

# Spring 2019 Events

*Complimentary copies of all books for designated book discussions are available in the Serling Institute office (Wells Hall C-730) for those faculty, students, and community members reading the book before each discussion.*

**Thursday, January 24th, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Guest Lecture**

*L'Heavek: Wrestling with The Divine in Syrian Jewish Mexico City*  
JMC Library, 332 Case Hall

Dr. Evelyn María Dean-Olmsted (Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras) will analyze how in the late 2000s, young Shami (Damascene) and Halebi (Aleppan) Jewish Mexicans were coming of age amidst a boom in ultra-Orthodox or Haredi outreach activity, and how they struggled to craft a religiosity that was both personally meaningful and intelligible to those in their social networks.

**Thursday, January 31st, 12:00-2:00 pm**

**Book Discussion**

*Passing Illusions*  
Wells Hall B-342

Dr. Kerry Wallach (Associate Professor and Chair of German Studies at Gettysburg College) will lead a book discussion on her book, *Passing Illusions*, which examines constructions of German-Jewish visibility and instances in the 1920s and early 1930s when it was concealed, revealed, or contested.

**Wednesday, February 6th, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Community Discussion**

Student Forum on Antisemitism  
MSU Hillel Jewish Student Center, 360 Charles St, East Lansing, MI 48823

Forum for students to share and/or hear from fellow students about experiences of antisemitism at MSU. Hillel staff and Serling faculty will be at the forum. A kosher dinner from Woody's Oasis will be provided.

**Sunday, February 10th, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Music Performance**

The Brothers Yares: From the Mid-Atlantic to the Middle East, A One of a Kind Pairing of Jewish Troubadours  
The Kellogg Center Auditorium

Join the Brothers Yares (Gavri-Tov and Ami) for a music-filled journey stretching from their pastoral upbringing in the sprawling New Jersey suburbs to the hills of Jerusalem, the shores of Jaffa and back again. Their musical experience covers a vast swath of Jewish, Israeli, American, and Middle Eastern music captured by the great harmonic depths of contrabass, 12-string acoustic guitar, and the beautiful pairing of the brothers' voices.

**Wednesday, February 13th, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Book Discussion**

*Dinner at the Center of the Earth*  
Wells Hall B-342

Faculty, students, and community members are welcome to join a discussion of Nathan Englander's new book, *Dinner at the Center of the Earth* in anticipation of his lecture on this book on February 25th.

**Friday, February 22nd, 2:00-3:30 pm**

**Faculty Research Seminar**

"Not Everyone is Prepared to Remake Themselves": What Name Changing Means in the 21st Century  
255 Old Horticulture

In New York City in the 20th Century, Jews officially changed their names at a much higher rate than other groups. Antisemitism and Jewish desires for upward mobility combined to help propel this phenomenon. But by the 21st Century, name changing had become a very different phenomenon, one that affected poor people of color disproportionately and--while racism was still a factor -- for very different reasons as well. Research will be presented by Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich (Associate Professor, History and Jewish Studies).

**Friday, February 22nd, 3:30-5:00 pm**

**Book Discussion**

*A Rosenberg By Any Other Name*  
255 Old Horticulture

Faculty, students, and the community are welcome to discuss with Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich (Associate Professor, History and Jewish Studies) her recently published book, *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America* with NYU Press.

**Monday, February 25th, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Guest Lecture — Sponsored by The Serling Institute and MSU Libraries**

An Evening with Nathan Englander: *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*  
MSU Library's Green Room

Nathan Englander (Distinguished Writer-in-Residence, New York University) will discuss his recently published book, *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*. He is also the author of the novel *The Ministry of Special Cases* and the story collections *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* and *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*—winner of the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Nathan Englander will books following the event.

**Wednesday, March 13th, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Book Discussion**

*The Messianic Idea in Judaism* By Gershom Scholem  
Wells Hall B-342

Faculty, students, and community members are welcome to discuss selections of *The Messianic Idea in Judaism*.

**Sunday, March 24th, 1:00-8:45 pm, and Monday, March 25th, 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Film Festival**

14th Annual Israeli Film Festival  
Wells Hall B-122 and B-115

The Serling Institute will show four full-length Israeli films: *Muhi: Generally Temporary; And then She Arrived; Shoelaces; and The Unorthodox*.

**Friday, April 12th, 9:00 am-5:00 pm**

**Conference**

Third Annual Serling Institute Undergraduate Research Conference  
Wells Hall B-243

Students will present projects from their Jewish Studies courses. Lunch with Jewish Studies alumna Sara Kirsch ('11) will be provided during the conference. Sara currently resides in Israel working as a Digital Copywriter at Quality Score, one of the leading digital marketing agencies in the Middle East, and a blogger for 'Olim In Tech' in Israel.

**MONDAY, APRIL 15th, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Play Discussion**

*Indecent*  
Wells Hall B-243

Faculty, students, and community members will come together to discuss *Indecent* by Paula Vogel.

**Thursday, April 18th, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Rabin/Brill Holocaust Lecture**

No Secret: Sexual Violence in the Holocaust  
Lincoln Room of the Kellogg Center, MSU

Doris Bergen will discuss sexual violence during the Holocaust against Jews and non-Jews, against women and girls, and also boys and men. Professor Bergen is the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies in the Department of

History and Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. She is the author or editor of five books, including *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (3rd edition 2016).

**Monday, April 22nd, 7:00-8:30 pm**

**Play Performance**

*Indecent*

RCAH Theater (Basement of 362 Bogue St, East Lansing, MI 48825)

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel's *Indecent* is a deeply moving play inspired by the true events surrounding the controversial 1923 Broadway debut of Sholem Asch's *God of Vengeance*. Members of the cast and crew will present selections from the play *Indecent*, which they are performing in June.

**Saturday, April 27th, 8:00 pm**

**Co- Sponsored Event**

Shostakovich Symphony 13 Project

The Wharton Center's Great Hall (MSU)

This concert features the very powerful Shostakovich Symphony No. 13 "Babi Yar," and "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" by Charles Davidson. A setting of poems by the renowned Soviet writer Evgeny Yevtushenko, Shostakovich's work significantly memorialized the 1941 massacre of Ukrainian Jews by Nazi forces at Baba Yar.