe from the late 19th century through the end of World War I.

Chetrit recently finished his second documentary film, Al Ayina (Come, Mother, Israel), 2009, about his mother’s classmates in Morocco 60 years ago. The film was selected for the DocAviv and Daron film festivals in Israel in 2009. His first film, which he wrote and co-directed, The Black Panthers (In Israel) Speak (Israel, 2003), is about the Israeli Mizrahi social uprising during the 1970s. It was selected to be shown at many festivals around the world. His next film project will explore the concept of Jewish statehood throughout Jewish history.
Luba H. Engel

Elementary and Early Childhood Education


Nora Glickman

Hispanic Languages and Literatures and CUNY Graduate Center

Professor Glickman is Associate Editor of Modern Jewish Studies, a special issue devoted to Hispanic Jewish Literature (2007), co-editor of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association Bulletin and member of its Executive Board; and President of the American Association of Professors of Yiddish. She has organized a LAJSA Colloquium at the Graduate Center on The Current State of Latin American Ashkenazim and Sephardic Studies (2007). Her publications include a selection of monologues in Claves para el teatro de Nora Glickman (2007) and film reviews. Her book selection of monologues in Ashkenazi and Sephardic Studies Colloquium at the Graduate Center on American Jewish cinema and theatre, with a special issue Modern Jewish Studies, is Associate Editor of Professor Glickman. He mostly uses primary archival sources, thereby presenting new and challenging interpretations of the history of this period. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the highest university scholarship from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry—its the Harold Proshansky Scholarship from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry—which honors a distinguished professor who has contributed to the field of Jewish Studies.

Leo Hershkowitz

History

Professor Hershkowitz has centered much of his work on the study of the early-19th-century Jewish community of New York City and has lectured widely on this subject to various groups, including the Jewish Historical Society of England and the American Jewish Historical Society. He has also published extensively in the publications of the American Jewish Archives, American Jewish Historical Society, the Holland Society’s de Halve Maen, and is working on a study of Jews in 1790 in New York City. He mostly uses primary archival sources, thereby presenting new and challenging interpretations of the history of this period. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the prestigious Lee Max Friedman Award by the American Jewish Historical Society in 2008 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2006 from the Hebrew Institute of Religion as a “beloved professor of History, Conscientious Teacher . . . whose scholarly research and writing have given the academic world an appreciation for and a deeper understanding of the presence and contributions of Jews in the days of New Amsterdam until the present day.”

Chava Lapin

English

Professor Lapin continues to teach and lecture to academic and public interest audiences about the cultural and literary traditions of Eastern European Jewry and the flowering of that legacy in more recent times. In spring 2008 she presented “The Power of the Proverb” to the International Resources Center at the Queensborough Public Library, and in 2009 a lecture entitled “Loshn un Shgetzy” (Language and Lifestyle) to a broad array of participants in a four-day EPVC conference at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Her recent publications include “The Unknown Folk Poet—A Lamentation on the Holocaust,” an analysis of the hitherto unknown and unpublished poetry of Felix Horn, a survivor who describes for the first time, in verse, the destruction of Mogilcevka and his personal saga in Vol. XXII of Die Zukunft, a 112-year-old literary Yiddish journal (the oldest extant to this day). She also conducted a week of advanced classes in Yiddish language and literature (in Yiddish) and focused on the 150th birthday of Sholem Aleichem for the Jewish Cultural Experience at Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake, NY.

Kristina Richardson

History

Professor Richardson received a Summer 2009 NEH grant to conduct research at the Wellcome Library for the History of Medicine in London, England. This project focused on Jewish and Muslim scholars’ use of neuroenhancers to boost their memory in 15th-century mamilot Cairo.

David Richter

English


Mark Rosenblum

History

Professor Rosenblum’s project “America and the Middle East: A Clash of Civilizations or a Meeting of Minds” continues to garner considerable national 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. The program has been featured in the New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education as well as on CBS-TV national news, National Public Radio, and a host of other electronic and print media. It received a $100,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. He was selected by the Clinton Global Initiative as one of two winners of an award for work in the field of Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation: “In pursuit of a Public Education Program on Israeli-Palestinian Understanding.” In fall 2009 Professor Rosenblum was appointed director of a new initiative devoted to fostering racial and ethnic understanding. This initiative has been awarded a $285,000 grant by the Department of Education and Training of Queens College, the Adjunct Faculty.

Arthur Shippee

Religious Studies

Professor Shippee and Philip Culbertson edited The Pastor: Readings from the Pastriche Period, which has been republished by Fortress Press. He continues to chair the committee selecting each year’s winners of the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching by Adjunct Faculty.

Sheila Spector

English


Joseph Sungolowsky

European Languages and Literatures

Professor Sungolowsky published a chapter entitled “Andre Neher (1918–1988) et Erets Israel” in La Pensee Juive contemporaine (Editions parle et Silence, 2009): “Hidden Children in France (1940–1944): A Memoir” in The Hidden Child (XVI, 2008). He is the author of “Rabbi Joseph Sinzheim, President of Napoleon’s Sanhedrin and First Chief Rabbi of France,” which appeared in Midstream (Winter 2009) and of “Holocaust and Autobiography” published in Bloom’s Guides: “Wiesel’s Night” (Chelsea House, 2009). He reviewed “Les Trains du souvenir,” a World War II memoir published in France, given by Anne Applebaum in New York. That year she also spoke in Riga, Latvia, on “Lithuania’s Holocaust Poetry.” This past year Professor Zimroth was on sabbatical, based at Clare Hall, Cambridge, where she was a Visiting Fellow and a Life Member since 2003, doing research in the Modern Archives at King’s College. In May 2011 she delivered the keynote address “The Limits (if any) of Holocaust Discourse” at a conference on The Problems of Literary Genres, University of Lodz, Poland. The essay was published in April 2012 in the journal Kinds and Styles of Criticism. In June 2011 she spoke at Cambridge on the use of the computer for literary composition in a symposium on English language usage, and in fall 2011 she met as a consultant with the Lithuanian government on Jewish heritage issues. In spring 2012 she was named advisor for the Jewish Studies program at the European Humanities University, Vilnius, and joined the Board of Advisors for the “Sunflower Project” (tentative title), devoted to Jewish-Lithuanian reconciliation. In June 2012 she spoke in Riga, Latvia, on “Lithuania’s Jewish Heritage: History, Memory and Public Policy” as part of the annual commemorative events for the Isaiah Berlin Centenary, for which she had been co-organizer in 2009.
The Center for Jewish Studies and the Jewish Studies Program’s 24th Annual Graduation and Awards Ceremonies was held on May 16, 2012. Another overflow crowd of parents, relatives, friends, and faculty was kvelling as our graduates and awardees demonstrated anew their staggering academic achievements. Nearly all our majors and minors graduated with honors or high honors; they had a combined cumulative GPA of 3.8 out of 4.0. Two students had a perfect 4.0! These graduates and awardees are among the more than 2,000 students who annually enroll in over eighty of our Jewish Studies courses. Their academic acumen is complemented by their ethical commitment and community service. They represent a core of the campus leadership, from the president of Hillel, to the campus coordinator for the American World Jewish Service, to the editors-in-chief of the Journal of Jewish Studies.

The dedication and excellence of these students manifested itself in another arena: the production of the only all-student-run Jewish Studies journal in the country. A labor of love, this issue of the Journal has once again been produced by a distinguished group of students who have mastered all aspects of the publication process.

This year’s keynote presentation consisted of a distinguished panel entitled “Student Reflections on Advancing Cross-Cultural Understanding.” Each of the four outstanding students on the panel, two current students and one alumnus, and one graduate highly trained as facilitators in the Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU) shared their personal experiences with the graduates and the audience. One by one, Steven Appel ’09; Charlie Wohlberg ’13; Batya Septimus ’12 and Lara Porter ’14, by way of example for the graduates, addressed the impact of their unique work in CERRU on their own lives, and how such dialogues can effect change in our society, and for the individual in both the personal and professional arenas.

The 2012 Graduates

FEBRUARY
Rachel Deutsch
Natasha Kaufman
Bari Robyn Nadworny

MAY
Devorah Bernstein
Rachel I. Gelfand
Allison S. Horowitz
Philip L. Kaplan
Etan Y. Kuperberg
Tamar Markowitz
Jeremy J. Reichmann
Ricki A. Rubin
Batya Septimus
Melissa J. Sovronsky
Jacqueline A. Wolpoe

Award Recipients

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AWARD
Natalie Davidson
Camelia Serghie

WILLIAM FENSTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Rebecca Newhouse

MORRIS FLATOW MEMORIAL AWARD
Batya Septimus

STEFA BERGER COMMUNAL SERVICE AWARD
Lara Porter
Charlie Wohlberg

JAN SINNREICH AWARD FOR WRITING EXCELLENCE
Danielle Chaim

THE M. HRATCH ZADOIAN STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES
Heather M. Nitschke

PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Natasha Kaufman
Bari Robyn Nadworny
Jacqueline A. Wolpoe

RUTH HOLLANDER AWARD
Philip L. Kaplan

MAIMONIDES AWARD
Batya Septimus

Natalie Davidson
Camelia Serghie

Rebecca Newhouse and Jan Fenster

Danielle Chaim, Leonore Sinnreich and Dr. Diane Spielmann

30
THE HERBERT BERMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Israel Singer, Holocaust Era Assets: The Moral Perspective, November 17, 1999

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

Warren Zev Harvey, Maimonides’ Political Philosophy and Its Relevance for the State of Israel Today, The Dean Ernset Schwarze Memorial Lecture, November 15, 2001
Feige Kaplan, Should We Be Meaning About Cloning? Opportunities and Concerns in the New Genetics, The Dr. William Weil and Dr. Martha Weil Memorial Lecture, March 12, 2002
Warren Zev Harvey, Yadie Haski’s Political Philosophy and Its Relevance for the State of Israel Today, The Dean Ernest Schwarze Memorial Lecture, November 19, 2003

QUEENS COLLEGE JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES: A STUDENT PUBLICATION

Volume I, Spring 1999, Michael Adler & Daniel Chung, eds.
Volume II, Spring 2000, Elana Ducat & Leah Rabinovits, eds.
Volume IV, Spring 2002, Rafka Libman Schultman & Justin Engel, eds.
Volume V, Spring 2003, Rebecca Finkel & Deborah Kahan, eds.
Volume VI, Spring 2004, Nicole Iny & Russel Nemo, eds.
Volume VIII, Spring 2006, David Greenberg & Lauren Talerman, eds.
Volume X, Spring 2009, editor-in-chief
Volume XI, Spring 2010, editors-in-chief
Volume XII, Spring 2011, editors-in-chief

QUEENS COLLEGE JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES: STUDENT PUBLIC CONFERENCE/SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS


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
Journal of Jewish Studies: A Student Publication
Volumes I–VII and X–XI: $10.00 each; Volumes VI, XII, XIII & XIV: $12.00 each

THE JEWISH CONDITION

Challenges and Responses — 1938–2008

William B. Helmreich
Mark Rosenblum
David Schimel


Our conference, “Is it 1938 Again?” has been published by Transaction Publishers, April 2008, under the title The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008. Limited copies are available, so rush your orders for this probing study of the peril and promise of the Jewish condition at a special discount price of $15.00.

OTHER SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CENTER

Nasser D. Khalili, Islamic Arts & Culture
Mark Podwal, Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescent
Mark Podwal, “Sweet Year” Wall Calendar

QUEENS COLLEGE JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES: A STUDENT PUBLIC CONFERENCE/SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

**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 has a wide array of exciting extracurricular events, making it a pre-eminent 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.
- 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.
- Combat and overcome intolerance and stereotyping while promoting understanding among diverse groups on campus and within the broader community, with a belief in nurturing a sense of shared citizenship on issues transcending differences while recognizing and celebrating the beauty of difference.

**CULTURAL PROGRAMS**

Biblical Archaeology Slide-Lecture Series Lecture/Book Signings Music & Theater Series International Symposia and Conferences Kristallnacht Memorials Jewish Visual Arts Programs Student Seminars

**PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY**

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**PUBLICATIONS**


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**FACULTY Programs**

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**NEW professorships and teachers**

The Jerry and William Ungar Professorship in Jewish Studies Endowment, supported by the Jerry* and William Ungar: Dr. Elissa Bemporad The Joseph and Ora Halegua Professorship in Greek and Sephardic Jewish Studies, supported by the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Foundation: Dr. Francesca Bregoli The Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Professorship in Ethics and Tolerance, supported by the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Foundation: Dr. Abigail Doukhan

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Conferences, films, music and theater performances.

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**Occasional Papers Series**

**Publications**

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Like all Queens College Centers and Institutes, the Center for Jewish Studies must 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 ($36 and above) of those who have joined the Friends of the Center of the organization.

The Friends was established as an annual membership organization to maintain the functions and activities of the center. Monies of the Friends underwrote student scholarships, the student Journal of Jewish Studies, new courses, and public programs—for example, our “Is It 1938 Again?” conference attended by over 1,000 participants. 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 initiatives at Queens College and can take heart

A NOTE FROM ELSI LEVY

An interesting parallel appears on our computers. Both gentlemen died intertwined in extensive columns on the American Sephardi Federation, and foundations, and is particularly thankful for the membership gifts ($36 and above) of those who have joined the Friends of the Center of the organization.

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For Member Benefits, see page 37.

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- 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.

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- 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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