

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT QUEENS COLLEGE

THE ARTHUR AND CAROLE ANDERMAN

CULTURE & ARTS
GUIDE

SPRING 2014



Hebrew Month of Shevat, © 1995 Mark Podwal, Courtesy Forum Gallery

Music and Theater

GOLDSTEIN THEATRE

See parking information for Rosenthal 230 on page 10.

Co-sponsored with the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding (CERRU) and the Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance



CERRU Please visit www.cerru.org

SPECIAL EVENT

Reliving History: A Staged Reading of *Freedom High*

Sunday, February 23, 2014, 2 pm
Monday, February 24, 2014, 10 am
Goldstein Theatre

Free and open to the public

"How can we keep belief in social change alive in terrible, skeptical times?" is the core question addressed in *Freedom High*, a play by Adam Kraar, first presented at Queens College in 2007. Since that time, the playwright and QC Drama Professor and Director Susan Einhorn have worked

together and revisited the original play to premiere as a staged reading with music at Queens College.

In June 1964, in Neshoba County, Mississippi, three civil rights workers—James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman, a student at Queens College—were brutally murdered. The story of 50 years ago focuses on a week when black civil rights veterans trained hundreds of white volunteers to register black voters in Mississippi. Jessica Kuplevsky, a white woman who signs up for the training, has no idea what dangers lie ahead. Through her eyes, the play tracks a variety of characters—volunteers

from all over America, including civil rights workers, ministers, and racists from Mississippi. With the news of the deaths of Chaney, Schwerner, and Goodman, Jessica faces a terrifying test of faith.

In celebration of Black History Month, it is entirely fitting that we mark the 50th anniversary of these tragic events and commemorate the valiant effort of the QC students who participated in Freedom

Summer. This play is intended to raise audiences' awareness of the destructive barriers that people construct between races and ways that people may overcome those barriers. The multiracial cast will be composed of students alongside professional actors in an experiential learning opportunity for all, including the audience.

This program has been made possible by the Ruth and Sidney Schindler Memorial Lecture, endowed by the Schindler and Stolar Families; Lillian Taynor and Family; and Arthur and Carole Anderman.



Cinema on Sunday

FILM/DIALOGUE SERIES

ROSENTHAL LIBRARY, ROOM 230

See parking information for Rosenthal 230 on page 10.

Time of Favor

Hebrew with English subtitles
Directed by Joseph Cedar

Sunday, March 9, 2014, 2 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public

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



Directed by orthodox Jewish Israeli writer Joseph Cedar, *Time of Favor* tells the story of Menachem, a deeply religious young man who creates his own elite Orthodox military unit with the help of his charismatic rabbi, and is caught in a love triangle with the rabbi's daughter Michal and his own friend Pini. The situation becomes more complicated when Menachem is implicated in a plot to blow up the dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Set in the rolling hills of the West Bank, the romantic drama emphasizes the virtues of devout faith while also revealing the dangers of religious and political fanaticism.



Discussant: Queens College Professor Mark Rosenblum, award-winning Middle East historian, is the Director of the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, and the Michael Harrington Center for Democratic Values. He has met with all major players in the Middle East, including the past six presidents of the U.S. and President Obama. He also serves as director of the Ibrahim Queens College Student Scholar Leadership and Dialogue Middle East Program, which includes Saudi Arabia and Israel as bookends to an immersion in Middle East culture and society.

Jewish Lecture Series

ROSENTHAL LIBRARY, ROOM 230

See parking information for Rosenthal 230 on page 10.

Religious Leadership and Social Justice: Reverend Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Peter Geffen

Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public

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



A leader in Jewish education and social justice, **Peter Geffen** is the recipient of the Covenant Award, the highest recognition in the field of Jewish education. He is the founder of the prestigious Abraham Joshua Heschel School in New York, and Kivunim, the Institute of Experiential Learning for Israel and World Jewish Communi-

ties. Kivunim is the premier Israel-based gap-year program that builds world consciousness as a context for strengthening Jewish identity in a multicultural world through a year-long program traveling to up to 12 countries from Morocco to India, studying the origins and integration of Jewish life and culture throughout the world. Peter served as Director of Israel Experience Programs for North America for the Charles Bronfman Foundation and as Executive Director of the Center for Jewish History. His background also incorporates involvement in many of the critical issues of social justice of the past 50 years, most notably serving as a civil rights worker in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the 1960s.

Peter Geffen received a BA from Queens College (where he had the privilege of studying with Schweitzer Chair Professor Cecil Roth in the last years of his illustrious life), and an MA in Religious Education from NYU with a focus on educational philosophy. He received a certificate in Psychotherapy and Counseling from the Alfred Adler Institute.

His lecture will include a personal perspective, illustrated by a slide presentation.

Fluid Boundaries: Blacks, Jews, and “Civil Rights”

Hilit Surowitz-Israel

**Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 7:30 pm
Rosenthal Library 230**

Free and open to the public



Hilit Surowitz-Israel earned her PhD from the University of Florida’s Religion Department in 2012.

Her dissertation, “*May*

God Enlarge Japheth: Portuguese Jews in the Early Modern Atlantic World,” explores the role of diaspora identity and the complicated intersection of race, religion, and nation for Portuguese Jews in the early modern Atlantic world.

She is currently co-editing *Jews in the Americas, 1620-1826* (Pickering & Chatto) with Laura Leibman and Michael Hoberman. Her research interests include religion in the Americas, Jewish communities of the Atlantic world, diaspora theory, and Atlantic history. She is an instructor in the Jewish Studies and Religion Departments at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Her lecture will focus on the porous boundaries between Blacks and Jews in the Americas during the Colonial period. Arriving in the Americas under radically different circumstances, these two communities challenged ideas of race,

ethnicity, and belonging. Despite their differences, the two groups remained entangled throughout the Colonial and post-Colonial periods as they each challenged normative assumptions about citizenship and political hegemony. The complex history between Blacks and Jews creates a richer dialogue about Black and Jewish relations, in many ways culminating with the civil rights movement as Jews were both acting as Whites and also deeply considering questions of race and difference.

Polish and German Anti-Semitism as Seen through the Eyes of Soviet Jews

Elissa Bemporad

**Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 7:30 pm
Rosenthal Library 230**

Free and open to the public



Elissa Bemporad is an assistant professor of history and Queens College’s Jerry and William Ungar Professor in Eastern European Jewish

History and the Holocaust. She received her undergraduate degree in Slavic Studies from Bologna University, an MA in Modern Jewish Studies from the Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and a PhD from

the Department of History at Stanford University. She has taught at Stanford University, Hunter College, and the New School prior to her appointment at Queens College.

She is the author of *Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk, 1917–1939* (Indiana University Press, 2013), which most recently won the prestigious National Jewish Book Award for 2013 for writing based on Archival Material (JDC – Herbert Katzki Award). The book had also won the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History for outstanding work in 20th-century history. She is currently working on her new book, tentatively entitled “The Blood Libel in Modern Eastern Europe: A Social History,” exploring the ritual murder accusation within the context of the social, economic, and gender relations between the Jews and their neighbors in the Soviet Union and Poland in the 20th century. A recipient of numerous additional awards, Dr. Bemporad recently received the Feliks Gross Endowment Award from the City University of New York, given annually to two recipients who show promise of making a worthwhile contribution to their field, the university, and academia. She lectures in both the United States and abroad.

In this lecture, Dr. Bemporad will analyze the reports on the legal discrimination and persecution endured by the Jews of Poland and Nazi Germany that appeared in the Soviet press from 1936 to 1939. The knowledge of what was

happening to Jews in Poland and Nazi Germany in the late 1930s, combined with the absence of “official” anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, sustained Jewish self-confidence and built up the self-perception that Soviet Jews embodied the true vanguard of world Jewry. The sense of Jewish commonality and fellow feeling that had distinguished life before the Bolshevik Revolution emerged once again. As Jews looked toward the West with growing concern, they experienced the forgotten sense of belonging to world Jewry as a whole.

[This program is endowed by Marvin and Celina Zborowski.](#)

Middle East Forum

DISCUSSION SERIES

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

ROSENTHAL LIBRARY, ROOM 230

Guide to the Iconic Israel:

A riveting evening with Israeli Scholar and Guide Avi Ben-Hur.

Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230
Free and open to the public



Avi Ben-Hur is the Director of Education and Scholar in Residence of “Classrooms Without Borders,” an organization

“connecting teachers and learners through experiential education and international travel.” Working with teachers, Avi creates and implements experiential travel seminars in Israel, Poland, and Berlin. He also trains Israeli tour guides, including Palestinians from East Jerusalem, and has participated in rewriting the curriculum of the National Guiding courses for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. Currently he is a faculty member of the University of Haifa’s Tourism School, and is an examiner for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. Prior to these positions he was the Director of the Archaeological Seminars School for Israeli Tour Guides. His specialties include Land of Israel Studies,

the history of Jerusalem, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. A Brooklyn native, Avi Ben-Hur made Aliyah in 1983 and since then resides in Jerusalem.

Avi will take us on an exploration of Israel’s iconic sites and discuss the dilemmas of training Israeli Guides to cope with different audiences, varied backgrounds, and perspectives regarding these historical sites.

Kerry-ed Away in the “Muddle” East?

Ghaith al-Omari in Conversation with Mark Rosenblum

Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library 230

Free and open to the public

Is the surge of US diplomacy on the Israeli–Palestinian negotiations, the Syrian crisis, and the Iranian front poised



to make a difference or a diversion for failures in the Middle East? **Ghaith al-Omari** is Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP). Previously he served in various positions within the Palestinian Authority, including Director of the International

Relations Department in the Office of the Palestinian President, and advisor to former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. He participated in various negotiating rounds, most notably the Camp David summit and the Taba talks, and was the lead Palestinian drafter of the Geneva Initiative, an unofficial model peace agreement negotiated between leading Palestinian and Israeli public figures. Mr. al-Omari is a lawyer by training and a graduate of Georgetown and Oxford universities. Prior to his involvement in the Middle East peace process, he taught international law in Jordan and was active in human rights advocacy.



Queens College Professor **Mark Rosenblum**, award-winning Middle East historian, is director

of the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, the Michael Harrington Center for Democratic Values & Social Change, and the newly created Ibrahim Queens College Student Scholar Leadership and Dialogue Middle East Program. He has been involved in track-two Middle East diplomacy for more than 30 years, and has met with all of the major players in the region, including the past six presidents of the U.S. and President Obama. His most recent academic article is “The Quest for Impact: Lessons Learned from the American Jewish Peace Camp,” in *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*, ed. Robert O. Friedman, Westview Press, 2012.

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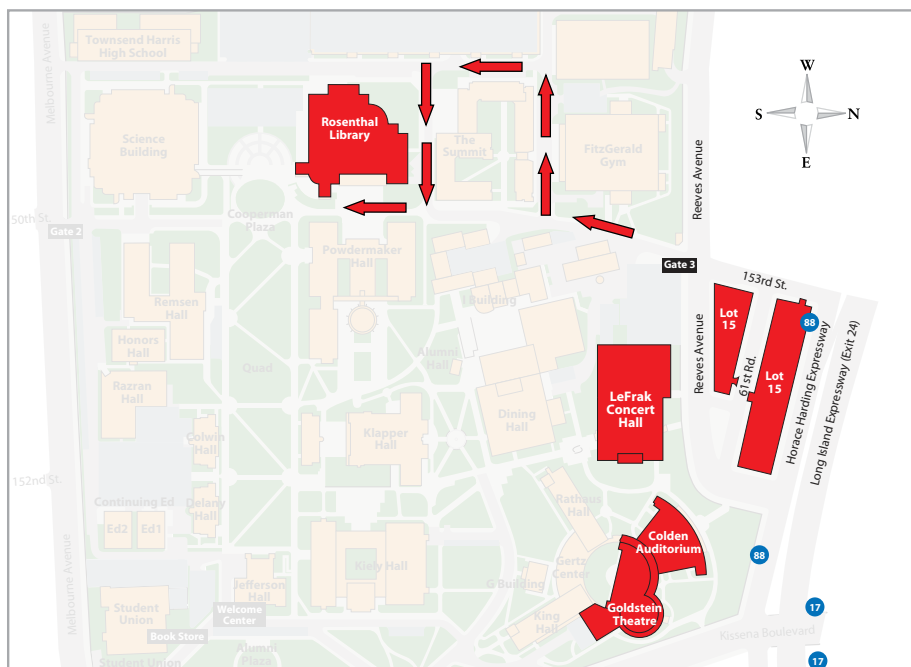
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*deceased

Getting to Queens College

Free parking available on campus for events in LeFrak Concert Hall, Goldstein Theatre, or Rosenthal Library, Room 230



BY CAR

From Long Island and Points East

Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 23 (Main Street). Make a left at the light and an immediate left at the next traffic light (Horace Harding Expressway/LIE service road eastbound). Continue on the service road to Reeves Ave. and turn right.

From Manhattan and Points West

Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 24 (Kissena Boulevard) and make the first right turn onto Reeves Ave.

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

After turning right onto Reeves Ave., go to Gate 3 to enter the campus. Park in Lot 14 (see area on map above Rosenthal Library) or Lot 5 (beneath Lot 14). Then walk across to the Library. Follow the arrows on the map to the side of the building, and enter the

doorway with the handicap sign. Entrance to Room 230 is on the left.

Parking for LeFrak Concert Hall or Goldstein Theatre: Lot 15

After turning right onto Reeves Ave., make another right onto 61st Road to Lot #15. Goldstein Theatre patrons should walk to the corner of the LIE and Kissena Boulevard and turn right for the entrance to Goldstein.

Elevator Access for LeFrak Concert Hall

(no hills or steps to climb): Cross Reeves Ave. and walk through the opening in the big iron fence to the rear entrance of the LeFrak Concert Hall building (see map above). The pathway through the opening in the fence leads directly into the building. Proceed down the entrance hallway until you see the elevator on your left. An attendant will take you up in the elevator to the Concert Hall level.

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.

The Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies



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