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.

**9 Good Reasons to Give**

1. **Graduation and Awards**
   - Jews are a minority group and the number of Jews graduating from Queens College has grown steadily since the Center’s establishment.
   - The Center’s graduates have gone on to successful careers in a variety of fields, including law, medicine, business, and education.

2. **Achievements & Distinctions**
   - The Center has received several awards for its innovative programming and community outreach.
   - An outside evaluation has found that our new initiative—CERRU—has had a significant impact in sensitizing students to other cultures and reducing their inclination to engage in negative stereotyping and behaviors.

3. **Faculty Speakers Bureau**
   - Many of our distinguished faculty members have spoken at other institutions, and their talks have been very well received.

4. **Archeology Slide-Lecture Series**
   - The Series has been well attended and has provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the history and culture of the region.

5. **Middle East Discussion Series—Tuesday, 7:30 pm**
   - The Series has been well attended and has provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the history and culture of the region.

6. **Jewish Lecture Series**
   - The Series has been well attended and has provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the history and culture of the region.

7. **Performance Series—LeFrak Concert Hall**
   - The Series has been well attended and has provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the history and culture of the region.

8. **Programming—2012-13 Culture & Arts Review of Center’s Center: The Year in Review**
   - The Review has been well received and has provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the history and culture of the region.

9. **Director’s Report**
   - The Report has been well received and has provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the history and culture of the region.

An outside evaluation has found that our new initiative—CERRU—has had a significant impact in sensitizing students to other cultures and reducing their inclination to engage in negative stereotyping and behaviors. Typical of the evaluator’s findings were these two comments from student facilitators: An African-American student said: “Before coming to the Center I previously had developed misconceptions about the Orthodox Jewish community. Due to lack of exposure and interaction on my part and my limited experiences, I had come to believe that many members of the Orthodox Jewish community were unwelcoming to those outside the Orthodox faith. 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 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 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.”

Creative Curriculum That Has Won National Acclaim:

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The Center for Jewish Studies Program and Center: The Year in Review

Mark Rosenblum, Director
Center’s award-winning curriculum and public education programs as well as the college’s stunning diversity, with students from more than 170 different 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.

Dynamic and Expanding Culture & Arts Program: This past year we offered 15 major programs, including world-class scholars and educators, renowned diplomats and political analysts, virtuosic 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 bouquet. (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 world-class 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 college’s coveted Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Strong as our faculty is, we are still growing. This fall we welcome back the five recently hired young, gifted scholar/teachers to our program: Dr. Francesca Bregoli (the Joseph and Oro Halegua Professor in Greek and Septadric Jewish Studies), Dr. Sari Kislevsky (Philosophy of Law and Ethics), Dr. Elissia 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 Bible). Joining this stellar group of recently hired scholars is Dr. Abigail Doothan (the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Professor in Ethics and Tolerance).

Diverse and Talented Students: At our spring 2013 commencement, yet another overflow crowd of parents, relatives, friends and faculty filled the Patio Room, dwelling 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. These graduates and awardees are among the more than 2,000 students who speak dozens of languages and represent a multitude of different ethnic, racial, and religious groups, all studying Jewish topics in more than 80 of our Jewish Studies courses.

Our graduates’ and awardees’ 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 editor-in-chief of The Journal of Jewish Studies. They also include two of the college’s valedictorians over the past four years.

The Only Jewish Studies Journal in the Nation That Is Totally Student Produced and Where Students Have the Last Word: The students who edit the Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies clarify our mission. The Journal’s inside cover incorporates a rabbinic saying that captures the spirit of our endeavor: “Who is Wise? One Who Learns From Everyone” (Pirkei Avot 4:1).

Drawn from the collection of rabbinic axioms that over the centuries have become a principal ethical scripture for Jews, this inscription honors the mission of the Jewish Studies Program and Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College, which explores—through competing perspectives—some of the most searing questions that confront Jewry.

The 15th edition of the Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies, a completely student-run initiative, will delight and stimulate readers, making them swell with pride to be associated with the Queens College Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Jewish Studies. A labor of love, this issue of the Journal once again has been produced by a distinguished group of 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 securing the marketplace for the best printer at the most competitive price.

The co-editors-in-chief, Daniella Chaim and Laura Meltzer, and their equally talented and exuberant editorial board—layout editor Sandy Steinberg and Benjamin Reisman—produced a memorable work. Special recognition goes to Daniella, Laura, Sandy, and Ben for their 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 underenrolled in our classes is Imanuel Rybakov. A talented recent QC graduate, Mr. Rybakov is a 28-year-old activist within the Bukharian Jewish Congress who organized and took the lead in teaching the first-ever course on Bukharian history and culture at Queens College. Lead stories in the Daily News, Jewish Week, and other newspapers heralded the initiative of offering academic courses on Bukharian culture, one of the first in the U.S.

Uncommon Courage Award winners, from left to right: Byron Adriano Pullutasig, Frances Mady, and Alexandra Ruiz (CERRU).
It is estimated that there are nearly 1,000 Bukharian students on the Queens College campus. Bukharian Jews come primarily from Central Asia and the former Soviet Union, and the largest concentration of the Bukharian population in the U.S. resides in Queens.

The course Mr. Rybakov so effectively organized included trips to the Bukharian Jewish Museum, as well as bringing iconic Bukharian musicians and performers to the campus, including Avrom Tolmasov and Tamara Katayeva. This successful experiment in developing courses that engage the Bukharian student body has allowed us to add a new course to the curriculum, “Bukharian Jewish Language” (known as Fadjił within the community) through the efforts of Mr. Rybakov.

Difficult Questions, Balanced Answers: Our Center is committed to continuing to ask the hard questions that require responses from a diverse range of perspectives: Is it 1938 again? What is the future of Jerusalem? Are the U.S. and Israel under Obama and Netanyahu heading toward a strategic collision or a Solomonic compromise? How do we most effectively combat anti-Semitism and hatred? In the past four years we have brought together eminent ideologues out to engage in political battle. Our hope was that we might clarify our differences and perhaps discover some unexpected agreement.

New Community Initiative: Finally, in addition to the Center’s robust and highly regarded Faculty Speakers Bureau, we have dramatically expanded our community outreach for this year. We have developed a series of programs with Temple Beth Shalom and the National Conference on Religion, Ethics and the Public Square, including strikingly divergent ideas.

Responses—1938–2008

Finally, in addition to the

Many deserve our deep appreciation: President James Muyskens, who continues his steadfast support for our work. The president has found time in his frenetic schedule to attend and introduce many of our programs. “Time is money,” and he has invested both in the Center, providing us with new staff positions that help coordinate and expand our various activities, and facilitating the hiring of six new professors who have joined us in the past few years. We also wish to thank and acknowledge both Vice President James Stei...
Review of Center’s Culture & Arts Programming for 2012–13

Diane Spielmann, Assistant Director

From the start of our fall programming to its finish in the spring, “innovation and creativity” are the hallmarks of our programming. The fall 2012 season began with education as the driving force behind the entertainment. In September, the Center for Jewish Studies presented Shalosh Ima’ot (Three Mothers) the first of our Cinema on Sundays Film/ Dialogue Series, and the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene’s “Reflections of a Lost Poet: The Life and Works of Itzik Manger.” Both programs had a strong educational component while providing unique entertainment. Shalosh Ima’ot, directed by Dina Zvi-Riklis, focused on the close-knit family culture among Sephardic Jewry that played out in the early days following the creation of Israel. From the birth of triplet girls in Alexandria in 1942, Zvi-Riklis took us on a journey of their lives and that of the second generation through to modern-day Israel. Dr. Eric Goldman, a specialist in Jewish and Israeli history and culture of Israel. No one in the audience was untouched that afternoon—not only with the powerful film, but also through the expert commentary guiding us through the film’s intriguing intricacies.

“Unique” is the word for the one-act show of Folksbiene’s “Reflections of a Lost Poet: The Life and Works of Itzik Manger.” Known as one of the greatest Yiddish poets of the 20th century, Manger lived from 1901 to 1969; his life experience for his generation was “unique” as the world witnessed the best and the worst of humankind. “Unique” also is the word for Avi Hoffman’s brilliant performance as Itzik Manger, as he pondered the vicissitudes of life, especially those of his generation. In rhyme, in lyrics, in dance, and in gesture, Hoffman delivered a powerful performance, along with piano accompanist Binuymen Schaechter, as they both conveyed Manger’s universal message in fact and in spirit.

A discussion of Middle East events, defined by Professor Mark Rosenblum through the lens of Ecclesiastes during the fall 2012 QC Presidential Roundtable, began with the search for the “season of peace” as he addressed “Middle East: From the Arab Spring Revolts, to the American Autumn Elections, to the Nuclear Winter, and the Missing Season of Peace.” In a highly analytical kaleidoscope of ideas, politics, historical events, and the individual personalities involved, which he called the “DNA” for all of the players in the Middle Eastern mesh, Professor Rosenblum kept the audience at the edge of their seats addressing each issue, and answering each question from the full house. It was an afternoon of stimulation and rude awakening, as well as introspection relating to the human condition in today’s world. And the following program a day later was equally as dynamic . . . .

After her discoveries during excavations in the Galilee the previous summer, Dr. Jodi Magness, Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) returned to the Center for Jewish Studies to share her recently uncovered findings, for the first time in a public lecture, as a part of the Center’s Biblical Archaeology Slide-Lecture series. The audience was ecstatic as she traced a virgin landscape from thistleslike weeds in Haqap to highly developed mosaics unearthed in what was an ancient synagogue of major proportions and prosperity, possibly in the years 400–600! Step by step with copious illustrations, she provided not only the reasons for her research, but also the process for the never-before-excavated village that revealed a well-to-do Jewish community in the region that had been a part of Jesus’ ministry. With her delivery as exciting as her “groundbreaking” research, the audience was electrified throughout!

The second of our Cinema on Sundays series showcased a 2010 Polish film directed by Jan Kidawa-Błonスキ entitled Little Rose, in a provocative reexamination of the relationship of Poles and Jews, most of whom were secular and loyal to the Party and country in the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War. The events and interaction of the factions culminated in the “expulsion” of 15,000 Jews from Poland in early 1968. Queens College Professor Emeritus of Media Studies Stuart Lieberman provided an intricate historical introduction that laid bare the interrelationships of the Soviet government vis-à-vis Poland and the 25,000 remnant Jews in the aftermath of the Holocaust. With actress Magdalena Boczarska caught between the disparate factions as “Little Rose,” the story unfolded in this insightful drama touching very basic human emotions. Dr. Lieberman’s expert summary and historical interpretation led the way to an understanding of the period and subsequent generations which greatly enhanced the question-and-answer period that followed.

As is the tradition each year, our Lecture Series opened with the Annual Leon and Morris Levy Memorial Lecture, endowed by the Levy Family. “Reстроен: American Jewish History and the Sephardic Presence in Early America,” delivered by the dynamic new Sephardic scholar, Dr. Hilit Surowitz-Israel of Rutgers University. An expert in religion, she focused on the Caribbean, specifically Curacao, from where a 2,000-member-strong congregation influenced and provided for the many fledgling congregations throughout the colonies in early America. While illustrating the lecture with historical documentation and literature in her PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Surowitz-Israel listed one-by-one not only the annual donations and gifts distributed from the Caribbean to many congregations, but also their religious impact on cities such as New York and Philadelphia. To this day, the Sephardi influence is still apparent in a number of East Coast communities. She juxtaposed this tremendous impact with the as-yet minimal recognition of the Sephardi influence in the scholarly record, but hopes this will be rectified in the years to come. The audience, taken with her knowledge and style, did not let a moment go by without question after question from almost everyone present, for whom she swiftly and eloquently provided answers.
Renowned Israeli journalist, fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and contributing editor of the New Republic, Yossi Klein Halevi addressed “Israel Looks Inward: Emergence of a New Israeli Center.” In his timely talk Halevi stressed two main points for the then-upcoming Israeli elections: (1) Israeli voters were considering domestic issues equally with foreign policy issues, a first; and (2) both liberal as well as conservative viewpoints were trend-ing toward the center. After laying this groundwork for his talk, Halevi clearly and coherently spelled out the details for all major players in the Middle East, also against the backdrop of the pending U.S. elections. The well-received talk engendered a lively question-and-answer period.

In the aftermath of Sandy’s wrath, A Dybbuk: Or Between Two Worlds, adapted by Tony Kushner, opened with spirits of equal powers looming—this time on stage. Directed by Professor Elissa Bemporad from Ezra Mendelsohn, Jewish Historian of Poland, as she presented the original Yiddish film Der Dybbuk, which debuted in Poland in 1937, as a follow-up to the live Tony Kushner adaptation a week earlier. Dr. Bemporad, the Jerry and William Unger Professor of East European Jewish History, explained the background of the film, focusing on Jewish life and culture in Poland, ironi-cally flourishing amidst anti-Semitism. She also discussed author S. Ansky and his original research of the prevalent folklore of the period. After the screening, almost everyone in the audience engaged in the lively question-and-answer period that touched on universal themes in the film, with comparisons to the live play.

From greetings by President Myuskens, to concluding remarks by Professor Mark Rosenblum, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding (CERRU), the Annual Kristall-nacht Commemoration and Recommitment Ceremony set the stage for the candlelighting ceremony with six Holocaust Survivors. Each Survivor was paired with a student facilitator by Assistant Director Steven Appel of CERRU. The students—representing different races, reli-gions, and ethnicities—read short biographies of the Survivors, and each made a commitment to fight anti-Semitism and hatred, leaving a deep impression on the audience. The candlelighting ceremony closed with a poem entitled “Liberation” by Auschwitz Survivor Walli Mischkowski, first uncovered in 2002 in the original German, which was read in English by her daughter, Diane Spielmann, Assistant Director of the Center for Jewish Studies. At the conclusion of the program, the solemnity of the afternoon was further enhanced with the riveting musical rendition of Kol Nidre by pianist David Taubman and cellist Juliane Russo, which con-cluded the afternoon on a note of spiritual reawakening.

Fast-moving and exciting in its inauguration, CERRU’s first annual “Innovation Exchange: Re-Imagining America,” in conjunction with the Office of the President, closed the fall season on 12/12/12. The program ran for 4 hours and presented 12 social innovators. Emphasis was placed on innovators from the campus and community, and included such voices as Vice President James Stollar and Professor Mark Rosenblum, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies and CERRU. Each speaker had 12 minutes to dis-cuss innovation for such areas as Social Enterprise, Theatre, Government, Edu-cational Gaming, Neuroscience, Immigration, Faith, University leadership, and more. The evening was intro-dued and moderated by Sophia McGee, Director of Program-ming for CERRU. Packed with new ideas, the inten-sity was exhilarating! As for the future, Assistant Director of CERRU Steven Appel declared, “Diversity is key to fostering innovation and, as one of the most diverse col-leges in the nation, QC is in a unique position to champion social innovation.”

And the pulse continued for the spring: On an otherwise dark and dreary evening in February, the Center for Jewish Studies and CERRU opened spring programming to an excited full house eager to hear the up-to-the-minute assessment of “An Israeli-Palestinian SOS,” while pondering the question “Has the Sun Set on the Two-State Solution?” The Middle East Forum featured “Ghaith al-Omari in Conversation with Professor Mark Rosenblum,” both seasoned experts in the field from both the diplomatic and academic perspectives. Prof. Rosenblum set the stage in his PowerPoint presentation of the current political and geo-graphic status of the region, posing an array of questions to which Dr. Omari, Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine, responded. A staunch proponent of the two-state solution, now somewhat overshadowed by cur-rent upheavals in the area, Dr. Omari defended the need for continued diplomatic dialogue. He also listened to a deeply interested and energized audience, while answering a series of “Difficult Questions” with responses from his perspec-tive that encompassed the practical with the philosophical. At the conclusion of the evening, spring programming was “up and running” with a momentous start.
And momentous it was when the “beat” continued with the Gerard Edery Trio presenting the “Spirit of Sepharad,” an artistic interpretation of Sephardic history. Sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and CERRU, the program filled LeFrak Concert Hall with an amalgam of musical instrumentation, readings in numerous languages tracing the Sephardic migrations, art, film projection, and narration—each evoking the “Spirit” of Sepharad. Gerard Edery, recipient of the Sephardic Musical Heritage Award, is recognized as a leading musical folklorist, singer, and guitarist, who has been called the “Master of Sephardic Song” by the New York Times. In a style both elegant and eloquent, Edery prefaced each song with the history of the particular nation and period, followed by a synopsis in English of the lyrics that were sung in the original language, including Arabic, Hebrew, and Ladino, as well as other dialects. The audience that packed the Hall left only after a standing ovation and a CD from Sepharad Records (on the Gerard Edery label)!

From the Sephardic world to the heart of Ashkenaz, Weimar Berlin just before its demise, the Center featured an incredible film little known to American audiences: Comedian Harmonists, a joint Austrian/German endeavor directed by Joseph Vilsmaier (1997). Founded in 1928 by an unemployed young Jewish musician, the all-male close-harmony vocal sextet, with three Jewish and three non-Jewish artists, enjoyed international acclaim for just a few short years before the rise of Nazism beginning in 1933. By 1934 the group was forced to dissolve. The mood and proverbial “stage was set” for the screening with music greeting the audience as they arrived.

Along with Karen L. King, Jody Magnness, and Nadia Abu El Haj, all leading archaeologists/anthropologists. As a philosopher, Professor Shippee then questioned fact from speculation, imagination, and interpretation. Within his lively discussion he laid the all-important pedagogical “groundwork” for the future of what promises to be a successful series.

The books lived on, while the “Paper Brigade,” consisting of 20 men and women who were responsible for that rescue in the Vilna Ghetto of 1942 did not, except for five. In our annual commemoration of Yom HaShoah, endowed by Marvin and Celina Zborowski, Professor David Fishman, Historian of the Jewish Theological Seminary, presented a fascinating piece of archival history, the “Rescue of Jewish Cultural Treasures during the Holocaust,” focusing on the events of interwar Vilna, then part of Poland. In a detailed PowerPoint slide show that included a general history of the area, as well as the illustrious heritage of the Jewish cultural community of Vilna, he explained how the “Paper Brigade” was formed at the behest of the Nazis seeking to save a small percentage of the books that one day would be destined for their infamous Museum of the Jews. In poignant anecdotes, he illustrated how the books survived, and how the “Paper Brigade” outsmarted their adversaries, culminating with a poem written by one of the most famous Yiddish poets of that period. Fishman’s talk, together with the rare PowerPoint photographic images, kept the gaze of the audience riveted to the podium and screen, with a moving question-and-answer period that followed.

Continuing the theme of “Remembrance” the following week, the Center for Jewish Studies, along with the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding and the Louis Armstrong House Museum, inaugurated a new book discussion/reading series with Museum Trustee, Stephen Maitland-Lewis, author of Emeralds Never Fade, a novel of the Holocaust. After a warm welcome from President Myeumsen, and a PowerPoint introduction of Mr. Maitland-Lewis’ extraneous career, and the Louis Armstrong House Museum Director Michael Cogswell highlighted Maitland-Lewis’ longstanding friendship with the jazz musician. In a conversation with Assistant Director of Jewish Studies and literary historian Diane Spielmann, Maitland-Lewis spoke of the two main protagonists in his award-winning novel—both pianists, one Jewish and one non-Jewish, tracing their lives in a 50-year period dominated by the schism created as a result of the Holocaust. Intriguing and emotionally wrenching, the passages read by the author lent poignancy not only to the overt tragedies of the Holocaust, but also to the silent ones as well. While history gives us the facts, literature lends another dimension to the understanding of history, in which we “feel” the facts. The program was followed by a book signing and reception.

During May the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding held its fourth annual Evening of Uncommon Courage, in a gala dinner celebrating those who have made a difference for humanity. The three selection categories include Queens College students, alumni, and outstanding individuals from the global community. The event sponsored by CERRU honored Queens College student, Nashwa El-Sayed (2013, Political Science), who is one of two QC students chosen to participate in the prestigious Ibrahim Foundation’s Summer Fellowship program in which Muslim, Jewish, and Christian students visit neutral countries in the Middle East. Nashwa aspires to launch a nongovernmental organization that will help reunite American families with children who have been abducted and taken abroad. In her emotional address she shared her own story, including her abduction, which resulted in her drive to help others in similar circumstances. The two alumnus honored were Dasi Fruchter, graduate of the Honors College at Queens College, who was impacted by CERRU and aspires to become ordained as clergy within the Orthodox movement, and Meher Moshsin, a social studies teacher in an Islamic school and co-coordinator of CERRU’s Volunteering Corps, who has embarked on numerous social action-oriented projects within the Muslim community. Working together for social justice, Dasi and Meher have developed a special friendship with each other, which emulates their mutual goals for the broader community. One of the global honorees was Angy Rivera, a Columbian-born and NY-raised immigrant who started the first and only undocumented youth advice column called “Ask Angy.” Another global honoree was Stephen Barton, survivor of the Aurora Theatre massacre, who continues his work on gun violence prevention for “Mayors Against Illegal Guns.” It was an evening to honor and reflect.

In sum, 2012-2013 was another exceptional year as Queens College touched audiences with several new series and programs, all the while disseminating knowledge through historical interpretations, discoveries, and presentations of the best in culture and the arts. 
Music and Theater Performance Series

National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene

LEFRAK CONCERT HALL

Notes from the Underground

October 23 • Wednesday, 7 pm
Free and open to the public

A riveting concert featuring the Farbotene Lider (Forbidden Songs) that were clandestinely shared from Jewish family to Jewish family behind the Iron Curtain. Featuring members of the electrifying Klezmer group Golem: Phyllis Berk, Elmore James, and Svetlana Shmulyian.

Musical Director, Zalmen Mlotek

A Chanukah Celebration with The Minstrel and the Storyteller

LEFRAK CONCERT HALL

Gerard Edery and Peninnah Schram in Kindling the Flame: Stories & Songs for Chanukah

December 3 • Tuesday, 7 pm
Free and open to the public

The Minstrel and the Storyteller is a delightful collaboration between Gerard Edery and Peninnah Schram that honors the rich and vibrant oral traditions of the Jewish people. For the last 20 years they have presented this entertaining, humorous, and evocative program to audiences worldwide. Their stories and songs, drawn from Ashkenazi and Sephardic sources, feature kings, queens, sages, tricksters, and prophets. Their subtle interplay of narrative and music elevate both art forms to new heights in this unforgettable performance. Travel on a Chanukah journey that interweaves stories and songs from around the Jewish world, celebrating the themes of this holiday. Hear stories of love and journeys, tricksters, and Elijah the Prophet—and lots of splendid songs to match them all.

Gerard Edery, recipient of the Sephardic Musical Heritage Award, is recognized as a leading musical folklorist, master singer, and guitarist. With a remarkable range of ethnic folk styles from around the world, he sings in over 15 languages. He has been featured at major concert venues and festivals around the world and has recorded 14 CDs of his work on the Sefarad Records label and published a widely acclaimed Sephardic songbook.

Peninnah Schram, award-winning storyteller and author, is known internationally for her elegant and dynamic presentations. A Professor of Speech and Drama at Stern College of Yeshiva University, she is the author of 10 books of Jewish folktales, and has recorded a CD with Gerard Edery, The Minstrel and the Storyteller.

A Celebration for All Ages. Bring the Entire Family!

Reception to follow with traditional kosher Ashkenazi and Sephardic Chanukah treats.

Folksbiene at CUNY is a series of free concerts and readings sponsored by the City University of New York.
Israeli security agency) director Dror Moreh paints a historical picture and raises ethical questions through their personal testimonies. While the film is “inevitably partial,” it is yet “fair-minded” as reported in a New York Times review of November 25, 2012. Alongside and throughout the interviews, Moreh interweaves public archival footage in addition to presenting recreations of clandestine activities.

Discussant: Prof. Mark Rosenblum
Award-winning Middle East historian of Queens College, Mark Rosenblum has been involved in track-two Middle East diplomacy for more than 30 years. He has met with all the major players in the region, including the past six presidents of the U.S. and President Obama. His most recent academic article is “The Quest for Impact: Lessons Learned from the American Jewish Peace Camp,” in Israel and the United States: Six Decades of U.S.-Israel Relations, Robert O. Friedman, ed., Westview Press, 2012. At Queens College, Professor Rosenblum directs the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, and the Michael Harrington Center for Democratic Values & Social Change. This past summer he led a group of student scholars on a leadership and dialogue program in the Middle East, including Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Discussant: Prof. Emeritus Stuart Liebman, an expert on the representation of history in films, recently retired from Queens College, 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.

AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY!

THE GATEKEEPERS
Documentary, 2013
Hebrew with English subtitles. Director: Dror Moreh
October 6 • Sunday, 2 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public

The Gatekeepers is both compelling and controversial as it tells the story of post-1967 Israel and six special men as they ponder the past and future of the Middle East.

In an interview with six former members of the Shin Bet (top

Nominated for the best foreign film in 2012, The Gatekeepers is both compelling and controversial as it tells the story of post-1967 Israel and six special men as they ponder the past and future of the Middle East.

In an interview with six former members of the Shin Bet (top

LA RAFLE
2012
French, German, and Yiddish with English subtitles. Director: Roselyn Bosch
October 27 • Sunday, 2 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
$5 per ticket; for information call 718-997-5730

A moving, extraordinarily detailed recreation of the darkest days of French Jewry—July 1942. Selective deportations of Jews from France to “resettlement” camps in the east had been going on for months by the German occupiers. Nonetheless, the Vichy French police decided to help their German counterparts by conducting a massive roundup of foreign-born Jews in Paris and across the north of France. In just over two days they arrested more than 13,000 Jews, including 4,051 infants and children. More than 7,000 were taken to the bicycling stadium, the so-called Vel’ d’Hiv, where they were forced to stay under deplorable sanitary conditions before being deported to camps in the south, accompanied by a brave and principled Protestant nurse. All eventually were transferred to Auschwitz, with no child surviving, and only a few of the adults destined to return.

Discussant: Prof. Emeritus Stuart Liebman, an expert on the representation of history in films, recently retired from Queens College, 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.

AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY!

LA RAFFLE
2012
French, German, and Yiddish with English subtitles. Director: Roselyn Bosch
October 27 • Sunday, 2 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
$5 per ticket; for information call 718-997-5730

A moving, extraordinarily detailed recreation of the darkest days of French Jewry—July 1942. Selective deportations of Jews from France to “resettlement” camps in the east had been going on for months by the German occupiers. Nonetheless, the Vichy French police decided to help their German counterparts by conducting a massive roundup of foreign-born Jews in Paris and across the north of France. In just over two days they arrested more than 13,000 Jews, including 4,051 infants and children. More than 7,000 were taken to the bicycling stadium, the so-called Vel’ d’Hiv, where they were forced to stay under deplorable sanitary conditions before being deported to camps in the south, accompanied by a brave and principled Protestant nurse. All eventually were transferred to Auschwitz, with no child surviving, and only a few of the adults destined to return.

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AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY!

THE GATEKEEPERS
Documentary, 2013
Hebrew with English subtitles. Director: Dror Moreh
October 6 • Sunday, 2 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public

The Gatekeepers is both compelling and controversial as it tells the story of post-1967 Israel and six special men as they ponder the past and future of the Middle East.

In an interview with six former members of the Shin Bet (top

Nominated for the best foreign film in 2012, The Gatekeepers is both compelling and controversial as it tells the story of post-1967 Israel and six special men as they ponder the past and future of the Middle East.

In an interview with six former members of the Shin Bet (top

Cinema on Sundays
FILM/DIALOGUE SERIES
ROSENTHAL LIBRARY 230

Please see page 39 for travel directions to Queens College and parking directions for Rosenthal Library.
The Sephardic Farhi family of Damascus achieved unprecedented levels of economic and political power in Syria by serving various governors of Acre and Damascus as financial administrators and political fixers during the late-18th and early-19th centuries. Their meteoric rise to power and subsequent decline into oblivion is only part of their remarkable tale. One aspect of their life was their prominent and grand houses, the palatial Bayt Farhi Mu’allim. Its lavish stonework and stunning painted rooms made it one of the grandest mansions in late Ottoman Damascus.

In this lecture Prof. Macaulay-Lewis will focus on the architecture, interior decoration, and design of Bayt Farhi as well as several different houses of other prominent Sephardic families, alongside Christian and Muslim houses from the late Ottoman era. By uncovering the remains one can better understand the position of the Farhi family and the Jewish community in late Ottoman Damascus.

**Bayt Farhi: The Greatest Forgotten Palace of Damascus**

Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis

November 7
Thursday, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230

Admission for open seating $5.
For further information call 718-977-5730 or 4530.
Please see page 39 for travel directions to Queens College and parking directions for Rosenthal Library.
A Sephardic Approach to Tradition and Modernity
Hayyim Angel
October 9
Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public.

Elie Levy, primary sponsor of the Levy Family Foundation Annual Lecture, is delighted and honored to once again present Rabbi Angel to the college community, following his initial success on campus.

A dynamic speaker, Rabbi Hayyim Angel is the National Scholar of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals (jewishideas.org). In addition to lecturing widely, Rabbi Angel teaches advanced Tanakh courses to undergraduates and rabbinical students at Yeshiva University. He received a BA in Jewish Studies from Yeshiva College, an MA in Jewish Education, and his rabbinical ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Angel has published over 100 scholarly articles, primarily in Tanakh, and is author or editor of 10 books, most recently Vision from the Prophet and Counsel from the Elders: A Survey of Nevi'im and Ketuvim (Oxford University Press, 2013). He previously served for 17 years as Rabbi at Congregation Shearith Israel of New York.

Rabbi Angel will discuss the value of modernity within tradition.

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

The Disproportionality of Justice in Maimonides
Dr. Dani Rabinowitz
November 20
Wednesday, 12:15-1:30 pm
President’s Conference Room 2
Rosenthal Library

Dr. Rabinowitz is a faculty member of the Philosophy Dept. at Oxford University, with research interests in epistemology, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, and philosophy of Judaism. He received both his BPhil (master’s degree) and DPhil from Oxford University. His recent publications include “The Safety Condition for Knowledge,” in Internet Encyclopedia for Philosophy (2011), and “Knowledge and the Objection to Religious Belief from Cognitive Science,” in European Journal of Philosophy of Religion 2011 (3): 67-83. He is currently working on “Catharsis and the Epistemology of Repentance in the Talmud and Jewish Law,” and “Prophetic Fallibility in Maimonides’ Guide for the Perplexed.”

In his presentation, based on the avoidance of disparities between sentences of codefendants and the proportionate relationship of a sentence to the crime, he will argue that Maimonides runs afoul of both principles in his Laws of Yom Kippur (Mishneh Torah). He will demonstrate that the intuitive force of both principles presents a formidable challenge to a deep-seated conception of justice in Judaism, the upshot of which requires a rethinking of a range of issues far beyond minutiae in legal theory.

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

Ms. Epstein grew up in Manhattan, attended Hunter College High School and City College-CUNY, and then graduated from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She began her writing career as a journalist for the Jerusalem Post, with a first-person account of the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. She subsequently graduated from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and began freelancing for the Sunday section of the New York Times, writing profiles of such celebrated musicians as Leonard Bernstein and Vladimir Horowitz, subsequently published in the book Music Talks.

With her husband Patrick Mehr, she is the co-founder of Plunkett Lake Press: eBooks of Life Writing, an e-publication of classic nonfiction titles. Their authors include Scholem Aleichem, Egon Erwin Kisch, Helen Epstein, and Stefan Zweig.

Ms. Epstein is currently completing a memoir of first love.

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 will be 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.

Keynote Address: “How We Remember” Helen Epstein

Sinai Chapels
Presented by the Resnick Family and Sinai Chapels, Fresh Meadows, Queens, NY
November 17
Sunday, 2-4 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall
Free and open to the public

Helen Epstein, the daughter of Holocaust Survivors, is the author of six books, including the ground-breaking book on the “second generation” and intergenerational trauma, Children of the Holocaust, which first brought attention to the “second generation” and their unique position in history. Her other titles include the multigenerational Central European memoir, Where She Came From: A Daughter’s Search for Her Mother’s History, and a biography, Joe Papp: An American Life.

Be sure to visit our Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding
www.qcenterforunderstanding.org
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
- Jewish History: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern
- Jewish Music/Jews and Music
- Jewish Labor Movement
- 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 Queens College Studies Office, 718-997-4530, or consult the center's website, www.qc.cuny.edu/centerforjewishstudies. 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.

Elissa Bemporad

Elissa Bemporad 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 Russian and Eastern European Jews, gender in modern Jewish history, and genocide. Her research focuses on the social and cultural history of Russian Jewry in the 19th and 20th centuries. During 2012 Prof. Bemporad was invited to Bard College by the Jewish Studies Program and the Gender & Sexualities Studies Program, to speak about Backward Wives or Agents of Revolution? Jews and Gender in Interwar Soviet Life. She also was invited by the Skriba Department of Hebrew and Judaic studies at NYU to speak about The Blood Libel in Modern Eastern Europe. In May 2013, Prof. Bemporad presented her work at the international conference Antisemitism in East Central Europe, Ideas, Politics and Praxis, 1880–1939, held at the German Historical Institute in Warsaw. Her article, “Empowerment, Defiance and Demise: Jews and the Blood Libel Specter under Stalinism,” recently appeared in Jewish History in an issue devoted to the ritual murder accusation in modern Central and Eastern Europe. In spring 2013, Prof. Bemporad won the Feliks Gross Endowment Award from the City University of New York Academy, 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. Prof. Bemporad is the author of Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk (Indiana University Press), which won the Frankel Prize in Contemporary history for outstanding work in 20th-century history. She also is co-editor, with Margherita Pascucci, of a book series in Yiddish literature and culture. As part of the series, the translation from Yiddish into Italian of the work by the maskil Y. L. Peretz will be published by Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Firenze, in late 2013.

Francesca Bregoli

Francesca Bregoli is an Assistant Professor of History and the Joseph and Oro Halegua Professor of Greek and Sephardic Studies. Since her appointment in 2009, Professor Bregoli has presented widely and published extensively. In 2012, she published the entry “Livorno” in the Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture, and the essay “L’editoria ebraica a Livorno nel ’700, tra Toscana granducale e Nord Africa” in Atti del Convegno Editori, tipografi e Lami. La stampa a Livorno tra il 1644 e il 1830. Prof. Bregoli’s book on Jewish integration in the 18th-century port-city of Livorno is forthcoming with Stanford University Press. This past year she presented her research on Jewish coffeehouses and gambling at the NYC Seminar in Jewish History (Center for Jewish History), and gave papers at the annual meetings of the Association for Jewish Studies and the American Historical Association. In spring 2013, she also served as Academic Advisor to the Graduate Fellows at the Center for Jewish History. For 2013–2014, she will be the Primo Levi fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (University of Pennsylvania), where she will begin a new research project on Western Sephardi mobility.

Abigail Doukhan

Abigail Doukhan is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and holds the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Professorship in Ethics and Tolerance, supported by the Pearl and Nathan Halegua 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 was Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Elon University in North Carolina, where she taught courses in contemporary French philosophy and contemporary ethics. This past year Prof. Doukhan presented a number of papers: “Beyond Haverut: Towards an Inter-faith Hermeneutics,” at the European Languages and Cultures and 2012 Annual Conference of the Center for Jewish Communal Studies, in May; “The Mizrahi voice in Israeli poetry.” Other publications include “The Other of Revelation: Emmanuel Levinas, Biblical Interpretation with Jewish Studies at Queens College, Fall 2013. A specialist in the Association of Jewish Studies Conference in Chicago, December 16–18, 2012. Her book, Emmanuel Levinas: A Philosophy of Exile, was published by Bloomsbury in October 2012. In addition she published, “Emmanuel Levinas’ Epistemology: From Justification to Justice,” Philosophy Today (Spring 2013) and “Beyond Haverut: A Levinasian View on Interfaith Hermeneutics,” Levinas Studies (Fall 2013).

Arnold Franklin

is an Assistant Professor of History who holds a BA from Harvard and a PhD from Princeton’s Department of Near Eastern Studies. A specialist in the field of Medieval Jewish History, this past year he published This Noble House: Jewish Descendants of King David in the Medieval Islamic East (University of Pennsylvania Press). The book examines the genealogy that emerged among Jews living in Arab-speaking lands during the Middle Ages, drawing connections to the importance of lineages in Islamic society. Dr. Franklin also presented papers at the CUNY Graduate Center and Princeton University.

Sari Kisilevsky

Philosophy

is Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Previously she held the Pearl and Nathan Halgaus Chair in Ethics and Tolerance. In addition to her affiliation with Jewish Studies at Queens College, Professor Kisilevsky is a scholar with CUNY School of Law, where she teaches philosophy of law, political philosophy, and ethics. She received the Faculty Publication Program Fellowship Award for the spring 2011 semester, and the college’s President’s Award for Innovative Teaching in 2010. Her presentations have included the Force and Freedom: Workshop on Arthur Ripstein’s “Force and Freedom: Kant’s Moral and Legal Philosophy,” organized with Martin Stone, Cardozo/New School and Lon Fuller’s “The Case of the Spokane Explorer to the Honors in Social Science 200. She served as Program Committee Chair (with Jonathan Peterson, University of Toronto) of Philosophy of Law and Social and Political Philosophy for Congress 2010 of the Canadian Philosophical Association. In 2011 she presented “Security, Liberty, and Procedural Justice: Rethinking the Balance,” at Nassau Community College, and “Easy Cases and Social Sources: Toward a New Defense of Legal Positivism,” at The Nature of Law: Contemporary Perspectives, MacMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Her publication of “Equity, Necessity and the Rule of Law,” Proceedings of the 10th International Kant Congress, was published by de Gruyter publishers, Berlin.

Miryam Segal

Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages & Cultures

is an Associate Pro-fessor of Classical, Middle Eastern, and Asian Languages and Cultures and 2012 recipient of the Feliks Gross Endowment Award from the CUNY Academy for the Humanities. This past academic year she gave three invited talks, one in fall 2012 based on a chapter of her book, A New Sound in Hebrew Poetry: Poetics, Politics, Accent, and two in spring 2013, based on chapters from her current book project, “Working Writers,” on labor politics and Hebrew poetry by women in the 1920s. In October 2012 she presented “Hebrew Dialects and the Formation of National Identity” at Northwestern University. In April 2013 she presented “1,000 Arms and the Small Group of Women” at Michigan State University. She also co-curated “Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan,” which was exhibited at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, December 2010–January 2011.

Thomas E. Bird

European Languages and Literatures

was once again also a faculty member in the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute at Columbia University; the 2013 theme was “America’s Russophone Retrospectives: Russian Writing from 1917 to the Present.” In the summer of 2012 he became Associate Editor, then Acting Editor of Yiddish/Moderne Jewish Studies. In July Professor Bird was interviewed by Belarusian State Television about a new conference in California on “The Inmates of the Clara de Hirsch Home.” He writes and publishes on Yiddish history, culture, 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 Books, Israel (2008), and Ein Hakibbutz (Doll’s Eye), a novel. Harel-Gold-Am Oved Publishers, Israel (2007). A forthcoming book project is about the Mizrahi voice in Israeli poetry. In 2009 Chetrit finished his second documentary film, Az Ayina (Came, Mother, Israel), about his mother’s classmates in Morocco 60 years ago. The film was selected for the 2009 DocAviv and Damari film festivals in Israel. His first film, which he wrote and co-directed, The Black Panthers (in Israeli, Panav) (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.

Harriet Davis Kram

History

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 Hirsch Home (1897–1927), and is completing a study on “The Inmates of the Clara de Hirsch 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 popular lectures include “Jewish Communal Organizations” and “Rebels in Red Kerchiefs” about Jewish youth activists in the U.S. and Eastern Europe from the late-19th century through the end of World War I.

Liba H. Engel

Elementary and Early Childhood Education

had a recent conference presentation published: “Democratic Educa- tion in Practice: A Case Study of the Democratic School, Hadera, Israel.” Other publications include “A Case Study: Implementa- tion of Janusz Korczak’s Pedagogy in the Democratic School, Hadera, a Contemporary Israeli School”,
American Jewish cinema and theatre, 2007–08. She has lectured on Latin American Jewish community of Johannesburg in 2008. Dr. Glickman has been a member of the American Jewish Association of Professors of Yiddish. She has organized a LISA Colloquium at the Graduate Center on the Social Scientific Study of Jewish History. He is the Harold Proshansky Chair in Jewish Studies at the Graduate Center, and also serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Jewish History, the premiere scholarly journal on the social scientific study of Jewish History. Recently he published The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson, co-authored with Menachem Friedman (Princeton, 2010), which won the National Jewish Book Award. In addition, Professor Heilman gave the keynote address at the Bar-Ilan University Conference on Cultural Vitality and Jewish Education. This past year he led an extensive interview on Religion and Ethics with PBS, focusing on the difficulties of leaving the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community.

Leo Hershkowitz

has centered much of his work on the study of the early pre-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 also has published extensively in the publications of the American Jewish Archives, American Jewish Historical Society, the Holland Society's De Halve Maan, 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 doctorate from the Hebrew Union College 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.”

Steven Kruger


Chava Lapin

Classical, Middle Eastern, & Asian Languages and Cultures 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 “Lozhn un Shyteger” (Language and Lifestyle) to a broad array of participants in a four-day EPYC conference at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Her recent publications include “The Unknown Folk Poet—A Lampentation 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 Mogilevtsia 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 spoke at this conference on a week of advanced classes in Yiddish language and literature (in Yiddish) and focused on the 150th birthday of Sholom Aleichem for the Jewish Cultural Experience at Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake, NY.

Kristina Richardson

History

published Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies (Edinburgh University Press, 2012). The book also is being distributed in North America with Columbia University Press. She published an article with Postmedieval 2012, “Drug Overdose, Disability and Male Friendship in Late Medieval Cairo,” Postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies, 3.2 (2012). Professor Richardson was awarded a two-year fellowship for 2012–2014 from the Gerd Ghez Foundation, based in Düsseldorf, Germany. She just completed her first year at the “Institut für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft” in Münster, Germany, and is working there on her second book project, which is a history of blue- and green-eyed peoples of the medieval Islamic world.

David Richter


Alan Rosenberg

Philosophy

has focused his scholarly work on philosophical issues relating to the Holocaust, philosophical issues that arise in connection to psychoanalysis as well as key themes in continental philosophy, value theory, and philosophy of the social sciences. He is the co-author of over 80 journal articles and book chapters. He also is co-editor of numerous books, including Echoes from the Holocaust: Philosophical Reflections on a Dark Time (Temple University Press, 1988); Healing Their Wounds: Psychotherapy and Holocaust Survivors (Prager, 1989); Psychoanalytic Versions of the Human Condition (New York University Press, 1998); Contemporary Portrayals of Auschwitz: Representations and Challenges (Prometheus Brooks, 2000); Foucault and Heidegger: Critical Encounters (University of Minnesota Press, 2003); Experiments in Thinking the Holocaust: Auschwitz, Modernity and Philosophy (Polish edition: Wydawnictwo Naukowe “Scolar,” 2004); and Reading Nietzsche at the Margins (Purdue University Press, 2008). For the past few years Professor Rosenberg has served as co-editor of the electronic journal Foucault Studies, and as of March 2007 he has been managing editor. In 2008 he served as Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. Peking University has bought the rights to translate into Chinese Foucault and Heidegger: Critical Encounters (2010).

Mark Rosenblum

History

has seen his project “America and the Middle East: A Clash of Civilizations or a Meeting of Minds?” continue 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 Diplomacy: “Inspiring Incitement: 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 helps facilitate conflict resolution training of Queens College students, and engage members of the broader Queens community. He co-edited The Jewish Condition, Challenges and Responses—1938–2008, a collection of essays that assesses the state of world Jewry from competing perspectives (Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick and London, 2008). He also authored “After Rabin: The Malaise of the Israeli Zionist Left,” Robert O. Freedman, ed., in Contemporary Israel: Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy and Security Challenges (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). His most recent writing includes “The Quest for Impact: Lessons Learned from the American Jewish Peace Camp,” in Robert O. Freedman, Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US–Israel Relations, Westview Press, 2012. He is the winner of the Queens College President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and was selected by the Forward newspaper as one of the 50 most influential American Jews. This past summer Prof. Rosenblum led a group of student scholars on a leadership and dialogue program in the Middle East, including Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Immanuel Rybakov

Jewish Studies


Arthur Shippe

Religious Studies

gave the inaugural lecture for the newly created Interpretations of Ancient Judaism Series in April 2013, extending the popular Biblical Archaeology Series. A Presbyter-ian minister, he served as Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly (2012), and was quoted in the New York Times after the Divestment motion was defeated. On the Council of the Presbyterian Board of Southern New England, he chairs the Ecclesiastical Relations Committee. A winner of Queens College’s 2005 Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award for Advocates and chair of the selection committee for several years, he has taught at the college for 20 years. Professor Shippe and Philip Cuberton edited The Pastor: Readings from the Patristic Period, which has been republished by Fortress Press.

Sheila Spector

English


Joseph Sungenolowsky

European Languages and Literature


Isabella Talier

Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library

manages a Lucius N. Lattauer Grant for the library, enabling the purchase of new Holocaust publications each year. She has been able to purchase 251 volumes (231 titles) over the past nine years. This past year she was able to acquire 42 titles. Among her recent achievements are “The Jewish Studies Book Awards: A Collection Development Strategy for Non-Sectarian Academic Libraries,” in Collection Building, Vol. 30, 1, 2011. She also delivered a paper, “Uncovering Jewish Resources in the Benjamin Rosenthal Library,” at the Queens College Faculty Colloquium, October 2011.

Evan Zimroth

English

received the Medal of Honour from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lithuanian Millennium Star in September 2009 for “the fostering of friendly relations between the Lithuanian and Jewish nations.” The Millennium Medal was presented to her by the Foreign Minister of Lithuania in a ceremony at the Lithuanian Consulate in New York. That year she also gave the ASH Lecture at Clare Hall, Cambridge on “Isaiah Berlin: Baltic Jew,” and in June 2010 was on the organizing committee for the First Annual Isaiah Berlin Lecture in Riga, Latvia, given by Anne Applebaum on “The New Authoritarianisms.” In May 2011 Prof. Zimroth 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 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. Additionally she published “Lithuania’s Jewish Issues as Seen in the U.S. Problems and Advances,” Lawk, Heritage, Culture: “No Simple Stories,” University College London, December 2012; Virginia, Lydia and Foreignness.” 23rd Annual Virginia Woolf Conference, Vancouver, June 2013, a presentation on Virginia Woolf’s attitudes to foreigners and Jews. Test Raim, an interactive video-installation of Prof. Zimroth’s poem, “talk, YOU” was featured at the First Centre for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN, Feb.–May 2013.
Jewish Studies
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GRADUATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013

The Center for Jewish Studies and the Jewish Studies Program’s 25th Annual Graduation and Awards Ceremonies was held on May 22, 2013. 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 3.7 out of 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, including 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 was given by alumna Batya Septimus, ’12 who is currently part of the CERRU team (Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding) at Queens College. She discussed her personal journey from being a student facilitator at CERRU to her current position on staff. She said as a student, when exploring and questioning her earlier beliefs and ideas, that the process was at times difficult, but was nonetheless beneficial in that it led to her current position today. She therefore advised the graduates to explore the world of possibilities, made possible by their education and achievements.
Publications

The Center for Jewish Studies has a growing number of significant academic publications, of interest to scholars and laypeople alike. The complete list appears below; several publication covers are also reprinted above.

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**

Israel Singer, Holocaust Era Ascent: 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 Ernest Schwarcz Memorial Lecture, November 15, 2001

Feige Kaplan, Should We Be Mourning About Cloning? Opportunities and Concerns in the New Genetics, The

**THE QUEENS COLLEGE JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES: A STUDENT PUBLICATION**

Volume I, Spring 1999, Michael Adler & Daniel Chung, eds.


Volume IV, Spring 2002, Rifka Libman Schulman & Justin Engel, eds.

Volume V, Spring 2003, Nicole Iy & Russel Neiss, eds.

Volume VI, Spring 2004, Rebecca Finkel & Deborah Kahan, eds.


Volume VIII, Spring 2006, David Greenberg & Lauren Talerman, eds.


Volume XII, Spring 2010, editors-in-chief, Natalie Davidson & Camelia Serghie.


Volume XV, Summer 2013, editors-in-chief, Daniella Chaim & Laura Meltzer.

**THE JEWISH CONDITION: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES — 1938–2008**

William B. Helmreich, Mark Rosenblum, and David Schimel, editors


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 & Cultures

Mark Podwal, Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescent

Mark Podwal, “Sweet Year” Wall Calendar


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

The Center for Jewish Studies is the research and outreach arm of Jewish Studies on campus, promoting Jewish knowledge, scholarship, and culture over 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 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.
- 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.
Leon Levy! He was the other one. But our Leon Levy did give thousands of dollars to our own Center for Jewish Studies, as well as QC Hill. He gave millions to museums, opera companies, symphony orchestras, and foundations, and is particularly thankful for the membership gifts ($36 and above) 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, and to achieve the goal of supporting the activities of the center.

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

Getting to Queens College

BY CAR

From Long Island and points East: Long Island Expressway to Exit 25 (Main Street). Left at traffic light and immediately 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 onto 61st Road to parking lot 15. See map on this page.

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

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Take the Q7, Q53-Q54, or Q58 bus to the center of Kissena Blvd and Horace Harding Expressway (L.I.E. service road). Buses can be coordinated with E, F, M, R, or #7 subway trains.

Elevator Access to LeFrak: Cross Reeves Avenue and walk through the opening in the big iron fence to the rear entrance of the LeFrak Concert Hall. 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 come, also will take you to the Concert Hall level. See map.

For Rosenthal Library, Room 230: Make a right turn onto Reeves Ave. (see “By Car,” above). Go to Gate 3 to enter campus, then follow bulletin board.

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. Tickets will be mailed at no extra charge. Please visit or call the Kupferberg Center Box Office (718-793-8080) in Colden Auditorium on the Queens College campus to order your tickets.

Regular Box Office hours: Mondays, 10 am–8 pm; Wednesdays, 12 noon–8 pm; and Fridays, 12 noon–6 pm.

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

From left to right: Michael Resnick and Howard Kahn of Sinai Chapels, Fresh Meadows, Queens, New York

Benny Spair, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish Studies, and his wife, Laurie Spair, both have been long-standing members of the Advisory Board prior to Benny Spair’s appointment in 2019.
Nine Good Reasons

WHY YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT QUEENS COLLEGE IS A WISE INVESTMENT:

- An Award-Winning Public Education Program that has been singled out by the U.S. Department of Education for a grant to create a new “Center For Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding.”

- A Distinguished and Growing Faculty, six of whom have won the college’s coveted “Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.”

- Creative Curriculum That Has Won National Acclaim and has been featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education, New York Times, New York Jewish Week, National Public Radio, CBS-TV national news, and a host of other electronic and print media.

- A Dynamic and Expanding Culture & Arts Program that includes world-class scholars and educators, renowned diplomats and political analysts, virtuoso musicians and singers, and compelling cinema.

- Our Diverse and Talented Students, who speak dozens of languages and represent a multitude of different ethnic, racial, and religious groups, all studying Jewish topics across more than a dozen academic disciplines.

- The Only Jewish Studies Journal in the Nation That Is Totally Student-Produced: The Journal’s motto, drawn from Pirkei Avot (4:1), is an invitation to join us: “Who is Wise? One who learns from everyone.”

- Breakthrough Courses in Bukharian History and Culture that have been heralded as some of the first such courses offered in the nation.

- Asking Difficult Questions and Providing Balanced Answers to the most pressing issues facing the Jewish People today.

- New Community Initiative dramatically expands our outreach program off campus which includes compelling interfaith dialogues and discussions, powerful film series and performances.

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