Conney Project on Jewish Arts Conference

Doug Rosenberg

The Center is now in the early stages of planning the first Conney Project on Jewish Arts Conference. It is scheduled for April 23–27 at the Pyle Center and promises to be an international event. In the last year, I have delivered a number of papers in the United States, Canada and Israel on the topic of Jews, Art and Tikkun Olam. At each talk, I have had the opportunity to speak about the Conney Project and to ask for input on both the scope and direction of the conference and the project in general. I have received overwhelming interest and support for the project and have begun to amass a database of artists working with Jewish content in the visual and performing arts fields and in the scholarly area as well. There is without a doubt, a large number of artists working in the field and at universities as well, who are deeply committed to the ongoing project of examining Jewish identity through the creation of art and theory. Though there is little that connects the practitioners professionally or socially, there is the sense from each person I have spoken with, that others are out there as well, examining the same salient issues. What we hope to do, through the first Conney Project conference, is to provide a forum for individuals working creatively with issues of Jewish identity where disparate voices can be heard, where intelligent, probing dialog can take place and where ideas may be shared by individuals working in geographically distant communities.

In the next few months we will be announcing the scope of the conference as well as issuing a call for papers and presentations. We will also begin the process of curating a performance component for the conference that will explore the cutting edge of contemporary live art from dance to theater and music.

In the spring of 2007 we will also be offering the second Conney Seminar on Judaism and the Arts, which will include a number of visiting artists and scholars addressing issues of art and Jewish content from both the United States and Israel. The seminar offers an opportunity for students to experience the breadth of the Jewish presence and contribution to contemporary art and provides a forum for understanding issues of Jewish identity in the context of larger questions about the very nature of art itself.

Benedict Anderson, in his book, Imagined Communities, reflects that communities, rather than defined by geographical boundaries, might also be considered contingent on common language.

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As my term as director of the Center for Jewish Studies comes to an end this spring, I am given to reflection on the Center’s direction over the last three years—not just individual projects and activities, but more “macro” developments in the Center’s programs and focus.

The Center continues to be a vibrant intellectual and cultural community, one that brings together—in new and creative ways—not only university faculty, staff and students, but also people from the greater Madison area, alumni/ae who are committed to keeping Jewish Studies strong at the University of Wisconsin, and even strangers in far away lands. I am especially excited at the way in which we have been able to make Jewish Studies on this campus more than just a classroom experience. The Coleman Fund, generously supported by Bill and Marvome, has been able to make Jewish Studies a community in Izmir, Turkey. And two undergraduates studying Yiddish literature (for the Lower East Side of Manhattan (for undergraduates studying Yiddish literature in America), and to the Jewish community in Izmir, Turkey. And two new funds, established by the Weinstein family (Lipton Graduate Student Research Scholarship) and Chuck and Gayle M azursky (M azursky U ngraduate or Graduate Research Fund) will allow both undergraduate and graduate students to pursue research in Jewish Studies beyond the confines of the Madison campus, traveling to archives, sites and locales as they work on their senior and graduate theses. As far as I know, no other program on campus offers such unusual and creative opportunities to its students.

In addition to these new programs geared toward enriching the UW-Madison experience for our students, the Center has also grown in its curricular and research orientation. While maintaining its diverse strengths in the humanities, the Center can now boast about its profile in the arts—thanks to the Conney Project on Jewish Arts, directed by Doug Rosen berg and made possible by the continued generosity of M arv and Babe Con ney. We have also made major strides in the social sciences, including Political Science, Anthropology and Sociology. I am very pleased that, this coming fall, we will be joined by N adav Shelef, a recent Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley who has been appointed to the new H arvey M. M eyerhoff Professorship in M odern Israel Studies and who will have his tenure home in the Department of Political Science (see bio on page xx). Meanwhile, the Greenfield Summer Institute continues to grow, both in numbers and in enthusiasm, allowing us to bring our teaching to new interdisciplinary topics—this summer the theme is “Judaism: Religious and Secular”—and to reach new audiences.

The Center now has an extraordinary opportunity also to bring to campus scholars in Jewish Studies who will broaden our research and course offerings beyond the coverage of our permanent faculty. The first Weinstein Family Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies, a one-year position renewable for a second year and to be rotated among different academic fields, has been awarded to Katje Vehlow, an historian who is finishing her Ph.D. in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU with a dissertation on Abraham Ibn Daud’s historiography (see bio inside). Katje will join the Center (and the History Department) in the fall to teach and continue her research in medieval Jewish history.

One other recent and ongoing initiative I would like to highlight here is our collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Holocaust, by Sarah A. Ogilvie and Scott Miller, a study of the fate of the passengers on that ship trying in 1939 to escape the Nazi terror but who were turned back both by Cuba and the United States and were forced to return to Europe.

It has been an immensely rewarding three years, seeing our faculty expand and our students thrive and watching as the Center experiments with new fields of study and new ways of making a community. With this final Director’s letter, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported the Center and helped make it one of the finest venues for Jewish Studies in the country.

Steven Nadler, Director
Professor of Philosophy
Weinstein/ Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies
He proposes that a “sense of nationality” might survive beyond nation-states, preserved by language. If one extends this metaphor to the arts, and further to the Jewish diaspora, then it is possible to suppose that Jewish artists speak in a common language, be it visual, verbal, cultural or otherwise. As we continue with plans for next year’s conference, it is with great excitement and anticipation that we look forward to the possibility of answering some of these same questions and asking other new ones as well.
Coleman Corner

This past March, six students accompanied by University of Wisconsin Professor Bob Skloot spent nine days living with the Jews of Izmir, Turkey. Thanks to the generosity of the Coleman family, Mara Simon-Meyer, Marc Zemel, Anna Shkolnik, Aaron Cohn, Marissa Milstein, and Rafi Samuels-Schwartz were able to live and learn alongside Izmir’s vibrant 2,000 person Jewish community.

Experiencing the traditional Sabbath dinner as well as attending the reading of the Megillah for the holiday of Purim gave the Wisconsin group a real sense of just how different, and more strikingly, how similar the Sephardic Jewish community of Izmir was to their own Ashkenazi communities back home. In addition to experiencing modern Turkish Judaism, the Wisconsin group toured historic Turkish sites such as the ruins of the cities of Ephesus and Sardis, as well as several synagogues within Izmir itself—relics of an age when Izmir was home to upwards of fifty thousand Jews.

The group didn’t stop at touring, and actively engaged themselves in the community: helping with the Jewish Youth Group’s Purim party, restoring one of Izmir’s many synagogues, and even giving a presentation comparing Izmir to other worldwide Jewish communities courtesy of Professor Skloot.

Of all the group’s experiences in Izmir, the common thread throughout is the overwhelming hospitality with which the Wisconsin group was welcomed into the Izmir community. Whether by means of a truly mammoth meal (of which there seemed to be a never-ending supply), or simply showing the students the sights around town, the Wisconsin group quickly felt as if they were at home in a Jewish community seven thousand miles away. To be sure, the community in Izmir face difficulties that seem entirely foreign to students of Jewish Studies in America. In particular, the minority status of Jews living in a country that already places restrictions on religion creates difficulties in maintaining the cohesiveness enjoyed by other Jewish communities around the world. However, as the Wisconsin group quickly learned, the Izmir community was adept at finding ways to define, and redefine, themselves as an established and active member of Turkey’s multifaceted ethnic makeup.

Whether it is by something as sweeping as having a proud sense of the Jews’ place in the formation of modern Turkey, or something as specific as the creation of a cookbook full of Izmir’s Jewish recipes, now on sale in Istanbul and Izmir. The Wisconsin group left Izmir knowing that they had been privileged to experience life in a wonderful community, and eager to return, having understood that Jewish Studies is not a static unchanging field, but one which can be lived and experienced half way around the world.
REBECCA L. WALKOWITZ received her AB in American history and literature from Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges, an MPhil in English literature and critical theory from the University of Sussex (U.K.), and an MA and PhD in English and American literature from Harvard University. At UW-Madison, where she has taught since 2000, her primary areas of research are comparative twentieth-century fiction, especially the twentieth-and twenty-first-century British, Irish, and Anglophone novel; the new world literature; modernism; and cosmopolitanism. She is a founder and co-advisor for the English Department’s Contemporary Literature Colloquium, a research group of faculty members and graduate students who work in the areas of literature and culture after 1945. She has received grants from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the Whiting Foundation, the Institute for the Humanities at UW-Madison, the University of Wisconsin Vilas Foundation, the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, and the U.S. Department of Education. In March 2005, she received the University’s Class of 1955 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Walkowitz has recently completed a book about aesthetic and political strains of cosmopolitanism in the writing of twentieth-century British and postcolonial novelists, entitled Cosmopolitan Style: Modernism Beyond the Nation (Columbia University Press, 2006). In this study, Walkowitz considers how the case against cosmopolitanism has often relied on racist and anti-Semitic conceptions of national affiliation and authenticity. She examines, for example, Joseph Conrad’s worry about the confusion of foreignness and Jewishness in early-twentieth-century Britain and Virginia Woolf’s critique of British triumphalism in the context of her husband’s Anglo-Jewishness. In addition, Walkowitz is the co-editor of six books, including Bad Modernisms (Duke University Press, 2006), The Turn to Ethics (Routledge, 2000), Secret Agents: The Rosenberg Case McCarthyism, and FiftiesAmerica (Routledge, 1995), and Media Spectacles (Routledge, 1993), and her articles have appeared in ELH, MLQ, Modern Drama, Contemporary Literature, and the Blackwell Companion to British and Irish Literature, 1945–2000.

At UW-Madison, she teaches a large lecture course on “violence and creativity” and small undergraduate and graduate seminars on writers such as W.G. Sebald, James Joyce, Saul Bellow, Henry James, and Virginia Woolf. In 2005, she taught a course on Englishness and Jewishness and plans in the future to teach a course on “Comparison Literature,” a new genre of world fiction that examines the Holocaust in the context of other histories of violence.
Faculty News

KLAUS L. BERGHAHN, a member of the German Department since 1967, is Weinstein-Bascom Professor of German and Jewish Studies. Since the founding of the Center, he has been teaching regularly topics courses on German-Jewish relations since the 18th century, like The German-Jewish Dialogue, Toleration and Emancipation, Jewish Salons of Berlin, and Antisemitism. Together with Professor Sorkin, he organized the Second Mosse Workshop on “The Roots of Antisemitism” (2003), participated in the fourth one on “Cultural History” at Elmau (Germany, 2004), and has become a regular presenter at the CJS Greenfield Summer Institute. Recent publications related to German-Jewish Studies include: Grenzen der Toleranz. Juden und Christen in der deutschen Aufklärung (2001), Kulturelle R erpräsentationen des Holocaust in Deutschland und den Vereinigten Staaten (co-editor, 2002) and Um masking Hitler. Cultural Representation of Adolf Hitler from the Weimar Republic to the Present (co-editor, 2005).

MICHAEL BERNARD-DONALS (English) is the Nancy Hoefs Professor of English and the chair of the department, where he teaches courses in rhetoric and literary theory. His book, An Introduction to Holocaust Studies: History, Memory, and Representation, was published by Prentice Hall this winter. He is currently working on a book, tentatively entitled Exiled Memory, on Jewish memory since 1945.

SUSAN DAVID BERNSTEIN’S (English) research and teaching focus is on Victorian literature and culture as well as feminist theory, gender, and life writing. Her book, Confessional Subjects: Revelations of Gender and Power in Victorian Literature and Culture, (1997) includes a chapter on George Eliot’s Daniel Deronda where she discusses the novel’s use of Jewishness to launch a critique of Victorian patriarchy. She has also published an essay on sympathetic identification and Anne Frank’s diary. Her editions of Levy’s novels Reuben Sachs (1888) and The Romance of a Shop (1888) was published in Spring 2006. She is currently working on a project about the Reading Room of the British Museum in late-Victorian London. This study focuses on several Anglo-Jewish writers, including Amy Levy, Eleanor Marx, and Mathilde Blind. In addition, she teaches a Jewish Studies course on representations of Jewishness and Englishness in late-Victorian culture.

JEFF BLAKELY (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) serves as a lecturer in Biblical Archaeology on a recurrent but periodic basis. His research continues to revolve around Tell el-Hesi where he is working on final production reports on Tell el-Hesi, a biblical site in southern Israel. Currently serving on the editorial board of Near Eastern Archaeology, he gets tapped to review oddities that are submitted. This being said, he is particularly proud of a review article that appeared in Near Eastern Archeology 67, 3 (2004), 179–80.

RACHEL FELDHAY BRENNER, Chair of the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, worked on planning the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. Together with Dr. Ron Troxel, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee, she focused on reaching out to the Jewish community to include it in the celebration. As a result, a series of articles was published in three consecutive issues of the Jewish Reporter to mark the event, and the Menachem and Claire Mansoor Graduate Fellowship Fund was established. Brenner completed a book-length Hebrew manuscript, “Between Speech and Silence: The Artist and the World in Ruth Almog’s Fiction,” which will be published later this year by Hakibbutz Hameuchad. Her book Writing as Resistance: Four Women Confronting the Holocaust: Edith Stein, Simone Weil, Anne Frank, and Etty Hillesum appeared in Spanish translation, Resistencia ante el Holocausto: Edith Stein, Simone Weil, Anna Frank, y Etty H Illesum. Trans. Federico de Carlos Otto. Narcea, S. A. de Ediciones, Madrid, 2005. She published three articles on Modern Israeli Fiction in AJS Review, Mikan: Journal of Literary Studies, and The Journal of Modern Jewish Studies. She presented papers at the Association for Jewish Studies and the
ADAM GAMORAN (Sociology) is the director of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and serves on the National Screening Committee, Fulbright-Hays Program, Institute of International Education.

CLAUDIA CARD, Emma Goldman Professor of Philosophy, teaches “Moral Philosophy and the Holocaust.” She is also a member of the new LGBT Studies Program. Her latest books are The Atrocity Paradigm: A Theory of Evil (Oxford 2002) and The Cambridge Companion to Simone de Beauvoir (2003). Currently a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, where she is at work on a book on responding to atrocities, she was also honored at a 2-day conference, “The Cardfest,” at Memorial Union, April 14–15, 2006.

ADAM GAMORAN (Sociology/Educational Policy Studies) is the director of the Wisconsin Center for Education Research. He has written widely on education and inequality, including “Stratification in Academic Secondary Programs and Educational Inequality in Israel and the United States” (Comparative Education Review, 2000, with Hannah Ayalon). On behalf of the Mandel Foundation, he has examined the characteristics of educators in Jewish schools and the prospects for enhanced professional development in Jewish education. Recently, he participated in a study of Chicago’s Jewish schools, with particular attention to questions about students’ experiences of curriculum and their Jewish identities. A paper from that research (with Matthew Boxer) on “Religious participation as cultural capital development: Sector differences in Chicago’s Jewish schools” is in press in a book edited by Maureen T. Halilin.

CHAD GOLDBERG’S (Sociology) areas of specialization include comparative-historical, cultural, and political sociology as well as social theory. He is a main research interests include the sociology of citizenship, democratic theory, social movements, and the welfare state. He regularly teaches an undergraduate seminar on “The Jews, States, and Citizenship,” which explores the emancipation of European Jews in the nineteenth century in the context of broader sociological theories of state formation, citizenship, and nationalism. He presented a public lecture in the spring of 2004 on the civic dimension of Jewish nationalism for the “What is Zionism?” lecture series at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and he contributed a review essay to the May 2005 issue of Contemporary Sociology on Yaacov Lazorick’s Right to Exist: A Moral Defense of Israel’s Wars (New York: Doubleday, 2003). Goldberg has also written about Alexis de Tocqueville and the welfare state, the Freedmen’s Bureau, efforts to organize WPA workers in the 1930s and New York City workfare workers in the 1990s, and the relationship between social movements and emotions. He recently completed a book manuscript, titled “Citizens and Paupers: Relief, Rights, and Race in the Development of the American Welfare State,” which is now under review by two publishers.

Ken Goldstein (Political Science) is the director of the University of Wisconsin NewsLab and the University of Wisconsin Advertising Project (www.polisci.wisc.edu/tvadvertising). Goldstein received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and combines his academic training with an ear for real politics and an impressive set of political contacts and experience. He is the author of Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Participation in America (Cambridge University Press) and is the organizer and editor of a volume on political campaigns, The Medium and the Message (Prentice Hall). Currently he is working on a book project on television advertising under contract with Princeton University Press. In addition, his research on political advertising, Israeli politics turnout, survey methodology, and presidential elections has appeared in over 20 journal articles and book chapters. Goldstein was awarded a Fulbright teaching and research award in Spring of 2003 and spent the semester at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is in research in Israel focuses on Campaigns and elections with a special concentration on the voting behavior of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. He is also directing a project that captures and archives television news coverage in Israel. Goldstein’s reputation for unbiased and non-partisan analysis has made him a favorite source for politicians and the news media alike. He has appeared on Newsnight with Jim Lehrer, Nightline, ABC World News Tonight, NBC Nightly News, MSNBC, CNN, Fox News, and is quoted extensively in the country’s top newspapers such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal. He is also currently a consultant for the ABC News elections unit.

SARA GUYER (English) is on research leave this Spring, completing her book Romanticism after Auschwitz (Stanford University Press, 2007), writing several articles on Jacques Derrida’s legacy, and initiating a new book project on the politics and poetics of homelessness. The project proposes to rethink romanticism’s putative preoccupation with nationalism through a close examination of two poets—John Clare and Friedrich Hölderlin. Several of her articles have recently appeared, including...
Faculty News continued

an article on Paul Celan’s translations of Shakespeare’s sonnets (Comparative Literature, Fall 2005), an article on the possibility and impossibility of forgiveness (SubStance Winter 2006), an essay on the legacies of Paul de Man (Romantic Circles, May 2005) and a review essay of two scholarly works in Holocaust Studies (Contemporary Literature, Winter 2005). In Fall 2006, Guyer will teach a graduate course in the English Department on Romantic Autobiography as well as a Jewish Studies seminar, supported by one of the Center’s Course Incentive Grants, on “Jacques Derrida and Modern Jewish Thought.”

LEONARD KAPLAN (Law) taught at the University of Nebraska Law School, was a research fellow at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis and a staff attorney in the office of Community Legal Council in Chicago before joining the University of Wisconsin Law faculty in 1974. Co-author of a treatise on Law and Psychiatry, he was co-founder and co-editor-in-chief of the monograph series, “Graven Images, Essays in Culture, Law and the Sacred.” Graven Images and a new series Law @ are University Press offerings. He has served as president of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health and is now treasurer of the organization. He is a member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Law and Psychiatry. Named the Mortimer M. Jacker Professor of Law in 1997, he has published and edited 16 books and volumes and is the author of over 200 articles and other publications. Among his monographs are The Krymchaks: A Vanishing Jewish Group in the Soviet Union (Jerusalem, 1994), and After the USSR: Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Politics in the Commonwealth of Independent States (Madison, 1995). His current main interests include Jews of Eastern and Central Europe, new anti-Semitism, post-totalitarianism, and ethnicity and nationalism.

JUDITH DEUTSCH KORNBLATT (Slavic Languages) has spoken around the country on the subject of her recent book entitled Doubly Chosen: Jewish Identity, the Soviet Intelligentsia, and the Russian Orthodox Church. In addition, she has published several articles on her new research, Divine Wisdom in Russian culture, including the influence of Jewish wisdom literature on Russian iconography.

MARK L LOUDEN (German) continues research and outreach work on Yiddish, especially how the language has developed in America. Last summer, he delivered two lectures at CJS’s Greenfield Summer Institute, one on Yiddish in America generally, and the second on the Yiddish-language Milvoker Vokhenblat newspaper. He also presented a paper at a conference, entitled “The Nation-State and Other Political Traditions of the Jewish People,” organized by Tel Aviv University. His book, A Fire in Their Hearts: Yiddish Socialism in New York was published by Harvard University Press in November 2005.

CYNTHIA L MILLER (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) explores the use of linguistic theory and methodology to illuminate the syntactic structures of Biblical Hebrew and the related ancient Northwest Semitic languages. In the last year, she has published two articles “Ellipsis involving Negation in Biblical Poetry,” in Festschrift in honor of Michael V. Fox and an article on “Linguistics” in the Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books. In October, she was invited to present a lecture at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago on “Languages without Speakers: Reconstructing Ancient Near Eastern Languages from...
Epigraphic Fragments.” In November, she presented a paper at the Society of Biblical Literature on “The Syntax of Comparative Constructions.”

BILHA MIRKIN (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) teaches six Hebrew language courses over the academic year. Many students come to the program because they want to rejuvenate or resurrect the little Hebrew they knew as children; others have plans to go to Israel as juniors and want to be able to speak and understand the language. Few are interested in languages and are adventurous by nature, so they take H Hebrew. The novelty and the “exotic” nature of Hebrew appeal to them. Yet others are attracted to it because of their cultural or religious connection to Israel and Judaism. While holding a high academic standard of transmitting the language in all of its aspects (reading, writing, comprehension and speaking), present a cultural context and do it all in a fun, caring, informal yet serious manner. To achieve these goals, she creates a community of learners. In order to anchor the language in the cultural context, students are responsible for researching and presenting a topic about an aspect of Israeli culture. The students are also exposed to Israeli music and films. Knowing Hebrew opens windows to Jewish traditions, Jewish culture and rituals and the understanding of the Bible. Many students continue to learn and find out about their own roots as a result of the exposure they get in the language classroom. In July of 2005, Mirkin attended the Pre-congress on Research of the Hebrew Language and its Methodology, in Jerusalem.


STEVEN NADLER (Philosophy) is the current director of the Center and the Max and Frieda Weinstein/Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies. His book, Spinoza’s Ethics: An Introduction has just been published by Cambridge University Press. He is also co-editor of The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy. From Antiquity through the Seventeenth Century, for which he is also writing the essay “Providence and Theodicy”.

DANIEL PEKARSKY (Educational Policies Studies) continues to teach “Education and Jewish Civilization” and has learned a great deal from this experience. In collaboration with Simone Schweber, he continues to work on the development of the Center’s Joint Program in Education and Jewish Studies, attracting many strong and first-rate students. In December 2005, he presented “The Other/ and Jewish Education” at the annual meetings of the Association for Jewish Studies, this year held in Washington, D.C. He is study of a vision-guided Jewish day school in New York, entitled Vision at Work: The Theory and Practice of Beit Rabban, will be published later this year by the Jewish Theological Seminary Press. Most recently, in early April 2006, Pekarsky was the keynote speaker at a symposium organized around the theme of “Educating the Jewish Child” sponsored by the University of Michigan’s Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. He is talk was entitled “Good Schools: Where the Prophets Meet up with Plato, and Vision hits the Road,” and he used the occasion as an opportunity to make the case for vision-guided Jewish educational practice. He continues to consult with the Mandel Foundation on questions relating to the improvement of Jewish education and education in Israel, and the Foundation graciously provided him with an office and other forms of support during his recent Sabbatical in Jerusalem. Pamela Potter (Music/German) is the author of three entries on Richard Wagner that appeared in Anti-Semitism: A Historical Encyclopedia of Prejudice and Persecution, and her essay on Wagner in the Third Reich will soon be published in the Cambridge Companion to Richard Wagner. Other forthcoming publications include articles on the concept of race in pre-Nazi musical discourse, on the “Germanization” of German musical life in the Third Reich, on German scholarly engagement with Jewish music, and on the historiography of Nazi music and musicology. Her major works in progress are a book on musical life in twentieth-century Berlin, a book on Nazi aesthetics in the visual and performing arts, and a review essay on recent work on the arts in Nazi Germany for the journal Contemporary European History. She organized sessions and delivered papers at the annual meetings of the American Historical Association and the German Studies Association and was invited to speak at the 2006 Oregon Bach Festival.

DOUGLAS ROSENBERG (Dance Program) received a Vilas Associate Award for 2005–07, a Wisconsin/Hi lldale Undergraduate/ Faculty Research Award for 2005–06 and will be on sabbatical for 2005–6 to finish his book on dance and film. He will also be directing a new dance film project with Wisconsin Public Television during his sabbatical. His previous suite of dance films, “Dances For Television,” was nominated for two Emmy awards. He is the recent recipient of the prestigious Phelan Art Award in Video and recent exhibitions of his video work include: The National Film Theater, London, The National Museum of Dance in NY, the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC, San Fran-
Faculty News continued

ROBERT SKLOOT (Theatre and Drama) served as the Walt Whitman Professor of American Cultural Studies at the University of Utah, and taught a course on the Holocaust and the Theatre that concluded with a staged reading of Erwin Sylavan's play, Koczak and the Children. He also presented lectures in Amsterdam, Oslo, Erfurt and Tel Aviv. In December, his play If the Whole Body Dies about Raphael Lemkin, the man who coined the word genocide, was given a staged reading in Madison.


JEANNE SWACK'S (Music) primary research interest is German music and culture in the early eighteenth century. Other interests include the use of Yiddish in baroque opera and the portrayal of Jews in vocal music (opera and church music) in the baroque period. She has received grants from DAAD, which is the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst), and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Her book, entitled Composition and Performance in the Music of Georg Philipp Telemann, will soon be published by Cambridge University Press.

RONALD TROXEL (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) is in the midst of a book project on the Greek translation of the book of Isaiah, under a contract with E.J. Brill Academic Publishers. In November he presented a paper derived from that research at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, in Philadelphia. Over the past year he has also served as chair of the committee planning this spring's events celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies.

PHYLLIS HOLMAN WEISBARD (Women's Studies Librarian) contributed her Annotated Bibliography and Guide to Archival Resources on the History of Jewish Women in America to the CD-ROM publication Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia, ed. by Paula E. Hyman and Dalia Ofar (forthcoming Shalvi Publishing, 2006). She moderated the program "Getting Published: From Practice to Print," presented by the Women's Studies Section at the American Library Association Annual Convention (June 2005) and co-chairs the Section's 2006 program "Doing Information Literacy Differently: The View from Interdisciplinary Studies." Her website was reviewed in the January 2006 issue of Choice Current Reviews for Academic Libraries as doing an "excellent job of combining educational materials for researchers from UW with those for researchers worldwide seeking women's studies materials."

HAYA YUCHTMAN (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) is the recipient of a Teaching Excellence Award. Haya teaches first and second year Modern Hebrew, as well as two intensive Hebrew courses during Summer Sessions. In addition, Haya teaches an advanced Hebrew class at Midrasha, the Madison Jewish High school.

ROBERT SKLOOT (Theatre and Drama) served as the Walt Whitman Professor of American Cultural Studies at the University of Utah, and taught a course on the Holocaust and the Theatre that concluded with a staged reading of Erwin Sylavan's play, Koczak and the Children. He also presented lectures in Amsterdam, Oslo, Erfurt and Tel Aviv. In December, his play If the Whole Body Dies about Raphael Lemkin, the man who coined the word genocide, was given a staged reading in Madison.
As this year’s Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellow, I want to thank the Weinstein Family for this opportunity. My dissertation explores the revitalization of Judaism in postwar Europe through the education of child survivors in orphanages and schools located throughout France. The youngest of the children had never before attended school, and the schooling of older children had been interrupted for as long as five years. While secular studies and vocational training were deemed necessary to give children the tools that they needed to forge livelihoods, Jewish organizations emphasized the need for education in a specifically Jewish context. Such education focused on national, ethnic, cultural, and/or religious aspects of Judaism. Education can be understood as an agent of acculturation, as it serves to transmit values of a particular community. Therefore, a study of the ways in which children were assimilated back into the Jewish community through education and reeducation reveals the values of the multitude of organizations who helped to rebuild France. The Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellowship has allowed me to devote a significant portion of my time this year to research for my dissertation. This past fall, I presented papers at two conferences: the Biannual Holocaust Studies Conference (“Poland’s Scars: A Case Study of How Three Sites of Mass Murder Have Been Memorized”) and the Midwest Jewish Studies Association (“Un mal de l’appartenance: The Negotiation of Religious Categories by Jewish Children Hidden as Catholics in France during the Shoah.”) This summer I will be attending the Holocaust Education Foundation’s Summer Institute, which is held at Northwestern University.
Students (HEADLINE?)

BY JASON GILE

W hen I entered U W- Madison four short years ago, I never expected the incredible opportunities that would be available to me. Looking back on my academic career, I have been privileged to not only learn from distinguished faculty, but also take part in valuable learning beyond the classroom setting.

At the beginning of my freshman year, I didn’t expect to study Jewish Studies exclusively. With plans to be a Religious Studies major, I took Introduction to Judaism with Professor Jonathon Schofer during my first semester. I enjoyed the class so much that I took other Jewish Studies courses, and not long after I knew I wanted to major in Jewish Studies. Not being Jewish, both Judaism and Jewish culture were entirely new to me. Yet as each semester passed, I became more interested in the different areas in the field. I studied a broad range of topics within the department - from Biblical literature to American literature and ancient history to modern history. I studied the writings of early Zionist thinkers, and the wisdom of the sages of old. By learning Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic in the Department of H ebrew and Semitic Studies, I was also able to take advanced text courses in the Bible and read ancient inscriptions from the Near East.

In the Fall of 2004, I learned about the origins of Jews in America in Professor Dena Mandel’s American Jewish History class. I was especially interested in immigrant life for the thousands of European Jews who settled in New York City. When that class ended, I remember thinking that some day I would like to visit New York and see for myself the place that was the most important location for America Jewish Studies. Obviously then I was shocked to learn less than a month later that I would be going there sooner than I thought. On the first day of Yiddish Literature in America, Professor Tony Michels informed us that the whole class would go on an all-expenses-paid trip to the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Thanks to a grant from William and Marjorie C olen, we were able to explore the old Jewish neighborhood and get a first-hand glimpse of the Jewish immigrant experience. Some highlights were the Tenement Museum, Ellis Island, and Sammy’s Roumanian Steakhouse.

I also worked on a year-long research project titled “The Additions to the Wisdom of Ben Sira.” The research was funded by a Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship. I was fortunate to have Professor M ichael V. Fox as an advisor. His expertise and guidance were invaluable. The study sought to uncover the origins of more than 300 lines added throughout the book after it was written. Were they added haphazardly by random scribes throughout the ages? Or did one person or one group of people systematically insert these lines with a specific purpose? Few scholars have attempted to answer these questions, and the generally accepted view is based on a dissertation written over fifty years ago. Conleth Kearns argued that the additions to the book originated in a systematic revision of the H ebrew text. He reasoned that there is such a remarkable continuity in the content of the additions that they must have come from one person or one group of people. Furthermore, he maintained that his conclusion was supported by the textual evidence.

In my paper, I argue against that view on two grounds. First, by an in-depth analysis of the textual relationship between the additions among the ancient translations, I have shown that there is no evidence for a H ebrew revision of the book. Though such a revision remains possible, the textual evidence makes it highly unlikely. Second, the presence of recurring topics among the additions does not require that the additions must have been added with a purpose—namely, to make certain ideas more prominent in the book. Rather, because the content of the additions is always prompted by the topic of the pre-existing context to which it was added, topics often recur because those same topics recur in the original text itself. What is important is what the additions say about those topics. Recurring ideas about a topic would suggest that the additions come from the same source. On the whole, however, the additions do not contain a conspicuous continuity in this regard.

Though graduation is approaching and my undergraduate study will come to an end, I will not have to say goodbye to the University just yet. In the fall I will be pursuing a Masters degree in H ebrew and Semitic Studies. I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences that I have had in Jewish Studies these last four years, and I am certain they have given me a solid foundation for graduate school and a career in academics.
**Student Updates**

**JODI GOODE** (Certificate, ‘95) currently investigates complaints of attorney misconduct at her position with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission in Chicago. <jodi.goode@sbcglobal.net>

**LAURIE SAFT** (Certificate ‘95) worked for Sanford Bernstein, an investment research and management company in New York City for six years following graduation. She then left Bernstein and traveled in South East Asia and Australia for six months. Returning to New York, she started a full-time MBA program at New York University’s Stern School of Business. She is currently finishing her second year of school and actively looking for full-time work after she graduates. Laurie is still pursuing Jewish Studies on the side, taking a class in NYU’s Skirball Department of Judaic Studies on the History of the Jewish Community. The material covered is exciting and being a part of another university’s Jewish Studies program has been interesting. <lauriesaft@yahoo.com>

**JENNIFER NOPARSTAK** (Certificate, ‘96) has become the Assistant Director of the Young Leadership Division of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. She has had the pleasure of traveling to Israel in July 2003 as a staff person on the United Jewish Communities Summer Young Adult Mission. It was great to be there! <jenniferNOPARSTAK@juf.org>

**JOANNA TESSLER** (Certificate, ’96) has been working in the Jewish community for over five years. She has been living in Denver, Colorado, working at Adassah for the past year. Joanna loves the work that she does and feels great about using the knowledge she gained through the Center. <Joanna.Tessler@hadassah.org>

**AMY (WERTHEIMER) PADEREWSKI** (Certificate, ’96) lives in Vail, Colorado with her husband, Michael and son, Jake. She is a stay at home mom, but finds the time to tutor students a few afternoons each week. They love living in Vail and spend their winters skiing and summers outdoors. <hiking.awertheimer@hotmail.com>

**LEAH S. HART** (Certificate, ’98) spent a year in Israel after graduating, working for the Eisendrath International Exchange/ NFTY High School in Israel Program. She then lived in New York City for two years working as a women’s health counselor at a clinic. In 2001, Leah moved to Boston to pursue a graduate degree, and graduated in May of 2004 with masters degrees in both clinical social work (M SW) and maternal and child health (M PH). She currently works as a social worker with the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston running “Life Choices” girls groups in area middle schools. <leahsara@gmail.com>

**MANDY OSKIN** (Certificate, ’98) received a BSW with Distinction at UW-Madison (1998) and a MSW at the University of Maryland-Baltimore (2000). She served as J C SC fellow in 1998-99 at Michigan State University. Prior to launching a career as a Jewish professional, she spent a year in Jerusalem studying at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies. During the summer of 2000, she was an R.A. with the Urban Mitzvah Corps program of NFTY (Reform Judaism’s youth movement) in New Jersey. Since August 2001 Mandy has been the director of Student Life at the Newberger Hillel Center at the University of Chicago. <http://hillel.uchicago.edu/staff.html>. <mroskin@aol.com>

**HARRIET “ARIELLE” TUROVER** (Certificate, ‘98) continued her education by receiving a Masters in Jewish Education and a Masters in Jewish Studies at Gratz college. After graduation, she volunteered with the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), travelling to India for a year that changed to 6 months after 9/11. What an incredible experience it was! Arielle returned to find a real job, becoming principal for Temple Anshe Sholom, a reform congregation in Olympia Fields, a suburb of Chicago. She also taught Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School and ran a Hebrew School part time at B’nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (BJBE) in Glenview, also a suburb of Chicago). She taught BJBE’s Sunday school and tutored several children. Finding herself spread a bit too thin along with a hazardous commute, she now continues as the Principal of BJBE for the second but final year. Currently, her full time job is as a residential specialist at Dream Town Realty in Chicago. She hopes to be back in the field of Jewish education in the future. <arielleturover@hotmail.com>
Students continued

ALEXIS (BLOOMBERG) HENSLOVITZ (Certificate, ’00) moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts in August 2000 after getting engaged to Adam and graduating from the U.W. After Adam started law school at Harvard that fall, Alexis started working at Harvard Business School Publishing in the newsletter group, coordinating its editorial-related work. After planning their wedding, getting through their first year of law school, and learning their way around Boston and Cambridge, they were married in New Jersey in 2001. They spent their honeymoon in Hawaii and Napa Valley. <ahenslovitz@hbsp.harvard.edu>

MARISA JACOBSON (Certificate, ’01) is finishing her second year of law school at U.W. She spent last summer working at the State Public Defender’s Office in Madison. This summer she will be working as a Summer Associate at Kirkland & Ellis' New York office. In addition to school, Marisa spent the year working for the law school’s Consumer Law Litigation Clinic and the Wisconsin International Law Journal. In addition, Marisa founded the Graduate Students’ Israel Education Initiative, the first group of its kind to promote Israel education among grad students. <mdjacob1@wisc.edu>

SAMANTHA MARGOLIS (Certificate, ’01) is the Midwest Associate Director for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a pro-Israel lobbying organization. She is responsible for event planning and fundraising in Iowa, Wisconsin, St. Louis and the Chicago Young Leadership Board. Samantha is very happy to report that she absolutely loves her job! She really enjoyed the Jewish Studies program at Madison and wanted you all to know that her Certificate in Jewish Studies is being used, and has been, since graduation. <smargolis@aipac.org>

JACLYN MARKS (Certificate, ’02) is a second year graduate student at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government with a Master in Public Policy. Jaclyn is focusing her studies on Energy Policy and is particularly interested in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate change. She is an avid traveler and toured China with thirty of her classmates last January to meet with government officials, business leaders, and think tanks. Over the summer she worked for the Inter-American Development Bank to research renewable energy in Brazil and traveled there to interview top government officials, leaders in government, academic, and business. Before graduate school she worked for a wind energy marketing company in Chicago and volunteered for Rotary International in Cuernavaca Mexico. While in Mexico she taught English and traveled throughout the region. In addition, Jaclyn speaks Hebrew, Spanish, and Portuguese. <jaclyn_marks@ksg06.harvard.edu>

JEREMY “YAKIR” MANELA (Major, ’04) is currently a Jewish environmental activist in the Washington D.C. area. After graduating he worked for the Teva Learning Center doing Jewish environmental outdoor education, and for the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) advocating on behalf of the American Jewish community and organizing Jewish environmental activism on campus with Hillels around the country. Jeremy also traveled to China last summer and worked at an international summer camp with campers and counselors from all over the world. Now he is starting a one acre organic vegetable farm at a retreat center owned by Am Kolel, Washington’s Jewish Renewal community. The harvest from the cor-
ners of the field will be donated to
soup kitchens in accordance with Peah,
a Jewish agricultural law. Jeremy is also
facilitating a partnership between the
Hazon organization of New York City
and Tifereth Israel Congregation of
Washington DC, organizing a Jewish
environmental Shabbaton, a Syna-
gogue CSA (community supported
agriculture), and a Yom HaAdamah
(Earth Day) for the religious school.
Jeremy is planning to work with syna-
gogues throughout the area planting
gardens, running youth-group retreats,
and facilitating environmental progress
in whatever ways possible throughout
the Jewish community. He also does a
lot of Tai chi. <jmanela@yahoo.com>

BENJAMIN MOSS (Certificate, ’04)
decided to augment his undergraduate
focus on Jewish Studies and Hebrew
with the experience of living in Israel.
Thanks to the generous support of the
Weinstein-Minkoff study award, he was
able to attend a Hebrew
ULPAN at the University of
Haifa. Benjamin is currently
studying at Ben-Gurion University
of the Negev, where he is in
the last semester of a graduate
program in Middle Eastern
Studies. He heads to the East
Coast to study law in September
and his goal is to use what
he has learned to work in inter-
national law with a focus on the
Middle East. He remembers
fondly his time at UW and
sends the warmest regards to
all. <bmmoss@uwalumni.com>

ADAM ROWE (Certificate, ’04) is cur-
rently working in Louisville, Kentucky,
as an intern at YUM Brands! in their
people development department. This
is a branch of human resources that
works to help enhance employees’
lives. He also is an advisor for the local
B’Nai B’rith Youth Organization. He
has trained to become a court-
appointed special advocate for chil-
dren. <adamerowe@gmail.com>

WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM OUR GRADUATES

Drop us a line at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Jewish Studies,
308 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1319,
or e-mail us at allightf@wisc.edu.

Tell us what you’re doing.
JEWISH HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

FALL 2005

Jewish Dogs — An Image and Its Interpreters: Continuity in the Jewish-Catholic Encounter
Kenneth Stow

Weinstein/Minkoff Lecture
‘I Have No Childhood Memories’: Auschwitz and the Art of Forgetting
Josh Cohen

Tobias Lecture
Who is No Longer a Jew: Excommunication in Modern Jewish History
Allan Nadler

Notable Events
The Royal Purple and Biblical Blue: An interdisciplinary study
Ehud Spanier

Midwest Jewish Studies Association Conference
The Tragedy of Recent Holocaust Film Comedy
David Brenner

‘Safrut’ and the Zionist Engagement with Russian Culture, 1916–18
Brian Horowitz

Sycology: Schulberg, Kazan, and A Face in the Crowd
Joseph Litvak

A collection of short films by award-winning Canadian film maker and choreographer Allen Kaeja

SPRING 2006

The Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies
50th Anniversary Celebration
March 6, Pyle Center

Peoples of the Land: Jewish Piety in Late Antiquity
Michael Satlow

Preaching to a Congregation of ‘New Jews’: The Sermons of Spinoza’s Rabbi
Marc Saperstein

The Kutler Lectures
Reflections on Sephardi Ladino Culture in Modern Times and Sephardic Jewries and the Holocaust
Aron Rodrigue
March 20 and 22

The Impact of the Dead Sea Scrolls on Our Bible
Eugene Ulrich and The Dead Sea Scrolls and Early Judaism
James C. Vander Kam
April 2

Interpreting the Word: Hope, Hype, and Habit in Fifty Years of Biblical Studies (Leonard J. Greenspoon) and Reclaiming History Letter-by-Letter: How Modern Technologies are Unlocking Ancient Texts from Biblical Times (Bruce Zuckerman)
April 3

The Sanford J. Ettinger Lecture
Home and Away: Places and Spaces in Hebrew Literature
Hannah Naveh
April 4

The Conney Fund
From Shtetl to Swing—An evening with Ben Sidran
Thursday, April 27, 8:00 p.m.
Wisconsin Union Theatre
**COURSE LISTINGS**

### FALL 2006

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<td>211</td>
<td>Introduction to Judaism - Schofer</td>
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<td>227</td>
<td>Introduction to Biblical Literature - Troxel</td>
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<td>236</td>
<td>Bascom Course: Jewish Composers: Early Modern to Modern, 1600-Present - Swack</td>
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<td>237</td>
<td>Biblical Poetry in Translation - Miller</td>
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<td>241</td>
<td>Introduction to Biblical Archaeology - Blakely</td>
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<td>301</td>
<td>Introduction to Hebrew Literature - Morahg</td>
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<td>371</td>
<td>Topics: Job and the Problem of Evil - Yu</td>
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<td>376</td>
<td>Ancient Jewish Psych &amp; Ethics - Schofer</td>
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<td>401</td>
<td>Survey of Modern Hebrew Literature - Brenner</td>
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<td>410</td>
<td>Holocaust Theme-West Drama - Skloot</td>
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<td>435</td>
<td>Jewish Philos: Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century - Nadler</td>
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<td>473</td>
<td>Jewish Civilization-Medieval Spain (in English) - Alfonso</td>
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<td>475</td>
<td>Education and Jewish Civilization - Pekarsky</td>
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<td>490</td>
<td>Topics #1: New Voices in Jewish American Fiction - Mandel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Topics #2: Kosher and Halal Food Regulations - Regenstein</td>
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<td>513</td>
<td>Biblical Texts, Poetry - Fox</td>
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<td>515</td>
<td>Holocaust: History, Memory, &amp; Education - Schweber</td>
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<tr>
<td>533</td>
<td>Readings in Contemporary Hebrew Literature - Morah</td>
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<tr>
<td>625</td>
<td>The Holocaust: Facts, Trials, Verdicts, and Post-Verdicts - Tuerkheimer</td>
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### SPRING 2006 TIMETABLE

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>237</td>
<td>Biblical Poetry in Translation - Chau</td>
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<td>279</td>
<td>Yiddish Literature in America - Mandel</td>
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<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>Introduction to Hebrew Literature - Mirkin</td>
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<td>332</td>
<td>Prophets of the Bible - Troxel</td>
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<td>371</td>
<td>#1 Topics-Jewish Civilization: Lamentations and Its Interpreters - Nguyen</td>
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<td>371</td>
<td>#2 Topics-Jewish Civilization; Ezekiel and Its Readers - Lyons</td>
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<td>377</td>
<td>Jewish Cultural History - Tooman</td>
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<td>402</td>
<td>Survey of Modern Hebrew Literature - Brenner</td>
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<tr>
<td>490</td>
<td>#1 Topics in Jewish Studies: Law, Theology, and the State - Kaplan</td>
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<tr>
<td>490</td>
<td>#2 Topics in Jewish Studies: Elections in Israel - Goldstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>514</td>
<td>Biblical Texts, Poetry - Troxel</td>
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<tr>
<td>593</td>
<td>Literature-Jewish Identity in America - Mandel</td>
<td></td>
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### Tentatively mark your calendars for next year’s lectures and events:

- **Tobias Lecture:** Allan Lansky  
  Wednesday, September 27, 2006

- **Schrag Lecture:** Niels Roemer

- **Conney Lecture:** Kalman Bland - Konsho Lectures  
  Douglas Greenberg - week of April 14, 2007
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Never before has the UW–Madison Center for Jewish Studies been in a better position to provide a donor with a magnificent return on his/her philanthropic investment. The Center is strong, its faculty world-renowned, and its students highly motivated and enthusiastic. Above all, its alumni and friends are proud, supportive and involved. The potential for the future is enormous.

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Summer Program in Education and Jewish Studies. Funds from this endowment could be used to plan and hold programs during the summer in the area of education and Jewish studies. Projects that might be supported include national or regional workshops and conferences for lay leaders and educators, including both teachers and principals. ($250,000)

Endowment for Publishing Books in Jewish Studies. An endowment fund to support the University of Wisconsin Press in its already strong list of titles in Jewish Studies. Individual books supported by this endowment would bear the imprint of the Center and individual dedications. ($200,000)

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Inquiries regarding giving opportunities to the Center for Jewish Studies should be directed to: Steve Kean, Director of Development, George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies. (608) 265-3526, <steve.kean@uwfoundation.wisc.edu>
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The Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies gratefully acknowledges the following alumni, businesses and friends who have made contributions to the Center for Jewish Studies. Your support over the years has significantly enhanced the quality of the Center’s presence on the UW-Madison campus and throughout academic circles and communities worldwide.

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Mildred Zinberg
An opportunity to broaden your knowledge and explore the wonders of UW–Madison returns this summer during the week of July 9. Scholars and teachers of history, literature, language, politics, the arts and philosophy will look at the different ways—religious and secular—in which Judaism can be expressed. Presentations from some of the outstanding faculty of the Center and other community members will provide morning and afternoon lectures on this year’s topic, Judaism: Religious and Secular. Theological beliefs, cultural Judaism, and historical findings will be discussed, bringing together students and community members of all ages, which is our goal. Free time is built in to the week’s schedule, allowing visitors the opportunity to enjoy Madison and its surrounding area. Join us during the 2006 Greenfield Summer Institute, as scholars from various disciplines look at ways—religious and secular—in which Judaism can be expressed. For more information, please contact the Center at (608) 265-4763 or visit our website at http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/jewishst/index.htm