Performing Histories, Inscribing Jewishness
2009 Conney Conference on Jewish Art

DOUGLAS ROSENBERG
Director, Conney Project on Jewish Arts

From April 22–24, 2009, the Mosse/Weinstein Center hosted the second international Conney Conference on Jewish Arts. This year’s offering, titled *Performing Histories, Inscribing Jewishness*, continued our initiatives in the area of Jewish identity in the arts by providing a platform for critical dialogue about the role of Jewish artists and scholars in shaping the arts and the theory and practice of art history.

The theme of this year’s conference refers to the multiple ways in which historical narratives concerning Jewish identity in the arts are both fluid and volatile and how, throughout history, they have been realized. We are interested in new interpretations and new ways of looking at Jewish culture through the arts and throughout history to the present and into the future.

The conference examined various aspects of Jewish identity in the arts and ranged across disciplines, historical periods, and geographical locations. Participants considered music, the visual arts, performance, new media, photography, dance, spoken word, and any other art forms in which the question of Jewish identity might be embedded. They raised questions about both the nature of Jewishness and the nature of “Jewish art,” as well as about Jewish identity in general. While clearly a factor in the practice of contemporary art history, Jewishness has not been recognized as an ethnic identity in the arts. Jewish difference, once the material for anti-Semitic exclusion from the art canon,

Continued on page 7

KlezKamp Road Show Comes to Madison

HENRY SAPOZNICK
Visiting scholar and KlezKamp founder

A chance meeting with Douglas Rosenberg at the 2005 Limmud Conference in upstate New York led to my spending this last semester in the Center for Jewish Studies as a part of UW’s Arts Residency Program.

Douglas liked what he heard about my approach to Yiddish cultural continuity—about the enthusiastic presentation of its relevance and immediacy—and felt that the UW would be just the place to appreciate it.

How right he was.

Coming to the UW campus has enabled me to put into practice passions which have long interested me, many of which overlap with my longtime work in Yiddish culture.

To start with, my class “Yiddish and American Popular Culture,” which combined the ideas I have been offering in lectures, books and record notes for my 30 years in the field, enabled me to crystallize those themes into a systematic and expanded class for some of the most intrepid and game students on the UW campus in addition to senior mem-

Continued on page 7
As I start my term as director by greeting you in these pages, many of you are already aware that the Center’s achievements of the past year were all accomplished under the energetic leadership of Ken Goldstein. We owe Ken a debt of gratitude for his vision in nurturing the growth of the Center in these trying economic times and for his passion for pursuing excellence in programming, development, and education. I am both humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to work with all of you toward continuing this mission.

While Jewish philanthropy all over the country has suffered a severe blow as a result of recent events, we feel especially fortunate to be able to rely on the support of friends old and new. As the following pages so colorfully illustrate, the Center has been able to sustain the mission of past gifts in its educational programs, outreach activities, faculty and student support, and lecture series. We already feel that we have the strength and commitment to weather the storm and emerge stronger than before.

In 2009 we are celebrating milestones large and small. Our biggest cause for celebration comes this summer with the 10th Greenfield Summer Institute, an event that continues to grow in popularity among our students, alumni, and members of the Madison community. This program came into being as an outreach initiative conceptualized by the late Larry Greenfield and continues today thanks to the dedication of his wife, Ros. The Institute showcases the talents of Center faculty as well as visiting scholars with intensive, week-long programs of stimulating lectures and exciting cultural events (see back page).

In April we were able to host the biennial Conney Conference on Jewish Art, organized by Conney Project Director Doug Rosenberg. Under the rubric of Performing Histories, Inscribing Jewishness, this vibrant, three-day event tackled the various ways in which the arts have shaped Jewish identity in a broad spectrum of historical and cultural contexts. The Conney Conference, the only event of its kind, has become a nationally recognized forum for dialogue on Jewish arts and attracts an ever-widening participation from artists, performers, critics, and scholars from all over the world. This event came on the heels of the KlezKamp Road Show, the crowning event of the UW Arts Institute residency of Henry Sapoznik, which featured performances and workshops on klezmer music and Yiddish arts and language, and drew hundreds of attendees from the campus, the community, and five states. Our students already had a taste of the KlezKamp experience in the Catskills over winter break, as a result of Bill and Marjorie Coleman’s gift to enhance the undergraduate experience (see pages 1 and 3).

We also enjoyed a banner year of lectures and symposia, including talks by Steven Aschheim of Hebrew University and Amir Eshol of Stanford (both of which were Paul J. Schrag Lectures), Meri–Jane Rochelson of Florida International University (Harry and Marjorie Tobias Lecture), Robert O. Freedman of Johns Hopkins University (Sanford J. Ettinger Lecture), and David Hollinger of University of California at Berkeley (Kutler Lectures). The Center additionally sponsored or co-sponsored a wide range of other lectures, multi-media presentations, and “The Weimar Moment,” an interdisciplinary conference organized by Professors Len Kaplan and Rudy Koshar, to celebrate the legacy of Germany’s experiment with liberal democracy on the eve of Hitler’s rise to power.

Center colleagues old and new have also left their mark this year. We note with a touch of sadness the retirement of three long-time members of the Center, Anatoly Khazanov, Frank Tuerkheimer, and Alan Weisbard, and express our gratitude for their innumerable contributions as teachers.

Continued on page 13
FOSTERING LEARNING BEYOND THE CAMPUS

The Coleman Corner

■ ANNA VOLODARSKAYA
09 Certificate in Jewish Studies

This past winter break, I had the great fortune to attend KlezKamp, a week-long klezmer music and Yiddish culture festival in New York, along with Professor Douglas Rosenberg. For a UW student like myself, this free trip, made possible by the generosity of Bill and Marjorie Coleman, was an opportunity I could not miss. A week of music, dance, food, and Judaism—what could be better? The actual experience, however, exceeded all of my expectations.

KlezKamp was started by Henry Sapoznik, who taught a Yiddish culture class this past spring, and is a true immersion into the world of Ashkenazi folk arts. From the minute I stepped into the hotel almost exclusively rented out for “KlezKampers,” I heard Yiddish fluently spoken by the veterans, jam sessions in the halls, and spontaneous dancing and music-making throughout the hotel. Classes such as “Yiddish Song,” “Hassidic Dance,” “Intro to Yiddish,” and a foods course quickly got me up to speed.

People of every age group, including college students from around the world, gathered to share their Jewishness. Mandolin orchestras, discussions of the origins of gefilte fish, and hot debates over the pronunciation of Latvian versus Sicilian Yiddish are experiences unlikely to occur anywhere other than at KlezKamp. Each day concluded with dancing until early morning. The person of greatest interest for me, however, proved to be the conductor of our choir class, Josh Dolgin, a rapper and producer known for mixing hip hop with klezmer sounds. Upon my return to campus, I shared some KlezKamp memories with members of a UW Jewish a cappella group I lead called “Jewop,” who are excited to incorporate some Klezmer tunes into our repertoire. Moreover, a mini KlezKamp that occurred in Madison in the spring further showcased the recent renaissance of Yiddish. In retrospect, I cannot think of a better way to spend winter break than by exploring, living, and passing down Jewish culture.

Thank you to Bill and Marjorie Coleman for making this trip possible! ☺

YOUR GIFT CAN HELP

Opportunity is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice. We have chosen to commit ourselves to transforming the University of Wisconsin–Madison from a great university into a truly extraordinary one.

Never before has the UW–Madison Center for Jewish Studies been better positioned to provide donors with a magnificent return on their philanthropic investment. The Center is strong. Its faculty is focused and intense. Its student body is more highly qualified and motivated than ever before. Its alumni and friends are proud, supportive and involved. The potential for the future is enormous.

To inquire about giving opportunities to the Center for Jewish Studies, contact:
Stephen Wald, Director of Development
George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies
(608) 263-2202, stephen.wald@uwfoundation.wisc.edu
The Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, established by Frances Weinstein through generous gifts in memory of Laurence Weinstein, was created to endow an annual fellowship to support a graduate student engaged in research on issues at the intersection of Education and Jewish Studies. Here are updates from former recipients of this prestigious fellowship and descriptions of how their work has benefited from the Center’s support.

SUZANNE ROSENBLITH
2000–01
Since receiving my Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies in 2001, I have been on the faculty of Clemson University. Currently, I am associate professor of educational foundations in Clemson’s Eugene T. Moore School of Education.

When I received the first Weinstein Distinguished Fellowship in Education and Jewish Studies, it was to complete my doctoral work that examined the relationship between religion and public education. In the eight years since, I have continued this line of research exploring issues related to religious pluralism in a democratic state as well as exploring the limits and possibilities of developing religious studies curricula for public schools in the United States. I have published widely on the issues in journals such as Educational Theory, Religious Education, and Educational Studies.

In October 2008 I was an invited participant at the United Nations Conference on “Education for Intercultural Understanding and Dialogue” in Copenhagen, Denmark.

REBEKAH IRWIN
2001–02, 2002–03
The Weinstein Distinguished Fellowship, which I was awarded in 2001, supported my graduate research in multicultural education and the intellectual and social potential of digital technologies.

My master’s thesis, completed in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, explored the potential of digital and information technologies to expand and advance representations and re-tellings of the Holocaust. This early engagement with technology has remained a common thread in my academic and professional career. With support from the WDGF, I combined doctoral coursework in Curriculum Theory, Library and Information Studies, Jewish Studies, and the Humanities, carving out an idiosyncratic academic path. In 2002, I received a Certificate of Yiddish Language and Culture from Vilnius University in Vilnius, Lithuania. Historically a vibrant center for Yiddish and Hebrew publishing and Jewish Enlightenment thinking, Vilnius opened new intellectual doors through which I explored pre-1945 Yiddish books and printing, and participated in an oral history project of Lithuanian Jewish life.

For the last five years, I have worked at Yale University’s Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library in New Haven, Connecticut. At Yale, I play a leading role in developing innovative technological tools that improve the ability of scholars and students to make use of library collections. Because of Yale’s notable Judaica collections, my past affiliation with the UW Center for Jewish Studies and the support of the WDGF continue to bear on my current and ongoing pursuits. Along the way, my husband and I also brought two daughters, Dahlia, age four, and Ruby, age two, into the world.

MATTHEW BOXER
2003–04, 2004–05
I’m still working on my dissertation, which addresses the impact of the size of a Jewish community on Jewish identity, and I hope to defend it some time next year. In the meantime, I’m working full-time as a research associate at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, where I am also a Mandell Berman Fellow at the Steinhardt Social Research Institute. I work primarily on the evaluation of the Birthright Israel Program, but have also been involved in our studies of Jewish summer camps and alternative spring and winter break trips (I spent a week doing fieldwork in Biloxi, Mississippi, in March). We’re starting to get into geographic analysis here too, so I’m continuing the training in geographic information systems I began at UW when I was the Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellow.

The WDGF was very helpful in providing the time and the funds for me to do the fieldwork for my master’s thesis on the effects of emerging adulthood on summer camp staff turnover. Because my study consisted of both interviews and site visits at several camps in Wisconsin and New York, it was very time- and resource-intensive work that would have been much more difficult (if not impossible) without the freedom and funding granted by the fellowship. Moreover, my work during the fellowship gave me insight into the processes by which Jewish identity is formed and maintained. In interviews, I found that respondents’ orientation toward and sense of place in the Madison Jewish community depended a great deal on the size of the Jewish communities in which they were raised. Those from very small communities found the Madison Jewish community very dynamic, while those who came from very large communities tended to think there weren’t many opportunities to engage in Jewish life. Seeing such discrepant views of the Madison Jewish community among people who seemed so similar helped open my eyes to the many ways community size affects identity.

MAGGIE WUNnenBERG
2005–06
Since receiving the Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in 2005–06, I have continued to pursue my interest in the intersection of Jewish history and education. At the 2007 Legacy of the Holocaust Conference in Krakow, Poland, I presented some findings from initial dissertation research in a paper entitled “Learning to Live: The Education and Rehabilitation of Child Survivors of the Shoah.” That fall, after defending my dissertation proposal, I traded in my student status for a year-long position as visiting instructor of Jewish Studies at the College of William and Mary. It was an incredibly rewarding experience to share my knowledge with undergraduate students in courses as Gender and Judaism, Introduction to the History of Jewish Thought, and Voices from the Holocaust: A Writing Intensive Freshman Seminar.

Most recently, my research has taken me to Israel, where I have spent the past year in the Central Zionist Archives and Yad Vashem. My dissertation explores the ways in which child Holocaust survivors were used as symbols of renewal by a range of relief organizations, social workers, and psychologists working toward the rehabilitation of the “lost children of Europe” in the immediate post-war period. After summer research trips to Yeshiva University in New York and to several archives in London and Southampton, England, I’ll be ready to embark on the writing process. I’m anxious to start piecing together my research, and, farther down the road, I’m looking forward to returning to the unique challenges of teaching in the college classroom.

ASSAF MESHulam
2006–07
I am currently a fourth-year Ph.D. disssertation in the UW-Madison Department of Curriculum and Instruction. My dissertation is a comparative case study of alternative schools in Israel and the United States, inquiring into what they offer to public education and how they foster a more democratic and just society. The ongoing support of the Center for Jewish Studies and its generosity in granting me the 2006–07 Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellowship have been crucial in my journey toward earning a Ph.D. In providing the funding for my second year of studies, the fellowship enabled me to complete the first phase of my program and successfully pass my preliminary examinations. During my fellowship year, I was able to devote my time entirely to my studies and the development of my research interests. This allowed me to formulate my dissertation research. Moreover, the Center continued in its support even after the fellowship year, both as an academic community and in resources. The Center has always given me a strong sense of its broad commitment to assisting and supporting scholars pursuing research in areas intersecting with Jewish Studies, and for this I am most grateful.
Visiting Scholars from Afar

Through the generosity of the Schusterman Family Foundation and the Kahn Charitable Foundation, three scholars were on the UW–Madison campus during the 2008–09 academic year. The depth and breadth of their research and course offerings provided additional educational opportunities for students. The Center is happy to announce that Visiting Professor Miri Talmon-Bohm will be joining us again this coming year.

**MIRI TALMON-BOHM** was born and educated in Israel. She is a scholar of Israeli culture, cinema, media and literature, who has lectured at Israeli universities, including The Open University of Israel, Tel-Aviv University (Department of Film and Television), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Department of Communication and Journalism), and Haifa University (Department of Communication). In the United States, she has taught at Florida Atlantic University and Wesleyan University. She is currently teaching for the Center in conjunction with the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. Dr. Talmon earned her Ph.D. from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Communication and Journalism, with a dissertation focusing on Israeli cinema in its historical and social contexts. Her M.A. and B.A. are from Tel-Aviv University (Linguistics, Comparative Literature, Film and Television). Her book *Israeli Graffiti: Nostalgia, Groups and Collective Identity in Israeli Cinema* (Hebrew) was published in Israel by Haifa University Press and The Open University Press in 2001.

Dr. Talmon is the initiator, director, and academic advisor of the Israeli film and lecture series, “Israel: Cinematic Visions,” for the Florida-Israel Institute at Florida Atlantic University. She lectures about Israeli cinema and culture for academic and educational organizations in the United States, as well as for Jewish and Israeli film festivals.

**MICHAEL RONY**’s research examines child-parent relations in the writings of the medieval Jewish Provençal philosopher, Joseph Ibn-Kaspi (1280–1340), while comparing it to the Arabic philosopher Averroes’ Middle Commentary on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics. This is the second stage of a wider project which examines Jewish medieval philosophic commentaries on the Bible. The purpose of his current work is to examine whether the contemporary child’s rights campaign in Israel (in general, and particularly in traditional parts of Israeli society) should be regarded as innovative, or rather as the continuation of a long-lasting Jewish concept.

Dr. Rony has a B.A. in Jewish Philosophy and Political Science and an M.A. in Jewish Philosophy from Bar-Ilan University. His M.A. thesis was titled “Social and Political Issues in Rabbi Isaac Arama’s Commentary on the Torah Akedat Yitzhak.” In 2007 he completed his Ph.D. at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. His dissertation was titled “Jewish Medieval Philosophical Commentaries on the Story of the Tower of Babel.”

During the spring semester of 2009, Dr. Rony taught two courses for the Center and the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies: “Jewish Biblical Interpretation in The Middle Ages” and “The Medieval Jewish Family.”

**SHARON ASIKOVITCH** was a Schusterman Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Mosse/Weinstein Center and a visiting lecturer in the Department of Political Science for the academic year 2008–09. Sharon received his Ph.D. in Political Science from The Hebrew University in 2007. He received the Ben Halpern Award for best dissertation in Israel Studies from the Association for Israel Studies. In keeping with his scholarly interest in politics and rights, Sharon taught two courses in the spring semester: one course focused on the Israeli welfare state in a comparative perspective, and the other was on immigration politics in comparative perspective, including the United States and Israel. His current research projects concern citizenship and relations between citizens and non-citizens and national political communities in the realm of health-care in Israel and Canada; healthcare systems, gender and health outcomes in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries; and housing politics and the Public Housing Act in Israel from a welfare state research perspective.
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s a recent graduate of the Center for Jewish Studies at UW–Madison, I am constantly thinking about how Judaism will continue to shape my life. Presently, I find myself investigating both my Jewish and my human identity outside of a small village in Gujarat, India, as part of a fellowship with American Jewish World Service (AJWS, www.ajws.org), which has connected me with a non–governmental organization (NGO).

AJWS is a non-profit organization that works to pursue global justice through grassroots change both by raising money for and by sending volunteers to collaborate with NGOs around the world.

My NGO is a beautifully multifaceted Dalit justice organization. The common focus of all of the NGO’s work is strengthening the non-cooperation movement with caste and gender discrimination, and assuring rule of the constitution and not of caste. Its objective is to empower the Dalit communities of Gujarat and lead them towards the path of non-cooperation and liberation. I participate in this process by teaching English and Human Rights Values at the organization’s vocational training center.

Contributing to these efforts, even in the smallest way, has already been immensely worthwhile for me. But what makes my experience Jewish? The one other Jewish volunteer and I could hardly make a Minyan. The six-day Indian work week engulfs Shabbat. I celebrated Pesach with over-fried, cardboard-like roti (Indian “bread,” almost as inescapable as rice)... not exactly matza. Needless to say, the traditions that formerly filled my Jewish life have little space to thrive there.

But I cannot deny that so much of my Jewish identity finds its foundation in an emphasis on social action and a love of community. It would be easy to be desensitized to the plight of people you don’t know, especially since the media constantly and unceasingly bombards us with challenging images and realities without providing a means to confront or resolve them. This experience has immersed me in the process for positive change. The desire to collaborate and work together has its roots in my Judaic upbringing and the development of my adult Jewish self. The Judaism that I identify with is one that values action and encourages justice.

Both of these ideas shape the person that I perpetually aspire to become. I believe that the experience provided to me through my time in India continues the process of formation by empowering me with an invaluable opportunity to invest in communities outside of the ones that I know in order to act on my intrinsically Jewish desire to always strive toward and commit to positive change. My time in India has, thus far, allowed me to experience how another world community actualizes Tikkun Olam.
has been absorbed by critical culture to such a degree that in this multi-cultural era, Jews have been curiously absent from multi-cultural discourse. While Jewish scholars and artists in the 20th and 21st centuries arguably have played a vital role in the creation of modern and post-modern art culture, rarely if ever are they looked at as a group of individuals with a common thread, namely, their identity as diasporic Jews. *Performing Histories, Inscribing Jewishness* focused on the contribution of Jewish artists and theorists to world culture through the spectrum of arts practice.

This year’s keynote speaker was Catherine Soussloff, University of California Presidential Chair Professor and professor of History of Art & Visual Culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Professor Soussloff is the editor of, and a contributor to, the first comprehensive study of Jewish identity in the context of art history: *Jewish Identity in Modern Art History* (University of California Press, 1999). Her work initiated a much needed discourse on the contributions of Jewish artists to the culture of modern and post-modern art. She is a renowned scholar in the area of art and visual culture, whose research has been recognized with the appointment of a Presidential Chair at UC Santa Cruz because of her “distinguished scholarship and continuing efforts in the areas of interdisciplinary teaching, research, and publication activities on performance and the visual arts.”

This year’s conference offered a platform for critical dialogue about the role of Jewish artists and scholars in shaping art history, theory and practice. Through papers, presentations, performances and dialogue, *Performing Histories, Inscribing Jewishness* created a space to engage the questions that arise out of the intersection of art, theory, performance and Jewish identity.

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**KlezKamp Road Show Comes to Madison**

bers of the Madison community who audited the class.

While I have been doing KlezKamp for 25 years and, by extension, the KlezKamp Road Show for nearly half that time, having access to the outstanding resources of the library and archives at the UW, created a Road Show unlike any ever produced. For example, working closely with colleagues in the music department enabled me to create a tremendously fine faculty/student/community orchestra, while numbering over 37 participants, many of whom have never before played a note of Yiddish music were able to play a wonderfully compelling dance set on the same day they learned the music by ear. The Road Show itself attracted more than 350 people from the UW campus, the surrounding community, and five states, making it one of the most successful public program offerings in the Arts Residency Program’s history.

I was able to give vent to my long time fervent interest in film with the film faculty, with whom I was able to not only schedule the showing of a classic Jewish silent film (“His People”) and arrange for the live music accompaniment (something we’ve been doing at KlezKamp since 1987), but also take part in the nationally renowned Wisconsin Film Festival in presenting the newly restored 1938 Yiddish film “Der Purimshpiler.”

My work extended off the campus too, as I was thrilled to be able to bring attention to Yiddish culture as a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio, and also as a guest host on several programs on community radio station WORT. One of those was with Dr. Bill Malone, whose milestone 1968 book *Country Music USA* was my model in documenting and studying Yiddish culture.

This template of working with dedicated faculty in other departments enabled me to continue doing innovative interdisciplinary work. This has helped create the current environment of a pro-active and vibrant Yiddish culture, which found a warm welcome here at the UW.

Actually, given how successful all my programs have been here and how everyone has been so encouraging, I’m beginning to wonder just how “chance” that meeting with Douglas Rosenberg was back in ’05.
**New Faculty**

**JORDAN D. ROSENBLUM**
(Belzer Professor of Classical Judaism), received a B.A. in Religion from Columbia University (2001); a B.A. in Ancient Judaism from The Jewish Theological Seminary (2001); an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Emory University (2003); and an M.A. (2005) and Ph.D. (2008) in Religious Studies from Brown University. His research focuses on the literature, culture, and history of the early rabbinic (tannaitic) movement. Tentatively entitled *The Borders of the Table: Early Rabbinic Commensality Regulations and Identity Construction*, his current book project explores the intersection between early rabbinic food regulations and identity construction. Research on this project has led Professor Rosenblum to publish, present papers, and teach about such topics as the history of Jews and Chinese food; pork in discourse by and about Jews from antiquity to modernity; kosher olive oil in antiquity; and the connection between cookbooks and identity formation. In Spring 2009, Professor Rosenblum was a Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University.

**PHILIP HOLLANDER**
recently joined the faculty at University of Wisconsin–Madison after four years at Tulane University, where he was an assistant professor of Hebrew Literature and Language and director of the Hebrew Language Program. Dr. Hollander received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and specializes in modern Hebrew literature from the Jewish Enlightenment to the present. His current book project, *From Schlemiel to Sabra: Transforming Masculinity in Early Twentieth Century Palestinian Hebrew Culture*, explores the role Hebrew literature has played in the creation of new cultural norms in pre-state Palestine. His other research interests include Holocaust literature, American Hebrew literature, early state period Hebrew prose, and modern Yiddish literature.

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**FROM THE CJS BOOKSHELF**

Rachel Feldhay Brenner  
*The Artist and the World: The Fiction of Ruth Almog*

Claudia Card  
*Confronting Evils: Terrorism, Torture, Genocide*

Chad Alan Goldberg  
*Citizens and Paupers: Relief, Rights, and Race, from the Freedmen’s Bureau to Workfare*

Philip Hollander  
*From Schlemiel to Sabra: Transforming Masculinity in Early Twentieth Century Palestinian Hebrew Culture*

Judith Deutsch Kornblatt  
*Divine Sophia: the Wisdom Writings of Vladimir Solovyov*

Tony Michels  
*Jewish Radicals*

Steven Nadler  
*The Best of All Possible Worlds: A Story of Philosophers, God, and Evil and The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity through the Seventeenth Century*  
(co-editor)

Jordan D. Rosenblum  
*The Borders of the Table: Early Rabbinic Commensality Regulations and Identity Construction*

David Sorkin  
*The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews and Catholics from London to Vienna*

Alan Weisbard  
*Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust*
**Faculty News**

**Rachel Feldhay Brenner** (Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Studies) is the new Max and Frieda Weinstein/Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies. Her most recent book is *The Artist and the World: The Fiction of Ruth Almog* (in Hebrew, Hakibbutz Hameuchad Press [Tel Aviv]). Brenner continues to serve as president of the Association for Israel Studies. In September 2008, she began her tenure as Senior Fellow in the Institute for Research in the Humanities.

**Claudia Card** (Emma Goldman Professor of Philosophy) is completing her book *Confronting Evils: Terrorism, Torture, Genocide* for Cambridge University Press. Among her recent publications are “The Paradox of Genocidal Rape Aimed at Enforced Pregnancy,” for the *Southern Journal of Philosophy* and “Ticking Bombs and Interrogations,” for *Criminal Law & Philosophy*. She was honored with delivering the John Dewey Lecture at this year’s American Philosophical Association meeting.

**Chad Alan Goldberg** (Associate Professor of Sociology) just published his first book, *Citizens and Paupers: Relief, Rights, and Race, from the Freedmen’s Bureau to Workfare* (University of Chicago Press).

**Sara Guyer** (Professor of English) is the director of the Center for Humanities and recently received a Romnes Award, which recognizes outstanding potential of faculty who have received tenure within the past four years and rewards exceptional research accomplishments.

**Judith Deutsch Kornblatt** (Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures) has just published *Divine Sophia: the Wisdom Writings of Vladimir Solovyov* (Cornell University Press, 2009), in which she explores the figure of Divine Wisdom in Russian culture, including its antecedents in Hebrew Scriptures and the Jewish Kabbalah.

**Mark Louden** (Professor of German) was the resident director of the Academic Year in the Freiburg Program in 2007–08.

**Tony Michels** (George L. Mosse Associate Professor of American Jewish History) has recently completed a documentary reader entitled *Jewish Radicals* (New York University Press, 2010).

**Steven Nadler** (William H. Hay II Professor of Philosophy) is currently chair of the Department of Philosophy. His most recent book is *The Best of All Possible Worlds: A Story of Philosophers, God, and Evil* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux). He is also the co-editor of *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy from Antiquity through the Seventeenth Century*, for which he contributed the essay “Providence and Theodicy.”

**Pamela Potter** (Professor of Music) was recently elected CJLS director. Her essay, “Jewish Music and German Science,” appeared in the collection *Jewish Musical Modernism: Old and New* (University of Chicago Press, 2009).

**Douglas Rosenberg** (Associate Professor of Art) received the Emily Mead Baldwin Award in the Creative Arts this spring, which recognizes and honors extraordinary artistic projects and endeavors of the highest quality carried out by tenured members of the UW–Madison faculty in the areas of art, communication arts, creative writing, dance, environment, textile and design, music composition and performance, and theater and drama.

**David Sorkin** (Professor of History and Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor of Jewish Studies) spent the fall semester as a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. The Center’s theme was “Jews, Commerce and Culture.” He worked on the relationship between commerce and Jewish emancipation. His new book, *The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews and Catholics from London to Vienna*, was published by Princeton University Press in August.

**Ronald Troxel** (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) received the L&S Faculty Advising Award for his work as the Religious Studies adviser.

**Frank Tuerkheimer** (Professor Emeritus of Law) has conducted an extensive interview of the principal surviving prosecutor in the Eichmann trial while in Jerusalem, an interview available at Holocaust museums throughout the world and accessible at www.eichmannprosecutorinterview.com.

**Alan Weisbard** (Professor of Law) has recently focused in his research on Jewish law and Jewish bioethics. He participated in conferences on Jewish perspectives on “Quality of Life” and “Medicine, Money and Morals,” sponsored by the Academic Coalition for Jewish Bioethics; and on “Genesis and Jewish Law” and “Jewish Law and Narrative,” at Harvard Law School; with the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s “International Jewish Discourse Project on Religion and Ethics at the Frontier of Genetic Medicine.” He is currently co-authoring a book entitled *Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust*.

**Phyllis Holman Weisbard** (Women’s Studies Librarian) published an interview with Doris B. Gold, Jewish Women’s Studies publisher, in *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women’s Studies Resources*, as well as articles on sources for women’s history. Her review of *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia* appeared in *Lilith*. Phyllis was an invited speaker at a conference on “Educating Women for a World in Crisis Summit,” Newcomb College Institute, Tulane University, and gave an illustrated talk, “ ‘Funny, You Don’t Look Jewish’: Jewish Experiences in India, Past and Present,” at Cnesses Israel Synagogue, Green Bay, WI.

**Haya Yuchtman** (Senior Lecturer, Hebrew and Semitic Studies) continues to teach first and second year Modern Hebrew. She has also been teaching the Advanced Hebrew class in the Madison Hebrew high school, Midrasha, for more than 10 years.
Where Are They Now?

Rabbi Daniel Burg (’96) was ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. He holds Master of Arts degrees in Rabbinic Studies and Jewish Education from the University of Judaism, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Hebrew Studies and Anthropology from UW–Madison. Daniel lends his skills to Na’aseh, Young Adult Division, Chevra Kadisha, and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Institute, and is the rabbinic coordinator of t’fillah (services) for families. Daniel is blessed to share his life with the talented Rabbi Miriam Burg, their daughter, Eliyah, and their son, Shamir.

Stephanie Dykeman (’01) is in her fifth year of practicing law in Chicago, doing corporate litigation work for Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Besides two trials this past year, she is most proud of being the lead counsel for a pro bono case—and they won! <sdykeman@gmail.com>

Jodi Goode (’95) just graduated from University of Illinois–Chicago with a Master’s in secondary education. She hopes to teach high school social studies in Chicago or a surrounding suburb. <jodibeg@gmail.com>

Lani Hart (’07) has been on an adventure in the Jewish communal world. In August, 2007, she moved to Washington and started working for an organization called PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. She helped hundreds of Jewish teens learn, explore, and develop their Judaism through social action, teaching young people about the relationship between politics, community service, and activism. After a year, Lani started her current position at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, where she works with Taglit-Birthright Israel alumni in post-programming. Through her everyday interactions, she continually meets young professionals who are seeking to find purpose in their Jewish identity. Her education at UW–Madison prepared Lani to help others with their Judaism, while continuing to develop her own set of values and beliefs. A big thank you to everyone that taught her at UW because it has made a difference in who she is today. <lanihart@gmail.com>

Ben Herman (’05) is in Israel during his fourth year out of six in rabbinical school. Taking advantage of being abroad, he has taken trips all over Israel, including a three-day hike by Elat and another by the Lebanon border. Ben is taking mostly text classes, especially Talmud, Poskim (Law Codes) and Practical Halacha. One class especially of note was his Bible class last semester, where Professor David Frenkel used critical Bible study to make amazing insights into the original order and content of Biblical passages. <badgerbeni@gmail.com>

Julie Ise’n (’05) graduated from DePaul University Law School this past May and plans to work in public interest, whether that be criminal defense (she has worked for the public defender in juvenile court for the past two years), or some sort of non-profit or public affairs group such as AIPAC. Julie is also active in the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Chicago, mostly with the Young Professional Leadership Committee. <jbisen@gmail.com>

Jeremy Manela (’04) continues his work at Kayam Farm, entering their third growing season serving the Baltimore community as a Jewish educational farm. In Kayam’s first two years, they harvested almost 10,000 pounds of organically grown vegetables and herbs, and welcomed almost 6,000 people to the farm for educational programs, volunteering opportunities, holiday celebrations, skills workshops, and more. Since establishing the farm, Jeremy now has two full-time staff members. Visit Kayam’s website for more information: www.pearlstonecenter.org/kayam.html. <jmanela@pearlstonecenter.org>

Lauren Mielziner (’08) is currently working in the Development Department at Temple Sholom of Chicago. <lmelziner@gmail.com>

Marisa (Jacobson) Shemi (’01) spent several years after graduation working as a bilingual legal assistant at a Milwaukee law firm and living abroad, including living in Haifa and volunteering on ambulances as a first responder for Magen David Adom. Later Marisa attended the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she worked in the Consumer Law Litigation Clinic, interned for the Honorable Judge Barbara Crabb of the U.S. District Court for the
Western District of Wisconsin, and created the first pro-Israel organization on campus exclusively devoted to educating graduate students on Israel. Marisa lives in Manhattan, where she works as a litigation associate at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP. She practices her Hebrew daily with her Israeli husband, Mickey. <mdjacob1@gmail.com>

Mandy (Oskin) Weiss (’98) resides in Palatine, Illinois, with her husband Dr. Everett Weiss. She married in September of 2007. She has served as Assistant Director of Israel Experience & Special Scholarship Programs for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago since 2006. Mandy is also proud to have been chosen among a select group of Jewish professionals across the country to join the Professional Leaders Project (PLP). Through the PLP, she was selected to participate in the Skill Summits—a three-part series of conferences and workshops designed to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of leaders in the Jewish community. This summer, she and her husband look forward to a thrill-seeking once-in-a-lifetime adventure—a storm-chasing trip through Tornado Alley. <mdjacob1@gmail.com>

Stephanie (Schissler) Tankel (’04) has gone on to receive two Master’s degrees (in Jewish Education and Modern Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America), in New York. After completing her studies, she married Stephen Tankel, who is getting a Ph.D. at King’s College, London, where they currently reside. She is working as the principal educator (a.k.a. director of education) at a congregation called “The West London Synagogue of British Jews” (www.wls.org.uk). They are planning to move to Washington, DC, where Stephanie will continue her work at a congregation there and Stephen will complete his Ph.D. and the book he’s just been given a contract to write. <stephanietankel@gmail.com>

Arielle Turover (’98) moved to Philadelphia and received a Master’s degree in Jewish Education and a Master’s in Jewish Studies from Gratz College. After completing her two degrees, she worked with the JDC as a volunteer in India for six months. When that trip was cut short, she landed a job for two years as principal for Temple Anshe Sholom in Olympia Fields. Wanting to be closer to Chicago, she worked at Anshe Emet Day School as a Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher as well as working for Bene Jehoshua Beth Elohim as a Hebrew School principal—along with a few other temple teaching jobs and tutoring positions. After a year of doing five different things, Arielle decided to do one thing and changed careers entirely. She has been working with a real estate company called Dream Town in Chicago for the last four years. She owns a condo in Chicago and has a wonderful Israeli boyfriend. <aturover@gmail.com>  

### COURSE LISTING 2008–09

#### FALL 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td>Introduction to Judaism (Rosenblum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219</td>
<td>American Jewish Experience (Michels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>Introduction to Biblical Literature (Troxel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>Jewish Composers: 1600–Present (Swack)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>241</td>
<td>Introduction to Biblical Archaeology (Blakely)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>Introduction to Hebrew Literature (Talmon-Bohm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>367</td>
<td>Israeli Fiction (Talmon-Bohm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>Jewish Mysticism: Bible/Kabbalah (Benton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>372</td>
<td>Jews of Central and Eastern Europe (Khazanov)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401</td>
<td>Survey of Modern Hebrew Literature (Brenner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>448</td>
<td>Classical Rabbinic Texts (Rosenblum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>451</td>
<td>Biblical Archaeology (Blakely)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>490</td>
<td>Kosher/Halal Food Regulations (Regenstein)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>513</td>
<td>Biblical Texts, Poetry (Fox)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>533</td>
<td>Readings in Contemporary Hebrew (Meshulam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>665</td>
<td>Israeli Politics and Society (Shelef)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>954</td>
<td>Dead Sea Scrolls (Fox)</td>
</tr>
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#### SPRING 2009

<table>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Yiddish Song and the Jewish Experience (Potter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>237</td>
<td>Biblical Poetry in Translation (Mangum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>Introduction to Hebrew Literature (Mirkin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>328</td>
<td>Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation (Twist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>332</td>
<td>Prophets of the Bible (Troxel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>346</td>
<td>Jewish Literature of the Greco-Roman Period (Troxel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Jewish Biblical Interpreters in the Middle Ages (Rony)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 2: Topics in Israeli Culture (Talmon-Bohm)</td>
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<td>Lecture 3: Israeli History through Film (Talmon-Bohm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 4: The Medieval Jewish Family (Rony)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>373</td>
<td>Modern Political History of the Jews: 1655–1919 (Sorkin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>377</td>
<td>Jewish Cultural History (Benton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>402</td>
<td>Survey of Modern Hebrew Literature (Brenner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>416</td>
<td>Eastern European Jews in the United States (Michels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>Undergraduate Seminar in Judaism and the Arts (Rosenberg/Sapoznik)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>490</td>
<td>Lecture 1: J. Derrida and Modern Jewish Thought (Guyer)</td>
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<td>Lecture 2: Israeli Welfare State from a Comparative Perspective (Asiskovitch)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 3: Immigration Politics in a Comparative Perspective (Asiskovitch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>German-Jewish Culture since the 18th Century (Berghahn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>514</td>
<td>Biblical Texts, Poetry (Fox)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>515</td>
<td>Holocaust: History, Memory and Education (Schweber)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>534</td>
<td>Readings in Contemporary Hebrew Literature (Meshulam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>675</td>
<td>Research Colloquium for Majors (Sorkin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>677</td>
<td>Independent Research for Majors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECENT GRADUATES

MAJORS

Lee’at Bachar
Additional Majors: Hebrew Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies

Joshua Herman
Additional Majors: Hebrew, Philosophy

Michael Roth
Additional Majors: Hebrew, History

Charleton Smith
Additional Major: Hebrew

Sarah Weil
Joint Program in Education and Jewish Studies

Photos by Kesha Thompson

2009 CERTIFICATES IN JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATES

Jaime Alexander
Zoology

Allison Berris
Nutritional Sciences

Zach Bruns
Communication Arts

Andi Feldman
Psychology

Rebecca Kaplan
Communicative Disorders

Alexander Kisselburg
Hebrew

Rebecca Kraemer
English, Hebrew

Heather Perlow
Spanish, International Studies

Reuven Risch
Hebrew

Cari Schulman
Economics

Nathan Sime
Religious Studies

Emily Singer
International Studies, Hebrew

Benjamin Stein
Political Science

Jonathan Swerin
Political Science

Anna Volodarskaya
Spanish

Emily Watson
Religious Studies

Logan Zinman
Religious Studies, Sociology

AWARDS

Robert and Beverly Natelson Family Award in Jewish Studies
Evgeny Finkel
Wendy Widder

Robert Berman Family Graduate Research in Jewish Studies Award
Amnon Cavari
Brittney Tevis
Eric Tully

Mazursky Graduate Research in Jewish Studies Award
Evgeny Finkel
Assaf Meshulam
Wendy Widder
Maggie Wunnenberg

Ida and Isaac Lipton Jewish Studies Major Award
Lee’at Bachar
Anna Volodarskaya

Ida and Isaac Lipton Essay Award
Alexander Kisselburg
Jason Micheli
Haley Pollack

Ida and Isaac Lipton Study Abroad Award
Solomon Kane
ers, scholars, and valued colleagues. We were also fortunate to welcome Jordan Rosenblum as the Belzer Assistant Professor of Classical Judaism. Jordan received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Brown University and specializes in the literature, culture, and history of the early rabbinic movement, with special interests in the intersection between early rabbinic food regulations and identity construction. This fall we will be joined by Philip Hollander, who comes to our Hebrew and Semitic Studies Department from Tulane University. He brings to us a broad range of expertise in Israeli literature and film, which he has studied extensively on issues of gender, the environment, identity, modernism, Zionism, and Holocaust memory. Our course offerings were also enhanced through the generosity of the Schusterman Fund and the Kahn Charitable Foundation, by the presence of Dr. Miri Talmon-Bohm, visiting professor of Israeli literature and culture, and post-doctoral fellows Michael Rony (Hebrew and Semitic Studies) and Sharon Assikovitch (Political Science). Assaf Meshulam, a former Weinstein Distinguished Graduate Fellow, offered courses in Hebrew literature, and Henry Sapoznik taught a course on Yiddish-American popular culture.

The university has recognized how the generosity of our donors over the years has placed the Center in a unique and enviable position, and it has offered to dedicate more of its resources toward helping us sustain our innovative programs and pursue new initiatives. We are very excited about working with Stephen Wald, our new development director in the UW Foundation, who has already been working hard with us to concentrate our efforts on realizing the Center’s goals to build on existing strengths in Jewish education and Hebrew and Semitic Studies, as well as to branch out in new areas such as Yiddish and the arts. This year the University of Wisconsin also welcomed a new chancellor, Carolyn “Biddy” Martin, whose commitment to undergraduate education and to maintaining the university’s excellence in the humanities can only be seen as encouraging for the future of the Center.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you, and I am confident that we have the means to face an uncertain future and its challenges by drawing our strength from the encouragement and commitment of all of our friends and colleagues.
2008–09 Jewish Heritage Lecture Series

**FALL 2008**

**Screening of “Chosen Towns: The Story of Jews in Wisconsin’s Small Communities”**
Producer Brad Lichtenstein, UW–Milwaukee
September 23

**Screening of “Built on Scrap”**
Producer Jonathan Pollack
September 24

**THE PAUL J. SCHRAG LECTURE**

*Biography, Fathers and Exile: German and Jewish Tensions and the Writing of History*
Professor Steven E. Aschheim
Hebrew University, Jerusalem
October 22

**SPRING 2009**

**A Reading from H.G. Adler’s “The Journey”**
Professor Peter Filkins
Bard College at Simon’s Rock
February 10

**Art and Politics**
Professor Renata Stih and Dr. Frieder Schnick
University of Applied Sciences, Berlin
February 19

**The Palestinian Refugees as a Jewish Question: The Lost Voice of Simon Rawidowicz**
Professor David Myers
University of California–Los Angeles
March 26

**SANFORD J. ETTINGER LECTURE**

*Israel’s First Sixty Years: Achievements and Challenges*
Dr. Robert O. Freedman
Johns Hopkins University
April 1

**KUTLER LECTURES**

*Jews, Multiculturalism, and American Ethnoracial and Religious History*
April 13

**AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE**

*The Weimar Moment: Liberalism, Political Theology, and Law*
October 24–26

**THE HARRY AND MARJORIE TOBIAS LECTURE**

*“The Melting Pot:” A Centennial Look Back at Israel Zangwill’s Play*
Professor Meri–Jane Rochelson
Florida International University
November 12

**KUTLER LECTURES**

*American Jewish History in a Post-Jewish Domain*
April 14
Professor David Hollinger
University of California–Berkeley

*KlezKamp Road Show*
with Henry Sapoznik and guests
April 18–20

**Jews and the History of Photography: (Exposing) New Fields of Research**
Professor Michael Berkowitz
Champaign-Urbana
April 22

**CONNEY PROJECT CONFERENCE**

*Performing Histories, Inscribing Jewishness*
April 22–24

**PAUL J. SCHRAG LECTURE**

*In Rivers North of the Future: Paul Celan’s Poetry and Thought*
Professor Amir Eshel
Stanford University
April 23

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**WEINSTEIN/MINKOFF LECTURE**

Kay Shelemay
G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music at Harvard University
Thursday, September 24

**TOBIAS LECTURE**

Jeffrey Herf
Professor of History
University of Maryland
Thursday, October 15

**ETTINGER LECTURE**

Avinoam Lourie
Haifa, Israel
Wednesday, October 28
2007–2008 CJS Donors

We wish to thank all the donors who made recent contributions to the Center for Jewish Studies for the purpose of advancing its educational, research, outreach, and scholarship programs. These contributions have helped to enhance the national and international reputation of the Center, and we are grateful for this support.

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10TH ANNUAL GREENFIELD SUMMER INSTITUTE: JULY 12–16, 2009

Jews and Politics

Greenfield Summer Institute Celebrates 10 Years of Outstanding Programming

It is with great pride that the Mosse/Weinstein Center presents the 10th anniversary of the Greenfield Summer Institute. At this year’s gathering, the Center and the Institute’s participants will be honoring and celebrating Larry Greenfield’s extraordinary idea to create an opportunity for students of all ages to come back to this wonderful campus and showcase the Center faculty’s research. Topics during the past decade have spanned issues of Jewish identity, history, and culture. This year we highlight the subject of Jews and politics with an impressive roster of lectures that examine Jewish political engagement worldwide spanning several centuries. Past participants have had this to say about the experience:

- “I loved the participants—great sense of peace, harmony, residency and love of learning. It seemed like a family reunion!”
- “Every year gets better and better!”
- “The programming and the theme were excellent. The caliber of the faculty was/is outstanding and very much appreciated. It was diverse and refreshing. This may be the best Institute to date!”
- “The support staff were wonderful! Very gracious hosts, concerned about our enjoying our experience. Thank you so much!”
- “I have attended four of the five years of this Institute—all have been a joy . . . I will be back next year!”
- “Excellent job! Wonderfully enlightening and enjoyable!”

Greenfield Summer Institute topics overview:

- 2000 Jewish Identity in the 20th Century
- 2001 Jewish Studies and the Arts
- 2002 What Makes Something Jewish?
- 2003 The World of Yiddish
- 2004 Jews and Gender: Men and Women
- 2005 Jews in America
- 2006 Judaism: Religious and Secular
- 2007 Encountering Israel: History, Culture and Politics
- 2008 The World of European Jewry
- 2009 Jews and Politics