

# Events Calendar

## MSU Jewish Studies Program

### Fall Semester 2014

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

Date	Time/Location	Event
Monday, September 22	4:00–5:30 pm Wells Hall C-742	<b>JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR</b> <i>“Huwiya/Zehut: Identity and Language in the Israeli Bilingual Sitcom ‘Arab Labor’”</i> Marc Bernstein, Michigan State University Dr. Bernstein explores linguistic issues surrounding the Arabic-speaking protagonists in the popular Israeli sitcom <i>Arab Labor</i> . He discusses the “blended Israeli Arabic,” a unique dialectical variant containing embedded Hebrew words and phrases drawn from specific semantic fields, which, at critical junctures, determines plot direction and undergirds a critique of both Palestinian–Israeli and Jewish–Israeli societies. Co-sponsored with Muslim Studies.
Thursday, September 25	12:00 noon–6:00 pm Breslin Center	<b>MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY ABROAD FAIR</b> Visit the Jewish Studies booth and learn about the MSU Jewish Studies Summer Program at the Hebrew University/Rothberg School in Jerusalem.
Monday, September 29	4:00 pm IM West Room 208	<b>GUEST LECTURE</b> <i>“On Being a Palestinian Arab Writer in Israel”</i> Sayed Kashua, visiting scholar at U. of Illinois–Champaign Urbana Sayed Kashua was born in Israel in 1975, studied sociology and philosophy at Hebrew University, writes a regular column for <i>Haaretz</i> , and is the author of <i>Arab Labor</i> , an Israeli television show. Kashua won the Prime Minister’s Prize for Literature in Israel in 2004. His books include <i>Dancing Arabs</i> (2002), <i>Let It Be Morning</i> (2006) and <i>Second Person Singular</i> (2010). Co-sponsored by Arabic Flagship, Global Studies, and Muslim Studies.
Monday, October 6	4:00–5:30 pm Wells Hall C-742  <i>Please note the new date and time</i>	<b>JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR</b> <i>“A Geography of Mourning: Jewish American Narratives”</i> Steve Weiland, Michigan State University Steve Weiland explores autobiographical accounts of mourning, distinguishing those that follow the traditional path from those that are historical, genealogical, and often geographical. These texts allow for a look at the level of the individual at questions of Jewish–American identity as they appeared last year in the Pew Research Center’s <i>Portrait of Jewish Americans</i> .
Tuesday, October 14	7:00 pm MSU Main Library 4th Floor W449	<b>KESSLER FILM LECTURE</b> <i>“Numbered”</i> (2012), directed by Dana Doron and Uriel Sinai This film focuses on the tattooed numbers that were assigned to prisoners in Auschwitz as enduring signs. Discussion afterward by Kenneth Waltzer, James Madison College and Jewish Studies, and Howard Bossen, College of Communication Arts and Sciences.
Sunday, October 19	10:00 am–12:00 noon University Club 3435 Forest Rd Lansing, MI	<b>FALL JEWISH STUDIES / HADASSAH BRUNCH</b> <i>“Teaching About Israel in Higher Education Today”</i> Yael Aronoff, Michigan State University Yael Aronoff is the Michael and Elaine Serling and Friends Israel Studies Professor at James Madison College and the new director of Jewish Studies at MSU. She won the Teacher-Scholar Award at MSU in 2011.
Monday, October 20	7:00–8:30 pm Case Hall Club Spartan 3rd Floor  <i>Please note the new date</i>	<b>2014 ANNUAL SERLING MODERN ISRAEL LECTURE</b> <i>“Zionism as a Liberal Democratic Worldview”</i> Gadi Taub, Hebrew University An Israeli historian, writer, screenwriter, and public intellectual, Dr. Taub’s books in Hebrew include a bestselling collection of essays titled <i>A Dispirited Rebellion: Essays on Contemporary Israeli Culture</i> (Hebrew), <i>What is Zionism</i> (Hebrew), and recently <i>The Settlers and the Struggle Over the Meaning of Zionism</i> (Hebrew; English). He contributes op-ed columns to the Israeli and international press. Co-sponsored by James Madison College.

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Thursday, October 23	3:00 pm–4:30 pm 145 Comm Arts	<p><b>NEAL SHINE ETHICS LECTURE</b>  <i>“Ethical Considerations in Documentary Photography and Photojournalism”</i>  <b>Natan Dvir</b>, Israeli photographer</p> <p>For the past twelve years, Natan Dvir has photographed for leading international publications while completing personal projects exploring the power of belief, African refugees in Israel, displaced people in Columbia, the Arab population of Israel, and the commercial urban landscape in New York, among others. Mr. Dvir will speak about his works and discuss ethical issues based on his own experience and famous cases from recent years. Co-sponsored by the School of Journalism.</p>
Monday, October 27	4:00 pm Wells Hall B-342	<p><b>YIDDISHKEIT LECTURE</b>  <i>“Women in Times of Persecution in Jewish East European Legends”</i>  <b>Haya Bar-Itzhak</b>, University of Haifa</p> <p>Dr. Bar-Itzhak is a visiting professor at UM–Ann Arbor. Her research focus is on Jewish folk literature with an emphasis on ethnographic and poetic aspects. She has published extensively on settlement, immigration, and ethnicity in Israel; Jewish folk literature in Eastern Europe; and women in Jewish folklore.</p>
Thursday, October 30	7:30 pm Snyder Hall RCAH Theater	<p><b>GUEST LECTURE</b>  <i>“Kibbutz Lotan: Environmental Sustainability and Intentional Community in the Arava Desert”</i>  <b>Alex Cicelsky</b>, founding member of Kibbutz Lotan</p> <p>Mr. Cicelsky’s work at the Center for Creative Ecology (CfCU) includes research, teaching, planning new ecological infrastructure and development projects, outreach, and resource development. The Center for Creative Ecology, established on Kibbutz Lotan in 1996, is one of Israel’s premiere environmental education, conservation, and research institutes. Co-sponsored by RCAH, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Hillel Center.</p>
Saturday, November 1	7:00–9:00 pm Wells Hall B-115  <i>Free for MSU students with ID</i>	<p><b>FILM</b>  <i>“Zero Motivation”</i> (2014), directed by <b>Talya Lavie</b></p> <p>Told through the zany story of female Israeli soldiers stationed at a remote desert base, <i>Zero Motivation</i> provides a comic-tragic glimpse into Israeli society, depicting a realistic, surreal, humorous, and gloomy journey inside a maze of military bureaucracy. This film is shown as part of the East Lansing Film Festival and is co-sponsored by Jewish Studies.</p>
Friday, November 14	10:00–11:20 am Wells Hall C-742	<p><b>JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR</b>  <i>“Writing About Franz Rosenzweig’s Life and Thought”</i>  <b>Benjamin Pollock</b>, Michigan State University</p> <p>Dr. Pollock re-examines Franz Rosenzweig’s near-conversion to Christianity in 1913 and his decision to return to Judaism that same year. He offers a radically new account of this personal and intellectual transformation in Rosenzweig’s life, arguing that both Rosenzweig’s decision to convert to Christianity, and his later about-face were rooted in Rosenzweig’s long-standing perplexity over a web of metaphysical questions concerning the relation between the self and the world.</p>
Thursday, November 20	7:00–8:30 pm Case Hall Club Spartan 3rd Floor	<p><b>GUEST LECTURE</b>  <i>“Bait and Switch: The Purpose of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement”</i>  <b>Cary Nelson</b>, Professor Emeritus, U. of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign</p> <p>The former president of the American Association of University Professors, Dr. Nelson is co-editing a book with Gabriel Brahm, titled <i>The Case Against Academic Boycotts of Israel</i>. He is also author of <i>Anthology of Contemporary Poetry</i> (2014), <i>No University is an Island</i> (2011), and <i>Manifesto of a Tenured Radical</i> (1997). Co-sponsored with James Madison College.</p>
Friday, December 5	10:00–11:20 am Wells Hall C-742	<p><b>JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR</b>  <i>“The Political Psychology of Israeli Prime Ministers: When Hard-Liners Opt for Peace”</i>  <b>Yael Aronoff</b>, Michigan State University</p> <p>Dr. Yael Aronoff examines decision-making by six Israeli prime ministers over the past twenty-five years, going beyond simply arguing that “leaders matter” by analyzing how each prime minister’s particular belief systems and personalities ultimately made a difference to Israel’s foreign policy.</p>