

# SPRING 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 20th, 12:00-1:30pm

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

### STARTUP NATION: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT, THE CULTURAL GEOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE, AND THE ISRAELI INFOTECH MIGRANTS IN SILICON VALLEY AND BEYOND

Wells Hall B-342

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel, had over 120 patents and numerous research projects in his name, and went on to establish Hebrew University, the chemical, military and computer industries in Israel, and the Weizmann Institute. Dr. **Tom Bielik** (Weizmann Institute; post-doc at MSU) will focus on the history of Dr. Chaim Weizmann and the Weizmann Institute in fostering research. Dr. **Steven Fraiberg** (MSU, WRAC) will focus on the cultural geographic landscape of the Israeli high-tech industry. Finally, Dr. **Steven Gold** (MSU, Sociology) will discuss the Israeli infotech migrants living in Silicon Valley. Co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, the Asian Studies Center, and James Madison College.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 10:00-12:00pm

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

### YIDDISH MEMORY BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

Wells Hall B-342

In this seminar, three historians who utilize Yiddish language in their teaching and research will discuss the intersection of language and memory. Dr. **Jeffrey Veidlinger** (University of Michigan, Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies) will present a multimedia exploration of how Ukrainian Yiddish-speaking Jews remember Jewish life in the prewar Soviet Union. Dr. **Amy Simon** (MSU, History and JMC) will examine how Yiddish diary writers during the Holocaust made sense of their experiences through the collective memory of the history of Jewish suffering. Dr. **Anya Quillitsch** (University of Michigan) will explore how Yiddish language helps us understand Ashkenazi culture after the Holocaust. Dr. **Margot Valles** (MSU, English) will moderate the panel. Lunch will be provided afterwards from 12-1. Co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters and James Madison College and the Center for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 7:00-8:30pm

GUEST PANEL

### THE LASTING SIGNIFICANCE OF EVIAN AND THE SOSUA SETTLEMENT

Wells Hall B-342

Distinguished MSU alumni **Hugh Bayer** and Dr. **Dennis Laffer** will present on the 1938 Evian Conference and subsequent 1940 Sosua settlement on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic. This conference, convened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, decided the fate of the fleeing and displaced European Jews. Included in the discussion will be the historical background on why the conference was convened, its content, participants, outcomes; they will also examine the motivations behind then dictator Rafael Trujillo's decision to admit Jewish refugees. Finally, they will discuss the Jewish refugees' experience in building a new life. Co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters and James Madison College.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 6:30-8:00pm

DISCUSSION FORUM

### STUDENT FORUM ON ANTI-SEMITISM

MSU Hillel Jewish Student Center

MSU Hillel and the Jewish Studies Program come together to hear from students about their experiences with antisemitism and to educate them in how combat discrimination of all kinds. Co-sponsored by MSU Hillel Jewish Student Center and the Office of Institutional Equity.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 10:00-11:30am

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

### ISRAEL'S WARS WITH HAMAS: THE DILEMMAS OF ASYMMETRIC CONFLICTS

Wells Hall B-243

**Yael Aronoff** analyzes democracies fighting asymmetric wars, as they attempt to balance traditional military strategies of deterrence with pressures for restraint. Restraining factors include: mitigation of further resentment by affected populations; maintaining a political culture's self-identity as a democracy upholding democratic norms and international laws; and the importance of winning media battles. Dr. Aronoff will examine how international lawyers, military commanders, and non-governmental organizations have come together to reach consensus on what the restraints binding states in these wars should be. Co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, James Madison College, and the Asian Studies Center.