

Jewish Studies Program

Spring Semester 2006

Michigan State University

College of Arts & Letters
301 Linton Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1044
Telephone: 517-432-3493
Fax: 517-355-4507
Web: www.jsp.msu.edu
E-mail: jewishst@msu.edu

Kenneth Waltzer, Director
Michael Serling, Chair, Advisory Board

The New Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies is thriving on American university campuses. A meeting at the recent Association of Jewish Studies conference in Washington DC brought directors together from around the country. Where once one could count programs on two hands, today there are 90 or more. New endowments are naming programs and creating new positions. New programs are growing—at the University of North Carolina, as one example. New initiatives are being undertaken to develop internships and renew study abroad in Israel. Most important, there is a *new Jewish Studies*.

Inside Higher Education published a piece this past month on “The New Jewish Studies,” commenting on the significant growth and changed focus in the field. “There’s been a real change of culture,” said Sara Horowitz, program chair for the meeting and director of Jewish Studies at York University in Canada. New scholarship and new approaches dominate, new topics are being explored; old topics are being revived—Yiddish culture, for example, Sephardic culture; Jewish art and music. Most important, Israel Studies, often distinct and separate, often taught in Middle East area studies programs, is being integrated into Jewish Studies.

An older Jewish Studies or Judaic Studies emphasizes key texts in the tradition and the long history and culture of the Jewish people.

Alongside it, contributing to it and enriching it, is growing a new Jewish Studies, focused on modernity, issues of migration, identity, Jewish thought, gender, and culture.

The new Jewish Studies looks at literature, film, and memorials, it looks at the integration of Jews as a minority in the world and the impact of Jews on the world; it looks at Israel and the drama of nation- and culture-building. Israel is a new center in Jewish life and should be taught “beyond the conflict,” more than about wars and disputes with Arabs. The new Jewish Studies is at home with questions about minorities, difference, trans-nationalism, diasporas, and identities—increasingly hot topics in a globalizing current.

Jewish Studies at MSU sits in this national context and is contributing to it. Faculty are researching and teaching about key issues in the new Jewish Studies; they are undertaking important studies related to identity, self-presentation, gender, and the boundaries of being Jewish. They are exploring the migration of stories across Jewish and Islamic boundaries, Christian-Jewish relations in history, and the relations between the two contemporary centers of Jewish life, America and Israel. And they are also attuned to teaching the tradition. It’s a very good time to be in Jewish Studies.

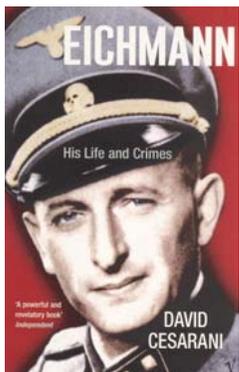
Cesarani to Speak at Holocaust Memorial Events

David Cesarani, research professor of Jewish history at Royal Holloway, University of London, will deliver the 14th annual *David and Sarah Rabin Holocaust Memorial Lecture*, **Thursday evening, April 20** in the Kellogg Center Auditorium at **7:30 pm**. He will speak on “*Rethinking Adolf Eichmann*.” Eichmann was the logistical architect of the Final Solution. Since his trial in the early 1960s, there has been no renewed effort to think about Eichmann. Cesarani’s *Eichmann: His Life and Crimes* (2004), rethinks Eichmann, emphasizing the voluntaristic aspects of becoming a conscienceless killer.

In *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, Hannah Arendt treated Eichmann as a banal bureaucrat; others treated him as a psychopath. Cesarani views

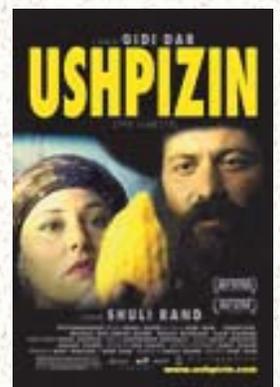
Eichmann as neither mindless nor driven by deep impulses, but as a man voluntarily choosing. Cesarani also offers critical appraisal of a generation of scholarship about totalitarianism, authoritarian personalities, obedience studies, and participation in genocide.

David Cesarani has served at several universities—Manchester, Southampton, and London—and directed the Wiener Library. He is author or editor of numerous books in European Jewish history, Anglo-Jewish history, and the Holocaust.



Introducing . . . MSU’s First-ever Israeli Film Festival

Jewish Studies is very pleased to announce that we will be hosting a two-day Israeli Film Festival on the MSU campus **Sunday and Monday, March 19 and 20**. Featured will be four recent award-winning Israeli films, that have been shown, or are currently showing, in festivals around the world. After nearly six years of regularly scheduling Israeli film presentations, and increasing attendance at those events, the time has come for an open celebration of Israeli film. **Ellen Rothfeld** has taken the lead in organizing this special event to be supported by many other MSU and off-campus groups, making this a true community event. See our special film festival insert for details. We hope you can join us for this special occasion.



Actress Maya Maron — to visit Feb. 23
for a presentation and discussion of her
award-winning film *Broken Wings*, details p. 2



Brown Bag Lunch Series

All at 12:00 Noon

321 Linton Hall

Jewish Studies is sponsoring a series of Brown Bag seminars by local authors preparing new books with Jewish Studies themes. Bring your lunch and join us . . .

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Writing a Jewish Life

Lev Raphael, Prize-winning Author and Host of WLNZ's *BookTalk*

Lev Raphael, son of Holocaust survivors, will speak about his new book *Writing a Jewish Life*, in which he chronicles with aching honesty his struggles to claim his religious and sexual identities. Lev pioneered in writing about the second generation.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Women and Religion in the United States Since the 1960s: Some Key Themes

Amy Derogatis, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, MSU

In this talk, Amy DeRogatis will explore dramatic changes in women's roles in religious communities in the past forty years. Women have challenged male leadership positions, created rituals honoring women's experiences, reinvented language, and imagined the divine to include feminine aspects. These are subjects she takes up in her forthcoming book, *Women and Religion in the U.S.* (Columbia University Press). This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and Jewish Studies

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Early Holocaust Consciousness in the U.S.: The Milgram Obedience Experiments

Kirsten Fermaglich, Assistant Professor of History, MSU

In 1960-1962, Yale psychologist Stanley Milgram ran experiments demonstrating that ordinary people, when pressed by authority, would administer what they thought were life-threatening shocks to protesting subjects. Those experiments had impact upon political activism, the study of psychology, and study of the Holocaust. Kirsten Fermaglich will explore ways Milgram was affected by images of Nazi death camps and by his own Jewish background as he developed his controversial experiments.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Stories of Joseph: Narrative Migrations between Judaism and Islam

Marc Bernstein, Assistant Professor of Hebrew, MSU

The nineteenth-century Judeo-Arabic tale, *The Story of Our Master Joseph the Righteous*, offers a fascinating example of the cross-cultural flow of literary motifs between Muslims and Jews at their points of contact.

Steven Nadler on *Rembrandt's Jews*

Steven Nadler, the Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies, and Director of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will lecture on *Rembrandt's Jews* on **Thursday, February 9, 7:30 pm**, in 108 Kresge Art Center.

Rembrandt's Jews (2003), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2004, tells the story of Amsterdam's Jews in the 17th century and Rembrandt's relations with them. Rembrandt lived in Vlooienburg, on

Jodenbreestraat (Jew's Broad Street), in the heart of Amsterdam's Jewish world. His neighbors were nearly all Jews; he had a view of the Jewish synagogue from his window. Rembrandt interacted with them on a daily basis and included them as subjects in his paintings.

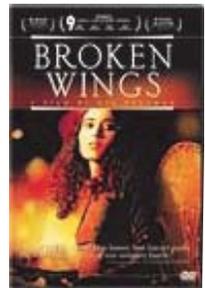


Rembrandt was interested in the Jews and painted a sympathetic record. Many among the Dutch saw the ancient Jews as a parable for their own liberation from Catholic Spain and were tolerant toward Jews. Dutch Jews in the 17th century achieved freedom and standing to a degree unparalleled in Europe to that time, predating emancipation. Nadler's portrait of Dutch Jews is vivid and engaging. Nadler teaches Philosophy at Wisconsin and is an acclaimed biographer of Spinoza.

Nadler's visit is supported by the **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowed Fund for Jewish Arts and Music**, the Department of Art and Art History, and Kresge Art Museum.

Academy Award Winner Maya Maron to Speak

Acclaimed Israeli actress **Maya Maron** will speak **February 23 at 7:00 pm** in 147 Communication Arts & Sciences Building. Ms. Maron will be presenting the film *Broken Wings*. She won the Israeli Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her roles in *Songs of the Siren* and *Broken Wings*. She also co-stars in the recent film *Campfire*, which will be shown as part of our Israeli Film Festival. Her visit is part of FeminIsrael, an effort of the Consulate General of Israel and USD/Hagshama, whose purpose is to bring talented Israeli women in the arts to North America. Sponsored by MSU Hillel/MASA, Department of Linguistics and Languages, and Jewish Studies, with support from the Consulate General of Israel and USD/Hagshama. *Broken Wings* won nine Israeli Academy Awards (2003). It is written and directed by Nir Bergman and is rated "R."



Study Abroad in Israel: June 27-July 27, 2006

To register, go to www.studyabroad.msu.edu and select "Apply Online"

Scholarships are available!

See www.jsp.msu.edu, select "Students"

Voices of a Vanished World (World Premiere)

May 10, 2006, 7:30 pm, Wharton Center for Performing Arts
Tickets: \$10, available at MSU School of Community Music, ph. 517-355-7661

A major choral work by **Marjan Helms**, commissioned by the MSU Children's Choirs, **Mary Alice Stollak**, director. This new composition for treble voices and chamber ensemble will explore the emotional and spiritual experiences of children in the Holocaust. As a counterpoint to the musical narrative, the work will incorporate a large-scale multimedia presentation of archival images representing European Jewish culture before and during the Holocaust. **Ken Waltzer** in Jewish Studies is consulting on the images.



MSU's First
Israeli
Film Festival

March 19 and 20, 2006



Award-winning
Israeli films,
shown in
festivals around
the world!

108 Ernst Bessey Hall Corner of Farm Lane & Auditorium Road
Adjacent to Parking Ramp

————— Sunday, March 19 ——— Afternoon Double Feature —————

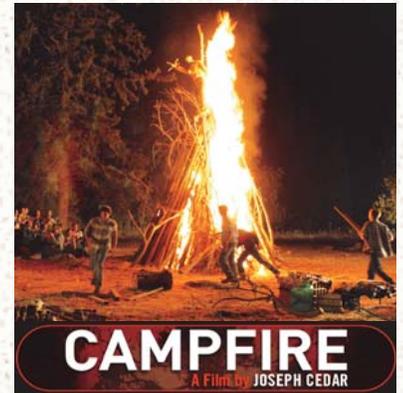
1:30 pm — FREE

***Campfire (Medurat Hashevet)* (2004) 95 min.**

Written and directed by Joseph Cedar

Drama ♦ Not rated ♦ In Hebrew with English subtitles

This poignant film is set in Jerusalem and the West Bank in 1981, after the peace treaty with Egypt. Rachel, a widow with two teenaged girls, seeks community in a planned religious settlement, but confronts opposition—three unattached women, it is feared, will cause problems. It is insisted that Rachel remarry. On the surface, this is a film about the warmth and danger of community, and about gender issues; it is also an allegorical critique of the origins of settlements. Winner of five Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Film.



3:30 pm — FREE

***Metallic Blues* (2004) 90 min.**

Directed by Danny Verete ♦ An Israeli-German-Canadian Co-production
Tragicomedy ♦ Rated PG for language and comic violence
In English, Hebrew, and German with English subtitles.



An affectionate and humorous road movie about two Israeli car dealers, Shmuel and Siso, who think the opportunity of a lifetime has come their way. They invest in a vintage Lincoln Continental and plan to sell it in Germany for a huge profit. When they bring the car to Hamburg, their nightmare begins. Shmuel, the son of Holocaust survivors, experiences hallucinations, and the expressive Israelis have all kinds of encounters with impassive Germans. This is a film about friendship and reconciliation, surrounded by memories of darker days.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Hosted by the MSU Jewish Studies Program, in cooperation with the College of Arts and Letters (including the Departments of English, Linguistics and Languages, Religious Studies, and Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities); the College of Communication Arts and Sciences; the Department of History; and James Madison College.

More films

Israeli Film Festival

108 Bessey Hall, Michigan State University
Corner of Farm Lane & Auditorium Road
Adjacent to Parking Ramp

Sunday, March 19 — Special Feature

6:30 pm — Admission \$5/person

Ushpizin (Holy Guests) (2004, released 2005 in U.S.) 90 min.

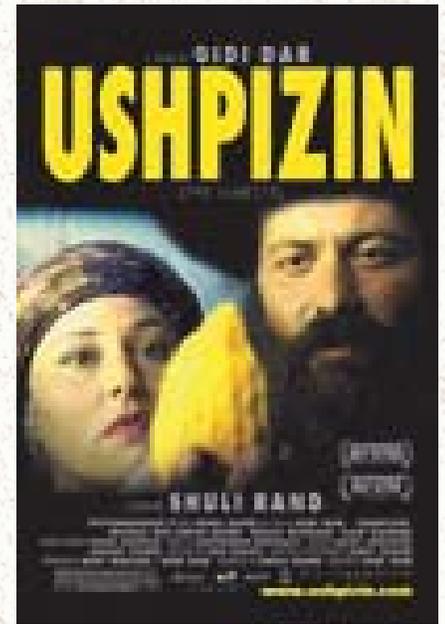
Directed by Giddi Dar ♦ Written by Shuli Rand

Filmed in Mea Shearim, Jerusalem

Comedy/Drama ♦ Rated PG ♦ In Hebrew and Yiddish with English subtitles

As the festival of Succoth approaches, big-hearted Moshe Bellanga, a member of the Breslau Chasidim, is broke—without money to scrape together a Succah or purchase a citron. In addition, Moshe has been married to his wife, Malli, for five years and they are childless. Moshe and Malli pray for help, and receive an anonymous gift of \$1,000. They take it as a miracle. Moshe quickly purchases a citron, believed to be the most perfect in Jerusalem, and decorates a seemingly abandoned Succah. All is well until the arrival of two uninvited guests. Winner, Israel Best Picture, 2004. The *New York Times* called it “Groundbreaking.”

This is a special non-theatrical showing arranged with Swank Motion Pictures. *Ushpizin* is still in the theaters in the U.S., and is not normally available for public viewing.



Monday, March 20

7:00 pm — FREE

Turn Left at the End of the World (2003) 110 min.

(Sof Ha'olam Smola)

Directed by Avi Nesher ♦ An Israeli–French Co-production

Drama ♦ Rated R ♦ Hebrew, English, and French with English subtitles



In the late '60s in an Israeli desert village, two immigrant families—one from Morocco and the other from India—become neighbors. This charming drama is told through the eyes of the adolescent Indian daughter, a writer recording the life of the adults around her and the exploits of her sexually adventurous best friend, who is Moroccan. The girls and their communities are forced to live side-by-side as they eye each other resentfully and attempt to build a sense of identity. When a sexy Moroccan widow has an affair with an Indian woman's husband, the girls' families are pushed to their limits. This visually stunning film of the desert landscape depicts an atmosphere of sensuality and desire.



This film is the highest-grossing Israeli film of the last decade and includes an international cast from France, India, and Israel, with standout performances by striking newcomers Liraz Charhi and Netta Garti. Sexual content.

Events Calendar

MSU Jewish Studies Program

Spring Semester 2006

All events are open to the public and take place on the MSU campus unless otherwise specified.

Date	Time/Location	Event
Wednesday, February 1	12:00-1:30 pm 321 Linton Hall	<p>BROWN BAG SEMINAR</p> <p>“Writing a Jewish Life”</p> <p>Lev Raphael, Author and Host of WLNZ’s BookTalk</p> <p>A discussion about Lev Raphael’s new book <i>Writing a Jewish Life</i>, in which he chronicles his struggles to claim his religious and sexual identities. Lev Raphael is the son of Holocaust survivors and pioneered in writing about the second generation children of survivors.</p>
Thursday, February 2	12:00–6:00 pm Second Floor MSU Union	<p>MSU STUDY ABROAD FAIR</p> <p>A showcase of MSU Study Abroad programs, including the summer 2006 Jewish Studies Program at Hebrew University’s Rothberg International School.</p>
Thursday, February 9	7:30 pm 108 Kresge Art Center	<p>SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION</p> <p>“Rembrandt’s Jews”</p> <p>Steven Nadler, the Max and Frieda Weinstein-Bascom Professor of Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison</p> <p>This lecture, with images, will explore the myth of Rembrandt’s fascination with Jews and Judaism, as well as, more generally, the representation of Jewish themes in seventeenth-century Dutch art. Dr. Nadler’s <i>Rembrandt’s Jews</i> was a finalist for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in non-fiction.</p> <p>Supported by the Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowed Fund for Jewish Arts and Music. Co-sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History, Kresge Art Museum, and Jewish Studies.</p>
Thursday, February 16	12:00–1:30 pm 321 Linton Hall	<p>BROWN BAG SEMINAR</p> <p>“Women and Religion in the United States Since the 1960s: Some Key Themes”</p> <p>Amy DeRogatis, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, MSU.</p> <p>This discussion will explore dramatic changes in women’s roles in religious communities in the U.S. during the past 40 years, including in Judaism.</p> <p>Co-sponsored by MSU Departments of Religious Studies, History, and Jewish Studies</p>
Thursday, February 23	7:00–9:00 pm 147 Comm. Arts & Sciences Bldg.	<p>SPECIAL FILM PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION</p> <p>Maya Maron, Israeli Academy Award winner for Best Supporting Actress for her roles in <i>Songs of the Siren</i> and <i>Broken Wings</i>.</p> <p>Presentation and discussion of <i>Broken Wings</i> (winner of nine Israeli Academy Awards).</p> <p>Co-sponsored by MSU Hillel/MASA, Linguistics and Languages, and Jewish Studies</p>
Sunday, February 26	1:00 pm MSU Hillel 360 Charles Street East Lansing Tel. 517-332-1916	<p>JEWISH STUDIES–MSU HILLEL BRUNCH</p> <p>Zacharia Akol, Sudanese Refugee and President of MSU’s Sudan Awareness group, and Ken Waltzer, Director of MSU Jewish Studies</p> <p>Presentations and discussion focused on the genocide in Sudan and what students can do in response to it. Representatives from MSU Spartans Taking Action Now: Darfur will also participate.</p> <p>Co-sponsored by MSU Hillel and Jewish Studies</p>
Friday, March 17	12:00 pm–1:30 pm 321 Linton Hall	<p>BROWN BAG SEMINAR</p> <p>“Early Holocaust Consciousness in America: The Milgram Obedience Experiments”</p> <p>Kirsten Fermaglich, Assistant Professor of History, MSU</p> <p>In 1960-62, psychologist Stanley Milgram ran experiments demonstrating that ordinary people, when pressed by authority, would administer what they thought were life-threatening shocks to protesting subjects. Those experiments had impact upon political activism, the study of psychology, and the study of the Holocaust. Fermaglich will explore ways Milgram was affected by images of Nazi death camps and by his own Jewish background as he developed his controversial experiments.</p>

Date	Time/Location	Event
Sunday, March 19	108 Bessey Hall	ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL (see film festival insert for details)
	1:30 pm Free	Campfire (Medurat Hashevet), 2005, 95 min. Directed by Joseph Cedar
	3:30 pm Free	Metallic Blues , 2004, 90 min. Directed by Danny Verete, an Israeli-German-Canadian co-production
	6:30 pm \$5/person	Ushpizin (Holy Guests), 2004, released 2005 in U.S., 90 min. Directed by Giddi Dar; Written by Shuli Rand Ushpizin is still in the theaters in the U.S., and is not available for public viewing. This is a special non-theatrical showing arranged with Swank Motion Pictures.
Monday, March 20	7:00 pm Free	Turn Left at the End of the World (Sof Ha-olam Smola), 2004, 110 min. Directed by Avi Neshet, An Israel-French Co-production
The Israeli Film Festival is being hosted by the Jewish Studies Program in cooperation with the College of Arts and Letters (including the Departments of English, Linguistics and Languages, Religious Studies, and Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities); the College of Communication Arts and Sciences; the Department of History; James Madison College; and MSU Hillel/MASA.		
Wednesday, March 29	12:00 pm 321 Linton Hall	BROWN BAG SEMINAR "Stories of Joseph: Narrative Migrations between Judaism and Islam" Marc Bernstein , Assistant Professor of Hebrew and Hebrew Culture, MSU A presentation on how Jewish and Muslim accounts of the same story alternatively complement and diverge from one another.
Weeks of April 3–7, 10–13		HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES Events to be announced later this semester. Watch www.jsp.msu.edu , "Events"
Thursday, April 20	7:30 pm Kellogg Center Auditorium	DAVID AND SARAH RABIN MEMORIAL HOLOCAUST LECTURE David Cesarani , Professor of Jewish history at Royal Holloway, University of London, Great Britain David Cesarani will speak on <i>Rethinking Adolf Eichmann</i> . Since the Eichmann trial in the early 1960s, little reconsideration has been devoted to this architect of the Final Solution. Cesarani emphasizes the development of a voluntary <i>genocidaire</i> , someone neither banal nor moved by deep impulses, but a man choosing. He also offers critical appraisal of a generation of scholarship about obedience and participation in genocide. Supported, in part, by the David and Sarah Rabin Endowed Fund with help from MSU's Office of the Provost
Friday, April 21	8:30 am–5:00 pm Room 62 Kellogg Center	ANNUAL TEACHERS WORKSHOP ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION "Thinking Again About the Killers" Kick-off presentation by David Cesarani (see above) Jewish Studies faculty members meet with Michigan middle and secondary level teachers to share strategies for teaching about the Holocaust. Applications for teachers are available at www.jsp.msu.edu , select "Events," then "Teachers Workshop." Supported, in part, with funding from MSU's Office of the Provost
Wednesday, May 10	7:30 pm Wharton Center for Performing Arts Tickets \$10/person To order call tel. 517-355-7661	VOICES OF A VANISHED WORLD A major choral work by Marjan Helms , commissioned by the MSU Children's Choirs, Mary Alice Stollak , director. This new composition for treble voices and chamber ensemble will explore the emotional and spiritual experiences of children in the Holocaust. As a counterpoint to the musical narrative, the work will incorporate a large-scale multimedia presentation of archival images representing European Jewish culture before and during the Holocaust. In cooperation with the MSU School of Community Music

Faculty Searches Underway

Jewish Studies is involved in two faculty searches this semester: one for the new **Michael and Elaine Serling and Friends Endowed Chair in Israel Studies** position in James Madison College, and the second for a **Judaism** position in Religious Studies. Faculty members in Jewish Studies and in Religious Studies met candidates at the American Association of Religion and Jewish Studies conventions in November and December. Finalists will soon be selected and candidates will visit and present in February. We are excited by the talented people we've seen. The addition of two faculty to Jewish Studies will impact our vitality, knowledge, and course offerings. Exciting!

Contemporary Israeli Voices: A Cacaphony

David Mendelsson, from Hebrew University's Rothberg International School, is here again to teach his short course on *The Zionist Idea and Contemporary Israeli Voices*. This one-credit course in James Madison College runs January 17-26. Forty students are enrolled.

The course begins with the Zionist idea of creating a new Jewish society and new Jew in Israel early in the 20th century, then asks how Israeli history, migration from many lands, and economic and social changes have impacted Zionist thought and culture. The course explores secular Zionist, Haredi, religious Zionist, Mizrahi, Russian, and Arab voices in Israel, and brings them all into play in examining responses to the Gaza withdrawal and to current politics in Israel.

David Mendelsson is one of the most popular teachers at the Rothberg School. He made *aliyah* from Great Britain during the 1980s, completed a Ph.D. in contemporary Jewry at Hebrew University, and is in great demand in overseas education in Jerusalem.

Jewish Studies and MSU Awarded Grant for Visiting Israeli Scholar, 2006-07

The American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) announced in December that Jewish Studies and Michigan State University will receive a \$50,000 grant (to be matched by MSU) to support a visiting Israeli scholar at MSU during 2006-07. Jewish Studies coordinated a grant proposal involving English, Communications, and Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities. Jewish Studies is now seeking to identify suitable candidates in global Jewish literature, including Hebrew literature, Israeli film and media studies, or Israeli culture. The visiting scholar will be named a Hannah Professor of Integrative Studies and will be known as the Schusterman Visiting Professor in Israel Studies. He or she will teach appropriate courses in English, Communications, and IAH as well as participate in Jewish Studies. MSU was one of ten universities to be awarded an AICE grant.

Joint Hillel-Jewish Studies Brunch: Genocide Watch-Darfur

On **Sunday, February 26**, Jewish Studies and MSU Hillel will jointly sponsor a brunch at Hillel, at **1:00 pm**, the focus of which will be on Darfur, Sudan, and what students can do in response to the genocide developing there. Jewish Studies has a special responsibility to help educate students and the community on issues of genocide. We have undertaken that responsibility through helping STAND, Students Taking a Stand Now-Darfur, at MSU. We are also eager to work with Hillel to bring the issue to the wider Jewish student body. At this brunch, **Ken Waltzer** and **Zacharia Akol**, President of the Sudan Awareness group and Sudanese refugee who has been in the U.S. five years, will speak. Representatives of STAND will be on hand to encourage students to learn and become involved. Students free, community \$8.

Israel in the Post-Sharon Era

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has had a second massive stroke. Israel is entering the post-Sharon era. Indeed, Israel is entering the post-generation of 1948 era. The leaders forged in the era of national independence—Dayan, Rabin, Peres, Sharon—are gone or cannot govern. New leaders will replace them.



Dennis Ross spoke at the recent Association of Jewish Studies meeting in Washington DC on the evening of Sharon's first stroke. Many had not heard the news. There was an audible gasp as Ross shared the news. Who could have imagined, only years ago, a gasp from this crowd about a Sharon stroke. But that was before Sharon had changed, become prime minister, before withdrawal from Gaza and the dismantling of settlements.

Ross worried clearly that, without Sharon, Israel might fall into a process of internal disarray to parallel the process of internal incoherence and fragmentation that is well along on the Palestinian side. Without Sharon, could the new party he was creating and leading to speak for the center in Israeli politics, survive? Would Israeli politics devolve into turmoil and stasis?

Well, Sharon has had a massive second stroke, reports indicate severe damage, and Israel inhabits a new situation. The first question is what will happen to Kadima (*Forward*), Sharon's party, which some suggest was a vehicle for a near majority to express its hopes for security yet disengagement from the Palestinians. Will a personal vehicle evolve into an institutionalized party, with new leadership? The second question, in part dependent on the first, is what will happen to Israeli politics as a national election set for late March occurs? Will Sharon leave a legacy, the path he was marking out under his own leadership, or will politics shift back to the poles—Peretz on the left in Labor, Netanyahu on the right in Likud? Under such circumstances, can a coalition form amidst the crazy quilt of Israeli differences capable of giving Israel coherent direction?

Finally, the third question, what about peace or even continued absence of overt conflict? What will the Palestinian elections, if they occur, as planned, and the Israeli elections, generate for the region? The danger, Ross said in DC, is that a divided Israel and an incoherent Palestinian side will confront each other with the advantage shifted to the recalcitrant forces on both sides, those in Israel opposed to movement, those on the Palestinian side committed to the destruction of Israel.

Sharon's importance was that in recent years the warrior and father of the settlements had realized that Israel must walk away from Greater Israel aspirations and from rule over another people, and find a way, even unilaterally, to create a defensible border and disengage. Now, in the former warrior's place, will anyone be able to lead and resist significant pressures that will surely now rise to attend to increasing security needs in Gaza, the West Bank, and the region. We will be watching.

Teachers Workshop on Holocaust Education

The **Annual Teachers Workshop on Holocaust Education** will be held on **Friday, April 21** at the MSU's Kellogg Center. The theme of this year's workshop is **"Thinking Again About the Killers."** The kick-off presenter will be **David Cesarani** (see related story, p. 1). This all-day workshop brings MSU faculty and middle- and secondary-school teachers together to discuss strategies for effectively teaching about the Holocaust.



Teachers interested in participating in the workshop may download applications at www.jsp.msu.edu, select "Events," then "Teachers Workshop." **Deadline for applications is March 24.**



Michigan State University

College of Arts & Letters
301 Linton Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1044

Phone: 517-432-3493
Fax: 517-355-4507
Email: jewishst@msu.edu
Web: www.jsp.msu.edu

MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity institution.

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
East Lansing, MI
Permit #21

Academic News

Marc Bernstein returned from leave in Israel, where he completed *Stories of Joseph: Narrative Migrations between Judaism and Islam* (Wayne State University Press, 2006) and presented a paper at the Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies.

Kirsten Fermaglich's *American Dreams and Nazi Nightmares: Early Holocaust Consciousness and Liberal America, 1957-1965* is being published by Brandeis University Press/University Press of New England in March. She has received support from MSU's History Department to begin researching a history of Jewish name-changing in America in the twentieth century.

Steve Gold presented a paper entitled "Transnational Ties during a Time of Crisis: The Israeli Diaspora since 2000" at a conference on Middle Eastern Diasporas in the U.S. held at Yale University.

Mary Juzwik's book, *Towards a Rhetoric of Teaching: Oral Narrative Performances in a Middle School Classroom*, will be published by Hampton Press. A study of how teachers use oral narratives as part of their pedagogy, it focuses on a middle school Holocaust class.

George Peters presented "Beyond the Holocaust: Teaching about Jews in German Class" at the German Studies Association meeting in Milwaukee in September and "The Jewish Presence in Germany Today" on a panel on multiculturalism in Germany at the American Association of Teachers of German conference in Baltimore in November.

Ellen Rothfeld is planning the first Israeli Film Festival at MSU and coordinating the visit of Maya Maron. She continues to teach our first-year and, occasionally, our second-year Hebrew classes.

Michael Rubner has published an essay on five major new books on Israel and the Middle East by Dennis Ross, Seymour Hersh, Matt Rees, Martin Van Creveld, and Yossi Beilin in *Middle East Policy*.

Avner Segal co-edited a book, *Social Studies—The Next Generation: Researching in the Postmodern*. New York: Peter Lang.

Keely Stauter-Halsted presented papers on anti-Semitism and the white slavery trade in 19th century Eastern Europe in Salt Lake City in November and in Philadelphia in January. She will participate in Brown University's workshop on "Ritual Stereotypes, and Identity in Europe's Borderlands" in May 2006.

Kenneth Waltzer continues to interview children liberated at Buchenwald in April 1945 for a book on *The Rescue of Children at Buchenwald*. He will present "The Three Youngest Children at Buchenwald," at a conference on "The Experience of Holocaust Victims" at Youngstown State University in April.

Steve Weiland presented "Ronald Sanders and the Generations of Jewish Intellectuals" at the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington, DC in December.

Jewish Studies Advisory Board

Michael Serling, Chair

Sy Adler	Nevin Kanner	Stuart Morrison
Samuel I. Bernstein	Alan J. Kaufman	Jason Rosenfeld
Dennis Deutsch	Jeffrey Kirschner	Glenn Saltsman
Steven Dines	Jon Koenigsberg	Elaine Schonberger
Irwin Elson	Art Langer	Michael Sherman
Michael Hirsch	Jeffrey Leib	Sandy Soifer
Cindy Hughey	Rabbi Harold Loss	Steven Weiland
Andrew Israel	David Mittleman	Wendy K. Wilkins

Ken Waltzer and Bets Caldwell, Newsletter Co-editors