



Jewish Studies Program

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER
KAILA WAINEO, EDITOR**





*Clockwise from top: photo of Jewish Studies faculty and students, Dickinson College Professor **Ted Merwin**, University of Massachusetts-Amherst Professor **James Young**, and Israeli author **Etgar Keret**.*

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

To kick off an exciting new year, I am thrilled to announce a development that will have a profound impact on our Program: **Michael and Elaine Serling** have decided to establish, through a multi-million dollar Jewish Studies Program naming gift, a new endowment in MSU Jewish Studies! This new endowment in “Modern Israel” will be designed to connect MSU with Israel's dramatic innovation and excellence in the fields of start-up high tech companies, medical discoveries in the areas of cancer research, Parkinson's, paralysis, and biomedical engineering, as well as food science and security, water scarcity, cyber security and many other diverse technologies and inventions. It will also support our current ventures promoting academic exchange and joint research in the social sciences and humanities between MSU and Israeli universities. The goal of the endowment is to promote student and professor exchange, classroom experiences, and internships with Israeli universities, organizations and companies, and promote joint research at the undergraduate and graduate level.

This generous gift is just the most dramatic evidence of our growing, thriving Jewish Studies Program. But there is more good news: in light of this strengthening of Israel Studies into the fields of scientific research, we are delighted to welcome our two newest affiliates of Jewish Studies, Dr. **Galit Pelled** and Dr. **Assaf Gilad**. Dr. Pelled is a Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Radiology and Neuroscience, and is the Chief of the Division of Neuroengineering for MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering. Dr. Gilad is Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Radiology, and is the Chief of the Division of Synthetic Biology and Regenerative Medicine in the Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering. Both look forward to engaging in collaborative research with Israeli counter-parts, contributing to study abroad opportunities in Israel, and joining our intellectual community.

As Israel celebrates its 70th year this May, we have several Israel-focused highlights for this spring. We are enthusiastic to have **Etgar Keret** back at MSU. He is an Israeli author who is internationally acclaimed for his short stories, graphic novels, and scripts for TV and films. His many books have been published in 30 languages and have been best sellers in Israel. To lay the groundwork for Keret's visit, we will reprise the successful “reading group” model we initiated for David Grossman's visit: students, faculty, and community members are invited to join a discussion of his latest memoir, *The Seven Good Years*, the week before he arrives (complementary copies available for participants through Jewish Studies). Keret will then join us to discuss his work, followed by an evening lecture focused on his memoir. He is also a fantastic story teller in person! We will also be holding our 13th annual Israeli Film Festival, highlighting four very recent award-winning films. In commemoration of the 70th anniversary, we include a documentary on Ben-Gurion which highlights never-before-seen interviews and insights, as well as some humorous scenes.

We are also offering exciting programming in American Jewish history and in Holocaust Studies. Our Rabin/Brill Holocaust Memorial Lecture will be delivered by **James E. Young**, the Distinguished University Professor of English and Judaic Studies Emeritus and Founding Director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In this illustrated lecture, Professor Young will trace an “arc of memorial vernacular” from the “Memorial to the Deportees” in Paris, to Maya Lin's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to German counter-monuments and the Berlin Denkmal, to Michael Arad's design for the 9/11 Memorial in New York City. Drawing on his experience as juror on both the Denkmal and 9/11 Memorial design competitions, Dr. Young will reflect on how they came to be and what they may portend for future national memorials in America, Europe, and Israel. On a lighter note, in his interactive, multimedia lecture, Professor **Ted Merwin**, Associate Professor of Judaic Studies at Dickinson College, will trace the use of sexual themes in an array of films, TV shows and stand-up routines, ranging from Eddie Cantor's *Whoopee* to Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* to “The Contest” episode of *Seinfeld* to the audacious comedy of Sarah Silverman and Sacha Baron Cohen. He will analyze sex in American Jewish popular entertainment to suggest that Jews opened a space for themselves in America partly through their unusual frankness and openness about sexuality.

Finally, we would like to thank **Lynne Goldstein**, for her immense contribution to Jewish Studies as an affiliate for the past 22 years. Her teaching, research, intellectual contributions, and service will be missed as she retires this summer. Please see the tribute to her in this newsletter, with information about her talk and the lunch in her honor.

— **Yael Aronoff**, Professor and Director of Jewish Studies

CONGRATULATIONS!


*The Jewish Studies Program wishes a hearty congratulations to Dr. **Lynne Goldstein**, faculty affiliate, who retires this summer after working at MSU for 22 years.*

Dr. Goldstein is Professor and former Chair of the Department of Anthropology and an accomplished archaeologist. She has been an affiliate of our Jewish Studies Program since 1996 when she came to MSU. In teaching ISS315: “Global Diversity & Interdependence: The Jewish Experience,” Dr. Goldstein likes demonstrating to students, through archeology, the historical depth and geographic spread of Judaism. Her research in mortuary practices—how treatment of the dead through time and across cultures reflects core beliefs — intersects with Jewish Studies.

She writes, “my research is focused in the United States, and I have primarily focused on two time periods - around 1000 CE in the Midwest, and the 19th century US. I keep in touch with a number of archaeological colleagues in Israel, and one of my specialties is the analysis of mortuary sites. In the latter capacity, I have worked with issues of identity, genocide, and ethical treatment of the dead - topics that clearly apply to Jewish Studies.”

Dr. Goldstein was Publications Director of the Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association, and she has also been editor of *American Antiquity* as well as Anthropology and Archaeology consultant for the *Encarta World English Dictionary*. Most of her books and articles are on the archaeology of the eastern US or mortuary analysis and the ethics of archaeology. Before arriving at MSU, Dr. Goldstein taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for 21 years.

Yael Aronoff reflects that “Lynne Goldstein has made a long-lasting valuable contribution to Jewish Studies and will be missed. She always adds intellectually to our community and is generous with her time and service.” Lynne Goldstein will be presenting her research this March followed by a lunch in her honor.



Jewish Studies has always offered a welcoming community of scholars where I have felt comfortable and valued. While my plans include a move away from East Lansing, I hope to maintain my ties to the program.

JEWISH STUDIES OFFERS HONORS COLLEGE SEMINAR ON STUDYING THE HOLOCAUST

Jewish Studies faculty are leading a 2017-2018 Honors College Seminar entitled "History and Testimony in the Digital Age: Studying the Holocaust." These seminars are designed to support entry-level engagement in undergraduate research and the creative arts.

According to the Honors College, the seminars attract "talented and motivated students." And that is what Jewish Studies faculty leading the course, **Amy Simon** (History and James Madison College) and **Steve Weiland** (Education), have found in "History and Testimony." The seven students, four men and three women, are all undergraduates with majors from mechanical engineering to criminal justice.

The 3 credit seminar runs for an entire academic year, with the fall semester organized around regular classroom meetings while the spring semester is devoted to independent research activities with faculty guidance. The Honors College/Jewish Studies seminar addresses these questions: 1) What can be learned about the Holocaust from the perspective of those who survived to tell their stories? 2) What are the best methods for learning from testimony as a form of historical evidence? And 3) How can the evidence of testimony best be incorporated into Holocaust research and presented, including the uses of digital resources?

As the questions show, the seminar is intended to capitalize on digital resources in doing research. Thus, student projects will feature the acclaimed University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive. MSU has gained access to the Archive, the most extensive of its kind in the world, with a generous gift from **Edward Brill and Leslie Van Brandt**, in memory of their brother, Michael. The Archive contains more than 52,000 video interviews with survivors and witnesses to genocide.

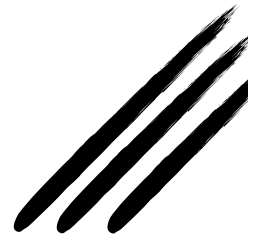
In the fall 2017 semester Simon and Weiland read and discussed with seminar students Doris Bergan's *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (3rd Ed., 2016). Class sessions focused on the unfolding of the Holocaust against the backdrop of 20th century Jewish experience and the rise of Nazism. Bergan says that she herself "draws on personal accounts to not only illustrate but also to complicate general claims." Such is the approach to studying the Holocaust used in seminar, with its attention to the Archive. Bergan's book also features many photographs, with accounts of them that help to reveal their utility in Holocaust education. Seminar students have been attentive readers and have become adept at seeing what photography can add to historical inquiry.

A key instructional feature of the seminar is the work that MSU Jewish Studies librarian **Deborah Margolis** (collaborating with Digital Humanities librarian **Megan Kudzia**) are doing in guiding students in using the Shoah Archive. In the fall they conducted Archive-based sessions in the course and in the spring 2018 semester they will have roles, with Simon and Weiland (and with other Jewish Studies faculty), in preparing students to present their work at the annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, to be held on April 13, 2018 at the MSU Union. Students are also invited to present their work at the Jewish Studies Undergraduate Research Conference.

—Dr. **Steve Weiland**, Professor and Former Director



COMBATING ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS



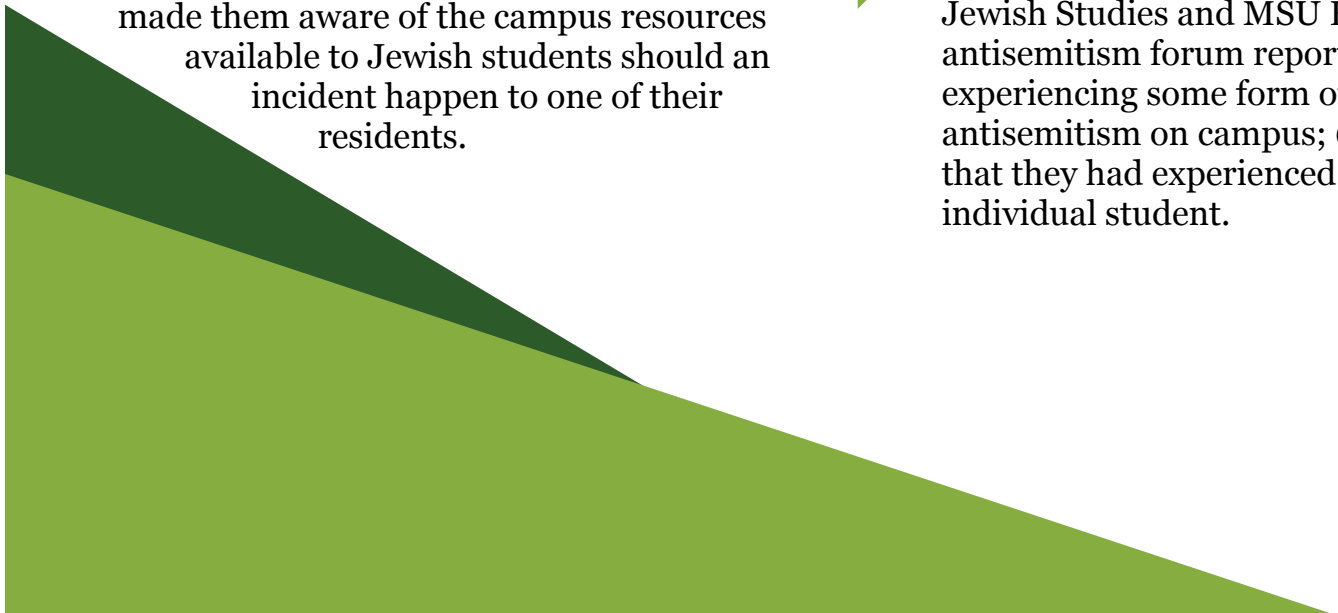
On January 6th, 2017, the Jewish Studies Program partnered with the Anti-Defamation League and MSU Hillel to teach Residential Advisors how to identify, combat, and report antisemitism. Participants in these two training sessions were Director **Yael Aronoff**, former Director **Ken Waltzer**, Professors **Kirsten Fermaglich** and **Amy Simon**, former Office of Institutional Equity Investigator **Mwanaisha Sims**, former RA and current Hillel Jewish Student Life Coordinator **Nate Strauss**, alum **Brad Isakson**, Jewish Studies Minor **Kaila Waineo**, and Anti-Defamation League representatives **Heidi Budaj** and **Arleen Platt**.

About one hundred residential advisors attended the workshop and learned about the history of antisemitism in the United States, older antisemitic tropes and stereotypes, and new forms of antisemitism—including its manifestations relative to the State of Israel. The Anti-Defamation League representatives then conducted exercises with the RAs, posing questions based on actual instances of antisemitism that have occurred on MSU's campus. Finally, Nate Strauss and Kaila Waineo advised the RAs on strategies to make their halls more welcome to Jewish students, and made them aware of the campus resources available to Jewish students should an incident happen to one of their residents.

Both inside and outside of the classroom, the Jewish Studies Program seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination on campus. In the face of rising levels of discrimination and antisemitism, the Jewish Studies Programs keeps a vigilant eye on the campus climate and will again partner with the Anti-Defamation League and MSU Hillel and train RAs this January.

STATISTICS

- ▶ According to MSU Hillel, approximately 7% of MSU students identify as Jewish.
- ▶ According to the Michigan Anti-Defamation League, 1,266 antisemitic incidents reported in Michigan in 2016.
- ▶ A recent study done by the Brandeis Center and Trinity College revealed that 54% of Jewish students in the 50 colleges surveyed—including MSU—report being subject to or witnessing antisemitism on their campus.
- ▶ 80% of students who attended MSU Jewish Studies and MSU Hillel's 2016 antisemitism forum reported experiencing some form of antisemitism on campus; 64% said that they had experienced it from an individual student.



LAKEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL CLASS CONDUCTS HOLOCAUST RESEARCH AT MSU LIBRARIES

In October 2017, **Scott Durham**'s World at War class from Lakeview High School (LHS) in Battle Creek, MI visited the Michigan State University Main Library to participate in a special research project related to the Holocaust. **Margaret Lincoln**, the LHS librarian, and Durham collaborated with **Deborah Margolis**, Middle East Studies & Anthropology librarian and liaison to Jewish Studies at MSU, to create a unique learning opportunity for the students.

MSU Libraries agreed to host a "research sprint" where the students would research a specific event during a defined time period using online collections. The goal of the visit was to contribute research to the History Unfolded project established by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, DC.

For the first part of their visit, the students heard from **Kirsten Fermaglich**, associate professor of History and Jewish Studies at MSU, on the structure of newspapers and how they provide insights into the past. They discussed problems and opportunities in primary sources, implications of knowledge of unjust events, and the contextualization of those events.

One LHS student, **Joe Wood**, found Fermaglich's instruction particularly beneficial, "The best thing about the field trip was the lecture on what to look for in an old newspaper because it really helped me with my findings in my papers."

After Fermaglich's lecture, the students learned how to navigate America's Historical Newspapers database—a resource the class does not have in their school library—under the guidance of Margolis and **Sarah Klimek**, the U.S. History librarian at MSU.

The high school students, along with Fermaglich's college students, searched news articles, looking at how American newspapers reported about (or didn't report about) Nazi persecution during the 1930s and 1940s. They searched *The Detroit News*, a mainstream Detroit daily newspaper, as well as *The Michigan Chronicle*, a weekly African American newspaper. After that, they reflected on the research in group discussions.

Many of the students were surprised how blind the U.S. and the rest of the world was to what was going on during the Holocaust. Durham, who is currently pursuing his doctorate in MSU's Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education program, later engaged his students in a critical discussion, helping them to make sense of their findings and make connections to issues of discrimination and genocide that the world faces today.

The students successfully submitted their research findings to the History Unfolded project and are now among 2,032 researchers from across the country who have contributed articles to the national database. As of today, more than 13,600 articles on Holocaust-related topics from local newspapers have been contributed thanks to "citizen historians" like the LHS students.

Overall, the visit was a valuable experience for Durham's World at War class. The students learned how to research a large database in an academic library, learned more about the horrible impact of the Holocaust on the world through primary source materials, and contributed to a meaningful project.

— **Katie Diamond**, Social Media and Marketing Coordinator, MSU Libraries



Photos by Shelby Kroske and Margaret Lincoln

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MSU JEWISH STUDIES SPONSORED EVENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th, 10:00-11:30am

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

NARRATIVE APOLOGETICS AND JEWISH OBSERVANCE: THE SABBATH, ONCE MORE

Wells Hall B-243

Dr. **Steve Weiland** will present a paper, "Narrative Apologetics and Jewish Observance: The Sabbath, Once More." He considers journalist Judith Shulevitz and her acclaimed book, *The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time*. She offers a vivid historical and autobiographical account of the Sabbath and what it means today, including the impact of technology on Jewish practices.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 7:00-8:30pm

GUEST LECTURE

BETWEEN THE SHEETS: SEX IN JEWISH CULTURE

255 Old Horticulture

In this talk, Dr. **Ted Merwin**, Associate Professor of Judaic Studies at Dickinson College, argues that Judaism's characterization as a "worldly" religion in which the pleasures of the body are openly celebrated goes only part of the way to explain the ubiquitous nature of erotic themes in American Jewish culture. Tracing the use of sexual themes in an array of films, TV shows and stand-up routines—ranging from Eddie Cantor's *Whoopie* and Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* to "The Contest" episode of *Seinfeld* and the audacious comedy of Sarah Silverman and Sacha Baron Cohen—Dr. Merwin will plumb the depths of the interest in sex in American Jewish popular entertainment to suggest that Jews opened a space for themselves in America partly through their unusual frankness and openness about sexuality.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 5:30-7:00pm

BOOK DISCUSSION

DISCUSSING ETGAR KERET'S BOOK: *THE SEVEN GOOD YEARS: A MEMOIR*

Wells Hall B-342

In anticipation of his Feb. 21st visit to MSU, faculty, students, and community members are welcome to discuss **Etgar Keret's** recent book *The Seven Good Years: A Memoir* (Riverhead Books, 2016). Complimentary advance copies of the book for attendees are available upon request at the Jewish Studies office (Wells Hall C-730).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 4:00-5:30pm (panel); 7:30-9:00pm (public lecture)

PANEL DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC LECTURE

AN EVENING WITH ETGAR KERET

Panel discussion with Keret in Wells Hall B-342; public lecture by Keret in the James Madison College Library (332 Case Hall)

Internationally acclaimed for his short stories, **Etgar Keret** is hailed as the voice of young Israel. Rarely extending beyond three or four pages, Keret's stories fuse the banal with the surreal, and offer a window on a surreal world that is both dark and comic. His books are bestsellers in Israel and have been published in over thirty languages. His books include *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God*, *Missing Kissinger*, *The Nimrod Flipout*, *The Girl on the Fridge*, and *Suddenly a Knock on the Door*, which became an instant bestseller in Israel. Keret will join us for both a faculty-moderated panel discussion on his work, and an evening lecture in which he will discuss *The Seven Good Years: A Memoir*, in which he contemplates moments of his life against a backdrop of constant conflict, casting an absurd light on both the monumental and mundane. In 2016 Keret was awarded The Charles Bronfman Prize, for work inspiring Jewish values and having global impact.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 10:00-11:30am

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

IMPERFECT HUMANS AND HUMAN BEASTS

Wells Hall B-243

MSU William and Audrey Farber Family Endowed Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History Dr. **Amy Simon** will present her current research, which utilizes a close reading of diaries written in the Warsaw and Vilna ghettos during World War II to analyze ghetto inhabitants' perceptions of the Germans and Jews who caused them suffering, ultimately revealing a changing conception of humanity and moral universe over time.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14th, 7:00-8:30pm

PANEL DISCUSSION

ANTI-SEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

James Madison College Library (332 Case Hall)

Panel on recognizing and combating antisemitism and Islamophobia. Participants: **Yael Aronoff**, **Amy Simon**, **Kirsten Fermaglich**, and **Mohammed Khalil** (Religious Studies and Muslim Studies). Additional participants TBA.

SPRING 2018

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 10:00-11:30am

JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR

WHY LEARN ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY AND JEWS?

Wells Hall B-243

Jewish Studies faculty member **Lynne Goldstein**, who retires this summer, will reflect on her work and her decision to offer an ISS course entitled “The Jewish Experience.” The idea, she says, was for a class that would focus on the history of Jews and Jewish communities around the world, beginning with archaeological evidence. “The two points that I wanted to get across was the fact that archaeology can provide much more than a simple check on items in the Bible, and also that Jews can be found around the world in many different communities for many different reasons, and this is not a modern phenomenon. This talk will highlight some of the many things I learned from designing the course, and some of the lessons I have learned from archaeology and Jewish history.” Following the talk, Jewish Studies will hold a lunch from 11:30am until 1:00pm in Professor Goldstein’s honor.

MONDAY, APRIL 9th, 7:00-8:30pm

RABIN/BRILL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL LECTURE

THE STAGES OF MEMORY: REFLECTIONS ON MEMORIAL ART, LOSS, AND THE SPACES BETWEEN

Kellogg Center’s Lincoln Room

In this illustrated lecture, Dr. **James E. Young**, Distinguished University Professor and Founding Director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, will trace what he calls an “arc of memorial vernacular” from the “Memorial to the Deportees” in Paris, to Maya Lin’s design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to German counter-monuments and the Berlin Denkmal, to Michael Arad’s design for the 9/11 Memorial in New York City. Drawing on his experience as juror on both the Denkmal and 9/11 Memorial design competitions, he will reflect on how they came to be and what they may portend for future national memorials in America, Europe, and Israel.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15th, 1:00-8:45pm; and MONDAY, APRIL 16th, 7:30-9:15pm

FILM FESTIVAL

THE ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 15th, Wells Hall B-122; Monday, April 16th, Wells Hall B-117

The Jewish Studies Program will show four full-length Israeli films: *The Women’s Balcony*, *An Israeli Love Story*, *A Quiet Heart*, and *Ben Gurion, Epilogue*. See pages nine and ten for more information on the festival. Introductions to each film and discussion afterwards will be led by a director, actor, or MSU faculty member. Professor **Yore Kedem** will introduce and lead the discussion for *A Quiet Heart*. Other discussants TBA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20th, 9:00-5:00pm

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

JEWISH STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

James Madison College Library (332 Case Hall)

Students will present projects from their Jewish Studies courses and are joined for a lunch with Jewish Studies alumni.

MSU JEWISH STUDIES CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st: 4:45-5:45pm, film screening; 7:00-8:30pm, Ted Merwin lecture

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

DELI MAN

Wells Hall B-342

Congregation Kehillat Israel will screen *Deli Man*, a documentary featuring Ziggy Gruber, a third-generation delicatessen owner and maven (as well as a Yiddish-speaking French trained chef) who currently operates one of the country’s top delis, Kenny and Ziggy’s in Houston. Participants may join for a dinner of deli sandwiches (must be pre-ordered by Stateside Deli) from 6:00-7:00pm. Following the dinner and screening, Professor **Ted Merwin** will present “Where Harry Met Sally: the Jewish Deli in Pop Culture” and discuss how the Jewish deli and its fare have become an iconic part of American popular entertainment.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30th, 7:00-8:30pm

GUEST LECTURE AND ANTI-SEMITISM FORUM

ALT RIGHT: A PRIMER ABOUT THE NEW WHITE SUPREMACY

MSU Union Lake Huron Room

Heidi Budaj, the Michigan Regional Director for the Anti-Defamation League, will discuss modern day antisemitism and white supremacist recruitment techniques. A formal presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. Students will also have an opportunity to share personal experiences and give valuable feedback to help ensure a safe campus environment. Sponsored by the Jewish Student Union, Official State of Michigan Holocaust Commemoration Committee and the Jewish Studies Program at Michigan State University.

MSU JEWISH STUDIES PRESENTS THE

2018 ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

*Festival committee: Yael Aronoff, Yael
Katzir, Yore Kedem, Ellen Rothfeld, Kaila
Waino and Jerry Weiss.*



Photo from *An Israeli Love Story* (2017)

thirteenth annual
**ISRAELI FILM
FESTIVAL**

Sunday, April 15th,
1:00-8:45pm
Wells Hall B-122

A Quiet Heart • *An Israeli Love
Story* • *The Women's Balcony*

Monday, April 16th,
7:30-9:15pm
Wells Hall B-117
Ben Gurion, Epilogue

Subtitles in English.
Complimentary dinner
catered by Woody's
provided after *An
Israeli Love Story*.



FILM SELECTION

SUNDAY, APRIL 15th — Wells Hall B-122

A Quiet Heart • *לב שקט מאד*

1:00-3:00pm. Hebrew. A film by Eitan Anner, 2016.

Naomi, a secular young woman, tries to escape the pressure of her life as a concert pianist by moving from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. She quickly makes two unexpected connections, one with an ultra-Orthodox young man, and the other with Fabrizio, a charismatic Italian monk and organist. Voted Best Screenplay, Haifa International Film Festival 2016; Grand Prize, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2016.

An Israeli Love Story • *סיפור אהבה ארץ ישראלי*

3:30-5:30pm. Hebrew. A film by Dan Wilman, 2017.

Based on the true story of the love affair between Pnina Gary from Nahalal and Eli Ben-Zvi, son of Rachel Yanait and Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, second president of the State of Israel. Set during the turbulent period of pre-state Israel. Received Best Actress Audience Award to Adi Bielski at Golden Roster, One Hundred Flower Festival (The Chinese Oscar). Followed by a complimentary dinner catered by Woody's Oasis Mediterranean Deli.

The Women's Balcony • *ישמה חתני*

6:30-8:45pm. Hebrew. A film by Shlomit Nehama.

An accident during a bar mitzvah celebration leads to a rift in a devout Orthodox community in Jerusalem in this rousing, good-hearted tale about women speaking truth to patriarchal power. Nominated for five Israeli Academy Awards; *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* Critics' Pick, Israel's #1 Film of the Year.

MONDAY, APRIL 16th — Wells Hall B-117

Ben Gurion, Epilogue • *בן גוריון, אפילוג*

7:30-9:15pm. Hebrew. A film by Yariv Mozer.

The year is 1968. In previously unseen footage, 82-year-old David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founding prime minister, provides his perspective on challenges Israel is facing at that time and his vision for the future of the State. This film presents new insights and Ben Gurion's unique sense of humor. Won the 2017 Israeli Film and TV Academy Award for Best Documentary.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

MACKENZIE CATER '17

Mackenzie is a senior in James Madison College with a Major in International Relations and German and a Minor in Jewish Studies. This past summer she participated in the Israel study abroad and, under Dr. Yael Aronoff's guidance, studied the transition of Bedouin women into higher education. "This opportunity was like no other, as it further revealed the dynamic and complex landscape of one of Israel's minority groups, the Bedouins. Following the transition of these women into university settings was fascinating and moreover a very rewarding experience." Mackenzie recently completed her senior seminar with Dr. Aronoff in which she examined the implications of Twitter in asymmetric warfare with a focus on Israel's Operation Protective Edge. Mackenzie plans to return to Jerusalem and complete a Masters in International Law and Conflict Resolution, and hopes to work with an international think-tank focusing on negotiations and peace processes.

ANNA CUMMING '18

Anna is earning a double bachelor's degree in History and Political Science Pre-law with minors in Anthropology, Women and Gender Studies, and Jewish Studies. For her Jewish Studies minor, she researched modern antisemitism in the United States and American press coverage of the Nuremberg trials. Her honors thesis, supervised by Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich, examines the experiences of Jewish liberators of Nazi concentration camps in World War II, analyzing expressions of Jewish masculinity and differences in liberation experiences between Jewish and Gentile soldiers. She also investigated whether liberation caused Jewish soldiers to become more involved in activism, such as the Civil Rights or Zionist movements. Over the summer, she conducted research for Dr. Amy Simon's articles pertaining to the use of Holocaust diaries as a teaching resource. After graduating from MSU, she will attend law school where she will focus on international human rights law. "Researching the Nuremberg Trials and

the Holocaust sparked an interest in international human rights law and how lawyers have the power to set human rights standards globally. Using my research skills, as well as my advocacy skills as President of the Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Team on campus, I hope to provide a better legal experience and representation for survivors worldwide." Anna was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship and Gates-Cambridge Scholarship, and is a university nominee for the Truman Scholarship.

AVI DAVIDOFF '08

Avi completed his Jewish Studies Minor, along with his Majors in International Relations and Economics, in 2008. He took *Israeli Politics, Cultures and Society* and *Senior Seminar: Israeli Foreign Policy* with Dr. Aronoff, and *Jews and Antisemitism* with Dr. Waltzer. He joined Goldman Sachs in 2016 in the Investment Management Division as a Private Wealth Advisor. Previously he served as Michigan Area Director for AIPAC for four years, and started his career with PwC and Bank of America. Avi grew up in West Bloomfield, Michigan, and has lived in Chicago since 2008. He serves on the MSU Jewish Studies board, and also recently joined the Chicago chapter of the American Technion Society.

JESSE KELLER '17

Jesse is a senior in James Madison College majoring in International Relations. He says that the Jewish studies minor provided him with a broad understanding of the regional dynamics within the Middle East. "Through Jewish Studies, I was able to study abroad in Israel. It provided me with a life-changing opportunity [...] While studying abroad in Israel, I was able to research post traumatic stress disorder in the IDF under the guidance of Dr. Aronoff. It was incredibly interesting yet also humbling to speak with IDF soldiers with various levels of seniority about their experiences in combat and about their perceptions of PTSD. The conversations I had with these men and women were perhaps the most memorable part of my time abroad."



Mackenzie



Anna



Avi



Jesse

DAVID MINDELL '09

David Mindell graduated from MSU and completed his Jewish Studies Minor in 2009. He took Hebrew courses and *Regional Politics, Cooperation, and Conflict in the Middle East* with Professor Aronoff. David says that concentrating in Jewish and Muslim studies taught him the complexities and history of religion, culture, and politics. "I feel very comfortable speaking about related issues and being an advocate for these communities. As a result, I eventually ran for and was elected to serve as a Representative on MSU's student government (ASMSU) and, later, as President of MSU Hillel's Jewish Student Union. I've continued to be very active in the Jewish community and I am fortunate to serve on boards of several Jewish organizations. Currently, I am a Partner at a nationally recognized plaintiffs' class and mass action law firm, Edelson PC. I help lead a team of attorneys and engineers in investigating and litigating cases involving complex tech fraud and privacy-related violations. I also help lead the firm's Government Affairs practice group, where we work closely with state, county, and local officials on public policy and legislative matters."

PAUL NEWALL '10

Paul Newall graduated from MSU and completed his Jewish Studies Minor in 2010. "Earning my specialization in Jewish Studies had a tremendous benefit for my career. Through the study abroad in Israel opportunities and classes related to Israel and the Middle East, it prepared me very well for my postgraduate work; I earned a Master's in Middle East and Mediterranean Studies from King's College London. The ability to learn from some of the eminent professors in this field equipped me with a very high level of subject matter expertise. The specialization equipped me with the critical thinking and writing skills to grow as a professional in the field of international development."

ALEXIS SPECTOR '20

Alexis Spector is currently a sophomore in James Madison College, majoring in International Relations and minoring in Jewish Studies. This past summer, she participated in the Green Israel study abroad program with Dr. Eric Aronoff. As she puts it, "I am a strong believer that all trips to Israel are a blessing to further explore my heritage and further my knowledge of Jewish Studies. [...] The program allowed me to discover a new passion of environmental policy, which inspired me to pursue a minor in environmental policy and sustainability on top of my already existent minor in Jewish Studies." Alexis has also been working on an independent study in Hebrew with Professor Yore Kedem, examining the American-Israeli relationship from an Israeli perspective through articles, pieces of legislation, and field studies in Hebrew. Alexis hopes eventually to work for AIPAC, and become a lobbyist in Washington D.C.

GRAHAM WISE '19

Graham Wise is a junior who is double majoring in Economics and Political Science. He is also minoring in Jewish Studies. Graham went to Israel on a study abroad this past summer. He says of his experience "it was an incredible trip. It was amazing to be able to live and study in Israel. We got to study under two amazing professors who taught us so much in a short period of time." Graham currently serves as the President of Spartans for Israel. SFI is a bipartisan organization that seeks to strengthen and maintain the American-Israel relationship. Graham is interested in working in a foreign policy related field in the future. He says "that by minoring in Jewish studies, he has been able to critically examine issues pertaining to Israel and has been able to expand his horizons as a student."

**David****Paul****Alexis****Graham**

MSU JEWISH STUDIES WELCOMES TWO NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY



DR. GALIT PELLÉD NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY

Galit Pelled is Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Department of Radiology, and Chief of the Neuroengineering division of the Institute of Quantitative Health Sciences and Engineering. Her research program focuses on understanding how injury changes neuronal connections, how neuromodulation impacts these changes, and how these changes affect recovery. She received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Hebrew University. Before coming to MSU, she served as an Associate Professor of Radiology at the John Hopkins School of Medicine and Kennedy Krieger Institute and completed her post-doctoral fellowship in the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.



DR. ASSAF GILAD NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY

Assaf Gilad is Chief of the Division of Synthetic Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering at MSU. He has authored 66 peer reviewed scientific papers, co-authored 7 patents, and developed novel biosensors (genetically encoded reporters and nanoparticles) by combining cutting edge molecular and synthetic biology tools with advanced biomedical imaging technologies. He received his Ph.D. in Life Sciences from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. Before coming to MSU this year, he served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Radiology and the Institute for Cell Engineering at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Both Dr. Gilad and Dr. Pelled are enthusiastic about promoting research collaboration between MSU scholars and Israeli scholars and Israeli institutions, participating in and expanding study abroad opportunities in Israel, and joining our intellectual community.

ACADEMIC NEWS

Yael Aronoff wrote a chapter entitled “Israeli Prime Ministers: Transforming the Victimhood Discourse,” for the forthcoming volume *Victimhood*, Ed. Ilan Peleg (Roman & Littlefield, 2018). She will be a discussant for a panel on Israeli Citizenship for a conference on Citizenship Studies at Wayne State University in April. She will also be giving a talk on Israeli Prime Ministers at Temple Tifereth in Cleveland, Ohio in April, as well as discussing new right wing narratives as part of a panel on “the New Politics of Israel” at the Israel Institute conference in New York City in June. Dr. Aronoff will participate in several capacities in the Annual Meeting of the Association of Israel Studies, June 25-27, at the Berkeley Institute of Jewish Law and Israel Studies: she is Co-Chair for the International Relations division; she is a member of the Board of Directors; she chairs the Kimmerling Award selection committee for the best graduate paper presentation; she will participate in a roundtable on “Israel and the World;” and will present her current research on the dilemmas of asymmetric wars.

In December, **Kirsten Fermaglich** received a university HARP grant for the production of her book, *A Rosenberg By Any Other Name*, scheduled for publication by NYU Press in Fall 2018. She also presented her research on Jewish, Chinese and Latino name-changing at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Washington, DC. In June, she will participate in a panel on the relationship between Religious Studies and American Jewish History at the Biennial Scholars Conference in Philadelphia.

Steve Gold's “Israeli Infotech Migrants in Silicon Valley” will appear in the January 2018 issue of *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, New Immigrant Labor Market Niches Vol 4, Issue 1. His review of Nina Michalikova's *New Eastern European immigrants in the United States* (Palgrave Macmillan 2017) appeared in the October 2017 issue of *Choice*. Dr. Gold presented “Israeli and Indian Infotech Migrants in Silicon Valley and Beyond” at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting on August 12th, 2017 and gave concluding remarks “Choosing a Career in Migration Studies During a Period of Hostility to Migrants” at the Migration without Boundaries: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on Migration at Michigan State University on October 7, 2017.

Lev Raphael has received a travel grant from Jewish Studies to do site research in Ghent and interview University of Ghent faculty. This Jewish-themed novel would be his 26th book and is set in medieval Flanders.

Amy Simon will teach one hundred Residential Advisors on January 5, 2018 how to identify, combat and report anti-Semitism. She will present her research in a presentation entitled “Imperfect Humans and Human Beasts” as part of a Jewish Studies faculty/student research seminar on February 23, 2018, and participate in an MSU panel entitled “Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia” on March 14th, 2018.

Kenneth Waltzer will publish “Countering Antisemitism: Integrating the University of California Principles Against Intolerance into Campus Policy and Practice” in a collection of essays on anti-Semitism edited by Corinne Blackmer and Andrew Pessin (U. Wisconsin Press). He will also speak in April 2018 on “Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism” at the University of California at Davis and on “The Rescue of Children at Buchenwald” at Syracuse University. On January 25, 2018, he will present on “Free Speech and Disruption on Campus” at a Symposium on the First Amendment and Campus Disruption and Violence, to occur at Northwestern University Law School.

Steve Weiland presented a paper at the annual conference of the Midwest Jewish Studies Association (October 2017 at Wayne State): “Parallax Jew: Samuel Heilman in Jerusalem.” He will also present “Narrative Apologetics and Jewish Observance: The Sabbath, Once More” as part of a Jewish Studies faculty/student research panel.

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