

Jewish Studies Program

Fall Semester 2012



Michigan State University

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Note from the Director

Important events are taking place all around us. A presidential election will determine whether Barack Obama serves a second term or Mitt Romney and the GOP take over. The Republican Party seeks openly to use Israel as a wedge issue and to strategically impact the Jewish vote in closely contested swing states like Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Sabre-rattling statements about bombing Iran's nuclear program continue to issue from prominent Israeli leaders, testing Israel's unity and the harmony of the enduring U.S.-Israel alliance. The open and outspoken dissent of Israeli defense and security officials is unprecedented.

To discuss these matters, this fall we will host events jointly with MSU's Hillel Student Center on the Jewish vote and the U.S. presidential election, and we will also be ready to comment on developing global news involving Jews and Israel. Despite the drama, we do not anticipate Israeli military action against Iran before the election.

Next spring, our attention will shift toward Israel and world politics, to the **8th Annual MSU Israeli Film Festival**, coordinated by Ellen Rothfeld, and scheduled for March 17-18, 2013, and to the hosting of a special international **Symposium on Israeli Literature** April 9-10, 2013. This symposium will highlight the opening of the *Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature Collection* in the MSU Main Library. Special guests speaking at MSU will be Israeli novelist **Meir Shalev** and noted American scholar **Robert Alter**. Professor **Marc Bernstein** leads the symposium-planning committee.

This fall, Jewish Studies and the MSU Libraries Colloquia will host **Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos**

of the Kehilla Kedosha Janina Museum in New York City for a special memorial lecture October 17 on Romaniote Jewry that will honor the late Ada Finifter. Ada left a gift for Jewish Studies to support activities and scholarship on Romaniote Jewry, her own heritage, as well as other activities and scholarship. This event is titled "**Romaniote Jewry and the Lower East Side**" and will be held in the MSU Main Library.

We will also host **Kenneth D. Wald**, the Samuel R. "Bud" Shorstein Professor of American Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Florida, Gainesville, on Nov. 15, in the MSU Hillel Student Center. Professor Wald, a noted authority on the Jewish vote, will be speaking on the topic "**A Choosing People: How American Jews Vote**," offering an analysis on Jews and the recent U.S. elections.

We will be sponsoring events jointly with others during the semester, including Hadassah, the MSU Library, the Department of Linguistics and Languages, James Madison College, and so on. On Sunday, Sept. 23, we will host a fall Jewish Studies-Hadassah Sunday brunch, with our own Professor **Kirsten Fermaglich** speaking on "**Jews and Name Changing in New York City**." We will show the first Chinese film nominated by the Jerusalem Film Festival, *A Jewish Girl in Shanghai*, based on the graphic novel by **Wu Lin**, for the Kessler Film event on Oct. 25, with Professors **Tracy Graves** and **Hsiao-Ping Wang**; and we will present interesting recent Israeli films, *An Article of Hope*, Sept. 10, with **Ellen Rothfeld**, and the award-winning and Oscar-nominated motion picture *Footnote* by director

Joseph Cedar, Nov. 8, with Professor **Steve Weiland**.

In spring, supported by the Schusterman Foundation, we will host a Visiting Israeli Artist, **Guy Meirson**, a prominent young screenwriter and novelist. Guy Meirson wrote the motion picture, *Rock the Casbah*, which while not yet released has recently been nominated for an Ophir award, Israel's academy award. We will hear Guy and hope we will be able to show his film at the **8th Annual Israeli Film Festival**. Guy Meirson will be teaching screenwriting in the Department of English in spring, and he will be participating in our Symposium on Israeli Literature and other activities.

We will also host an important guest talking about Israeli politics and security issues yet to be announced for the **Michael and Elaine Serling Modern Israel lecture** in spring, and, on Apr. 18, the Rabin Lecture on the Holocaust will be offered by historian **Barbara Epstein** (University of California-Santa Cruz), on "**Jewish Responses in Minsk**."

For those interested, I'd like to bring to your attention the Fall Evening College Course, "**Claude Lanzmann's Shoah Revisited**," which is taught by Professor and Director Kenneth Waltzer during four Thursday evenings in October. Twenty-five years after it first appeared, the film has been re-released, and Claude Lanzmann has published a memoir *The Patagonian Hare* about his life and the film.

~Ken Waltzer, Professor and Director

"Romaniote Jewry and the Lower East Side"

Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 pm
MSU Main Library, Room W449



Jewish Studies and the MSU Libraries Colloquia Series present **Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos** who will lecture on and discuss "**Romaniote Jewry and the Lower East Side**" on Wednesday, October 17. Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos is a leading authority on Romaniote Jewry and directs the museum at Kehilla Kedosha Janina (Holy Congregation of Janina) on Broome Street on New York's famous Lower East Side.

A distinctive strand in Greek Jewry dating back to the Roman era, Romaniote Jews fostered a distinctive culture, liturgy, and cuisine. Romaniote Jews who came to the U.S. during the height of mass

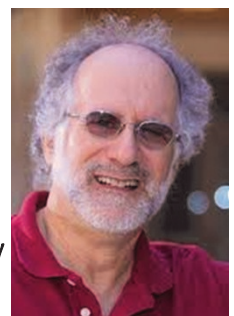
immigration (1881-1924) created Kehilla Kedosha Janina in 1906 and erected the synagogue building in 1927. The late MSU faculty member Ada Weintraub Finifter's grandfather was a founding member.

"The Choosing People: How American Jews Vote"

Thursday, November 15, 7:00-8:30 pm
Lester and Jewell Morris Hillel Student Center
360 Charles St., East Lansing, MI

Did Jews vote differently in 2012? Why was the Jewish vote a target during the campaign by the major parties? What difference did the Jewish vote make?

Kenneth D. Wald (U. of Florida-Gainesville), Distinguished Professor of Political Science, will discuss these questions on Thursday, November 15. Kenneth D. Wald has written *Religion and Politics in the United States* (2010) and *The Politics of Cultural Differences: Social Change and Voter Mobilization Strategies in the Post-New Deal Period* (2002), among other works. He is also the co-author of a new Jewish vote analysis by the non-partisan Solomon Project, "**Jewish American Voting Behavior 1972-2008: Just the Facts**."



Recent and Upcoming Events

Monday, September 10

Israeli Film Night

Film *"An Article of Hope"* (2011), directed by **Dan Cohen**.

A documentary on the life of **Ilan Ramon**, the first Israeli astronaut, with comments by **Ellen Rothfeld**, Lecturer of Hebrew.

7:15 pm, 147 Comm Arts, MSU



Sunday, September 23

MSU Jewish Studies/Hadassah Fall Brunch **Kirsten Fermaglich**

"My Name Proved to be a Great Handicap: Jews and Name Changing in New York City, 1930-1960."

10:00 am-12:00 noon, The University Club on Forest Rd., Lansing MI

Tickets: \$18 in advance/\$25 at door



Thursday, September 27

Michigan State University Study Abroad Fair

Learn about MSU's Jewish Studies Summer Program at Hebrew University's Rothberg School, about Environmental and Natural Resource Sustainability in a Green Israel, and about MSU Spring Semester in Jerusalem, as well as other opportunities. Scholarships available.



12:00-6:00 pm, Breslin Center, MSU

Wednesday, October 10

Kirschner Recruitment Event

Come hear about the Jewish Renaissance at Michigan State University. Sponsored by MSU Admissions, Jewish Studies, MSU Hillel, James Madison College, and the Residential College in Arts and Humanities. Admission is free and open to the public.

7:30 pm, Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield MI



Wednesday, October 17

Ada Finifter Memorial Lecture **MSU Library Colloquia Series** **"Romaniote Jewry on New York's Lower East Side"**

Marcia Haddad Ikononopoulos, Museum Director at Kehilla Kedosha Janina, in New York City.

Romaniote Jewry trace their origins back to the Hellenized Jewish communities of ancient Greece. Their descendants nurtured a distinctive history, culture, liturgy, and cuisine. These original Greek Jews were later joined by refugees from the expulsions of the Iberian Peninsula in the late fifteenth century.

7:00 pm, MSU Main Library, W449



Thursday, October 25

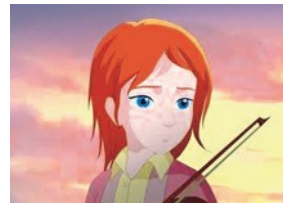
Kessler Film Event

Film *"A Jewish Girl in Shanghai"* (2010), directed by **Wang Genfa**.

An animated film nominated for the Jewish Experience Award in the Jerusalem International Film Festival. With Professors **Tracy Graves** and **Hsiao-Ping Wang** of the Department of Linguistics and Languages.

Co-sponsored by Jewish Studies and Linguistics and Languages.

7:00 pm, MSU Main Library, 4th Floor



Thursday, November 1

MSU Hillel Food for Thought Series **Pre-Election Discussion: American Jews and the 2012 Presidential Election**

Kenneth Waltzer, Director-MSU Jewish Studies
Co-sponsored by Jewish Studies and MSU Hillel.
Why have both campaigns targeted the Jewish vote in 2012?

12:00 noon, MSU Hillel Student Center



Thursday, November 8

Israeli Film Night

Film *"Footnote"* (2011), directed by **Joseph Cedar**

A film about a father, a son, and other conflicts in two contemporary scholarly lives. Professor **Steve Weiland** will introduce the film and comment.

7:15 pm, 147 Comm Arts, MSU



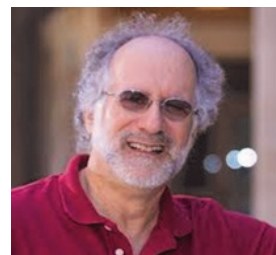
Thursday, November 15

"The Choosing People: How American Jews Vote"

Kenneth D. Wald, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and the Samuel R. [Bud] Shorstein Professor in American Jewish Culture and Society, U. of Florida, Gainesville

7:00-8:30 pm

MSU Hillel Student Center
Charles Street, East Lansing MI



We are pleased to announce that **Guy Meirson**, one of nine Schusterman Visiting Artists being supported at American universities in 2012-13, will be in residence at MSU spring 2013.

Guy Meirson is an accomplished screenwriter and novelist who will teach screenwriting in the Department of English and participate in Jewish Studies activities, including the 8th Annual Israeli Film Festival.

Guy wrote the recent film, *Rock the Casbah*. He has also published a second novel, *Nothing Happened*, and he has been the head writer for the Israeli TV series *Room Service*. Guy teaches screenwriting at the Sam Spiegel Film School in Tel Aviv, Israel.



Study Abroad in Israel During Summer or Spring 2013

MSU Jewish Studies Summer Program at Hebrew U. June 27-July 29, 2013

MSU's Jewish Studies Summer Program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem offers students the opportunity to earn 8 credits in the arts and humanities or social sciences while living and studying in Jerusalem. The program is designed for students interested in learning about Israeli history, society, and culture. Students at other colleges and universities are also welcome to apply through MSU for credits to be transferred to their home institutions.

The Summer Program is sponsored by Jewish Studies and the College of Arts & Letters, James Madison College, and the College of Social Science, in cooperation with the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University, arranged through the Office of Study Abroad (OSA).

Professor **Yael Aronoff**, the **Michael and Elaine Serling and Friends Associate Professor of Israel Studies**, will lead students to the Hebrew University from June 27 to July 29, 2013. Students will take a course on Israeli society and politics with Professor Aronoff and another on the history of modern Israel with Professor **David Mendelsson**.

Students will also take field trips across Israel, visit the Supreme Court and the Knesset, and spend time at the Israel Democracy Institute, a think tank that monitors the state of democracy and provides a forum for creative thinking on Israel's main challenges. We will also meet with members of different Israeli social movements, and hear from top Israeli academics on Israeli political culture, the experiences of immigrants and subcultures within Israel, and the peace process. We will talk with representatives of the Parents Circle (Israeli and Palestinian parents who have lost children to the conflict).

During the last week of classes, after researching Israeli political parties, students will stage a mock campaign and election, and then simulate negotiations constructing a coalition government.

With an archeologist guide, we will tour Israel. In Jerusalem, we will visit sites holy to three monotheistic religions and see the old City of David from 1000 BCE. Masada, En Gedi, the Dead Sea, and Qumran are other destinations. In Sderot, the officer in charge of security will show us samples of rockets that have hit the town. On our way north, we visit Jaffa, a beautiful city overlooking the Mediterranean, and Haifa, which is a model for harmonious mixing of Jewish and Palestinian Israelis.

We will visit Acre (Akko) and a Druze village near Haifa. With Dr. Mendelsson, the students also visit a kibbutz, Yad Vashem, the Sea of Galilee, and Rabin Square in Tel Aviv. Students will have free time to snorkel in Eilat, dance and swim in Tel Aviv, explore the neighborhoods and markets of Jerusalem, listen to Israeli jazz concerts, and attend events at the Jerusalem Film Festival.

MSU Spring Semester in Jerusalem Spring 2013 (January-June, 2013 — 20 weeks)

Michigan State University and Hebrew University, aided by a MASA grant, offer a special **MSU Spring Semester in Jerusalem** program to allow students to continue to make progress in their academic programs while studying in Israel. The program is designed for majors such as business, finance, journalism, communications, public affairs, political science, international relations, and the arts and humanities, as well as other majors.

All students are enrolled in an intensive Hebrew course (Ulpan) in-country before the regular semester begins. Thereafter, Hebrew is optional. In addition to coursework, an optional internship working with Israeli businesses, agencies, schools, and NGOs/non-profit organizations will be available.

Students live in dormitories on the Mt. Scopus campus and take classes (in English) at the Rothberg International School and in several university departments. The program is built around a required core course on the making of modern Israel; this course also includes special activities and excursions. Each student's menu of courses will differ.

Courses available include Arabic; Archaeology; Art; Business; Communication; Conflict Resolution; Economics; English; Environment; Geography; Hebrew; History; Israel Studies; Jewish Studies; Middle East Studies; Music; Political Science; Psychology; and Religion. All students complete 6 credits of Hebrew (Ulpan) in the first six weeks, then 15 credits during the semester.

NOTE: MSU students who meet eligibility criteria (minimum 3.0 GPA) may apply for a Levy Scholarship; the application deadline for this scholarship is **October 15, 2012**. The deadline for application for participation in the program is **November 15, 2012**.



Nature, Culture, and Environmental Sustainability in a Green Israel: June 09-26, 2013

The **Green Israel** study abroad program, led this year by Professor **Eric Aronoff**, is an intellectual, physical, and rewarding adventure. The goal is to explore and experience through hands-on activities the role of nature in Israeli culture while examining the environmental challenges in Israel and creative Israeli solutions.

Meeting first in Jerusalem, the group will spend several days with Hebrew University faculty and members of environmental NGOs. Here we will learn about environmental issues facing Israel, most notably water resources. We also will examine the intersection of environment and politics, looking at how the conflict impacts environmental issues in East and West Jerusalem, and discuss joint Israeli-Palestinian efforts to address shared concerns.

We then travel to the Dead Sea and En Gedi, where we will spend two days with geologist, former head of the Field School, and member of Kibbutz En Gedi, **Eli Raz**. Dr. Raz will teach us about the archeological history and the unique flora and fauna of En Gedi, which form the context for current debates—within the kibbutz, between the kibbutz and environmental groups—about nature preservation, development, and resource distribution. Dr. Raz is also an expert on the growing environmental crisis facing the Dead Sea, and will take us through the sinkhole fields threatening the area.

From the Dead Sea we will travel south into the Arava Valley to learn about threats to, and efforts to protect, the coral reefs in Eilat. We will then spend several days at the ecovillage Kibbutz Lotan, a unique community with experiments in sustainable living, including organic gardening, alternative building techniques, gray water reclamation, and solar energy usage. Students will continue their desert experience for two days in Sde Boker, where they will meet with faculty of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research.

While hiking and touring En Avdat and Avdat, students will learn about ancient Nabatean agricultural techniques, as well as modern experiments in desert agriculture (and aquaculture!) at the Blaustein Institute and the KKL's Ashalim Research Station.

Finally, we will complete our travels in the Upper Galilee where, with faculty in Environmental Science at Tel Chai College and members of the KKL, we will enjoy a variety of environmental projects: tending trails in the national park in Tel Chai; conducting soil tests with researchers in the Biriya forest; supporting reforestation strategies in the wake of the fires of the 2006 Lebanon War; and getting muddy with wetlands restoration in the Hula Reserve.

At program's end, some students will return to Kibbutz Lotan for a three-week civic engagement/ecovolunteer project.

Attending the Green Israel study abroad program, students will experience firsthand the sheer beauty and variety of Israeli natural landscapes.

My time in Jerusalem changed my life in too many ways to count, and I cannot wait until I'm able to visit this incredible city again. — Chris Khoury

Spending the spring semester at Hebrew University in Jerusalem was one of the greatest choices I made in college. — Adam Zeidan

I feel I have gained new perspectives and language skills and highly recommend studying in Israel to anyone looking for an enriching experience. — Ashley Delameter

My living situation could not have been more perfect. I lived with three slightly older Israeli girls as well as a young Japanese diplomat, who was learning Hebrew. — Sonya Major



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Academic News

Yael Aronoff is on sabbatical this fall. She presented two papers in Israel in June 2012: "The Challenges of Asymmetric Conflict: Questions from the Israeli Experience" at Hebrew University, and "Comparing Israel's Wars with Hezbollah and Hamas: Tradeoffs of Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency" at the Association for Israel Studies in Haifa. Yael was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 2012, and her book *Israeli Hard-Liners Opt for Peace: The Political Psychology of Prime Ministers* will soon appear with Cambridge U. Press.

Marc Bernstein has a review essay on several books on Israeli cinema, titled "Scaffolds, Prophets, and Other Criminals," that will appear in *Israel Studies Review* this year. Marc is leading planning for our April 2013 international symposium on Israeli Literature to highlight the new Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature Collection in the MSU Library. The symposium is scheduled April 9-10, 2013.

Kirsten Fermaglich presented "'I Won't Make Your Work Easier': Name-Changing and Antisemitism in New York City, 1940-1960" at the Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History in New York City in June 2012. She will speak on a panel on Jews and higher education in the United States at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan in October. She co-edited (with Lisa Fine) the Norton Critical Edition of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, published this year.

Steve Gold is co-editor of *The Routledge International Handbook of Migration Studies* (with Stephanie Nawyn), forthcoming in 2012. He published "The Contingent Basis of Transnational Networks among Israel Emigrants" in Min Zhou and Guoxiong Zhang (eds.) *International Migration and Social Development*, which appeared in China this year.

Mary M. Juzwik's "The Ethics of Teaching Disturbing Past: Reader Response, Historical Contextualization, and Rhetorical (con)-Textualization of Holocaust Texts in English" will appear in *English Education*. Her paper, "Transacting with Holocaust Texts in the English Classroom: Ethical Problems and Rhetorical Responses," appeared in *Beyond Reader Response: Ethical, Sociocultural, and Historical Issues in Critically Engaging Multicultural Literature* (2011).

Benjamin Pollock is giving a plenary address at the International Rosenzweig Society in Toronto in September, titled "'Not Just the God of Revelation': The Leipzig Night Conversation and the Star of Redemption." He published "On the Road to Marcionism: Franz Rosenzweig's Early Theology" in the *Jewish Quarterly Review* (April, 2012). Benjamin is on sabbatical leave this fall, working to complete a book manuscript, *Franz Rosenzweig's Conversions: World-Denial and World Redemption*.

Kenneth Waltzer will present "Moving Together, Moving Alone: The Story of Boys on an Transport Auschwitz to Buchenwald" at the Exploring the Micro-History of the Holocaust Conference in Paris, France, in December 2012. He will also present "Abraham Gottlieb's Buchenwald Diary" and participate in a roundtable on "Israel Studies" at the Association of Jewish Studies meeting in December 2012 in Chicago, IL. His "Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah* Re-visited" will appear in the on-line journal *Menorah Review* this winter.

Steve Weiland will present "Reading Between Culture and Religion: The Jewish Re-Education of Geoffrey Hartman" at the Midwest Jewish Studies Conference at York University in Toronto in October 2012. This is part of Professor Weiland's exciting ongoing project "*Jewish Autobiographies, Jewish Lives*."