SYMPOSIUM ON MODERN HEBREW AND ISRAELI LITERATURE

April 9 & 10, 2013
Celebrating the Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature Collection at the MSU Libraries
Free and Open to the Public

Schedule

Tuesday, April 9
MSU Main Library, 4th Floor West, North Conference Room
7:30 pm  “The Image of Jacob in the Works of Meir Shalev”
Meir Shalev

Wednesday, April 10
Morning and afternoon sessions are held in Wells Hall B-342
9:30–10:00 am  Welcome Breakfast
Dean Karin Wurst, Kenneth Waltzer, Marc Bernstein

10:20–12:00 am  “Meir Shalev’s Oeuvre”
Chair: Steven Weiland (Michigan State University)
Panel: Robert Alter (University of California at Berkeley)
Rachel Harris (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)
Marc Bernstein (Michigan State University)
Respondent: Meir Shalev

12:00-1:15 pm  Lunch (provided)

1:30–3:00 pm  “Revival of Hebrew as a National Language”
Chair: Michael Koppisch (Michigan State University)
Panel: Miryam Segal (Queens College)
Arieh Saposnik (UCLA)
Yaakov Herskovitz (University of Michigan)

3:00-3:30 pm  Refreshments

3:30–5:00 pm  “War and Violence in Israeli Culture”
Chair: Yael Aronoff (Michigan State University)
Panel: Ranen Omer-Sherman (University of Miami)
Daniel Statman (Haifa University)
Guy Meirson (MSU; Sam Spiegel Film School, Tel Aviv)

7:30 pm
MSU Main Library, 4th Floor West, North Conference Room
“Hebrew Poetry Rewriting Job”
Robert Alter

Sponsored by MSU Jewish Studies and by the MSU Libraries.
Made possible by a special gift from Ritta Rosenberg.
Special Guests

Meir Shalev is one of Israel’s most celebrated novelists. He was born in 1948 in Nahalal, Israel’s first moshav, and much of his work focuses on this early generation of Israelis. Shalev’s books include *A Pigeon and a Boy*, *The Loves of Judith (Four Meals)*, *Fontanelle, Alone In the Desert*, *But A Few Days*, and *Esau*. His book *Russian Romance (The Blue Mountain)* is one of the top five bestsellers in Israeli publishing history and was reprinted in 2011. That same year he published a family memoir, *My Russian Grandmother and her American Vacuum Cleaner*. His works have been translated into twenty languages and are sold around the world. His writing is often compared to Gabriel Garcia Marquez for his ability to “create worlds inhabited by the richness of invention and obsessiveness of dreams” (NYTBR).

Meir Shalev is also a columnist with the Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* and has lectured on literature and the Hebrew language at Jewish Studies programs nationwide. He has received, among other awards, the Prime Minister’s Prize (Israel); the Chiavari (Italy); the WIZO Prize in France, Israel, and Italy; and the Brenner Prize (2006)—the highest Israeli literary recognition—for his novel, *A Pigeon and a Boy*. He lives in Jerusalem and in the north of Israel with his wife and children, and is a motorcycle and Jeep enthusiast.

Meir Shalev appears by arrangement with Blue Flower Arts.

Robert Alter is Professor in the Graduate School and Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley, where he has taught since 1967. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Council of Scholars of the Library of Congress, and is past president of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics. He has twice been a Guggenheim Fellow, has been a Senior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, and Old Dominion Fellow at Princeton University. Robert Alter has written widely on the European novel from the eighteenth century to the present, on contemporary American fiction, and on modern Hebrew literature. He has also written extensively on literary aspects of the Bible.


Robert Alter appears by special arrangement with the Association of Jewish Studies.