

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MSU JEWISH STUDIES SPONSORED EVENTS

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 12:15-1:30pm

MEET AND GREET

#### ANNUAL FACULTY/STUDENT LUNCH

Kellogg Center's Corniche Room

Complimentary lunch with Jewish Studies minors, prospective minors, and faculty.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 10:00am-11:30pm

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

#### THE LAND IS FULL: ADDRESSING ISRAEL'S POPULATION CHALLENGE

Wells Hall B-342

Serling Visiting Israeli Scholar **Alon Tal** will speak about one of Israel's current environmental challenges: overpopulation. His presentation considers the ramifications of this extraordinary demographic growth: from burgeoning pollution and dwindling natural resources to overcrowded classrooms, courtrooms, and roads. Based on extensive fieldwork, including interviews with dozens of experts and individuals from all sectors of Israeli society, this talk examines the origins of Israel's population policies and describes how they must change to support a sustainable future.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 12:30-2:00pm

GUEST LECTURE

#### CONTEMPORARY LEFT ANTI-SEMITISM

Wells Hall B-342

Dr. **David Hirsh** is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Goldsmiths University of London. This talk looks at the kind of antisemitism which he argues is tolerated in apparently democratic spaces: trade unions, churches, left-wing and liberal politics, social gatherings of the chattering classes and the seminars and journals of radical intellectuals. It analyzes how criticism of Israel can mushroom into antisemitism and it looks at struggles over how antisemitism is defined. After the talk, he will be available to sign copies of his new book, *Contemporary Left Anti-Semitism* (Routledge, 2017).

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 10:00am-11:30pm

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

#### MAIMONIDES' DISCUSSION OF PROPHECY IN THE GUIDE TO THE PERPLEXED

Wells Hall B-342

Jewish Studies affiliate Dr. **Benjamin Lorch** will present on Maimonides' political philosophy, which he argues is present in the part of the *Guide of the Perplexed* devoted to the subject of prophecy. "The central subject of this discussion is the divine law: why is the law revealed by the prophets superior to merely human legislation, and what is a good law? [Dr. Lorch] ascertains Maimonides's answers to these questions by examining his presentation of the conflict between Judaism and philosophy concerning the truth of prophecy and the authority of the law: the prophetic teaching par excellence is the guidance that man cannot discover by means of reason and that he would not possess at all had God not revealed this guidance to His prophets. [He argues] that Maimonides identifies the special content of prophecy as the moral laws, the laws that Judaism designates 'commandments between man and his fellow man.'"

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 4:00-5:30pm

GUEST LECTURE

#### Beyond Borders: Environmental Cooperation in Israel and Palestine

Room 303 of the International Center

Learn about the cross-cultural community and environmental studies at Israel's Arava Institute, where students from Israel, Palestine, Jordan and around the world come together to collaborate on environmental solutions. **Shadi Shiha**, a Palestinian-Jordanian and **Eve Tendler**, an Israeli, will speak about how their participation in the Arava Institute had a significant impact on them.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 7:00-9:30pm

ANNUAL GEORGE AND ESTHER KESSLER MEMORIAL FILM EVENT

#### SHORES OF LIGHT

MSU Library Green Room (4th Floor West)

Israeli filmmaker and Serling Visiting Israeli Scholar Dr. **Yael Katzir** will discuss the screening of her film *Shores of Light*. *Shores of Light* tells the true story of poor Italians in southern Italy welcoming thousands of Jewish displaced persons, WWII Holocaust survivors on their way to Israel. The film is also about the journey of three Israeli women born in Italy at that time, children of Jewish refugees. They have returned to the place of their birth in search of the people that were so important in their parents' lives. Rare, historic photos and video clips intertwine history and the present.

# FALL 2017

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 7:00-8:30pm**

GUEST LECTURE

**ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE: PROCESS, PROSPECTS AND POSSIBILITIES**

THE KELLOGG CENTER AUDITORIUM

**Daniel Kurtzer** is the S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Middle East policy studies at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is the former US ambassador to Israel and to Egypt. Throughout his career, Kurtzer was instrumental in formulating and executing U.S. policy toward the Middle East peace process, and has participated on Track II negotiations. He has written several books, including *The Peace Puzzle: America's Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace, 1989-2011*; *Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*; and *Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East*.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 10:00-11:30am**

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY RESEARCH SEMINAR

**THE TWEENAGE JESUS AT PASSOVER AND OTHER EARLY CHRISTIAN FAMILY STORIES**

Wells Hall C-607

Jewish Studies faculty affiliate Dr. **Chris Frilingos** has studied family stories about the child Jesus and his parents for his new book, *Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: Family Trouble in the Infancy Gospels* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017). His book examines the Infancy Gospels of Thomas, a collection of stories from the mid-second century C.E. describing events in the life of Jesus between the ages of five and twelve. He argues that the accounts pick up on themes found in the Jewish Scriptures, specifically the omniscience of the biblical God and the limits of human understanding.

## MSU JEWISH STUDIES CO- SPONSORED EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, 6:00-10:00pm**

CO-SPONSORED FILM SCREENING

**JUNCTION 48, DIRECTED BY UDI ALONI**

WELLS HALL B-119

The Department of Linguistics and Languages will screen *Junction 48*, a movie that follows the story of Kareem, a Palestinian-Israeli teenager who performs hip-hop at a Tel Aviv club and becomes the first Palestinian-Israeli rap star. Jewish Studies faculty **Marc Bernstein** introduces the film and **Tamer Nafar**, a Palestinian-Israeli rap singer and the star of the film, leads a discussion after the film.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 10:45am-12:15pm**

CO-SPONSORED PANEL DISCUSSION

**TAMER NAFAR AND THE POLITICS OF ARABIC RAP IN ISRAEL**

Room 303 of the International Center

Jewish Studies faculty **Marc Bernstein** will speak about Tamer Nafar and the politics of Arabic rap in Israel on a panel discussion. Jewish Studies affiliate Dr. **Safoi Babana-Hampton** will also moderate this panel, entitled *Visualizing Arabic*.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 7:00-8:30pm**

CO-SPONSORED GUEST LECTURE

**FIVE MYTHS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM**

Wells Hall B-342

The MSU Hillel Jewish Student Center invites **Yair Rosenberg**, a senior writer at *Tablet* magazine who often writes about contemporary anti-Semitism, to talk about his work.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11th, time TBA**

CO-SPONSORED GUEST LECTURE

**GLORIA STEINEM, ALICE WALKER, AND BIBLICAL STUDIES**

Location TBA

The Department of Religious Studies invites Dr. **Nyasha Junior** to speak about her recent book, *Introduction to Womanist Biblical Interpretation* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2016).

*Save the date! The Israeli Film Festival will take place on April 15th and 16th, 2018.*