

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FALL 2018

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th and MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

#### ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

#### ISRAEL AT 70: COMPLEXITY, CHALLENGE, AND CREATIVITY

The Kellogg Center (Lincoln Room on the 16th and Red Cedar Room on the 17th)

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and reflect on that history, the Michigan State University Jewish Studies Program is very proud to sponsor its largest academic conference ever. For more information, see pages 3 to 5 of this newsletter.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10th, 7:00-8:30pm

#### STANLEY AND SELMA HOLLANDER JEWISH MUSIC AND ART EVENT

#### PERFORMANCE BY TEIKU - THE SEDER PROJECT

Location TBA

**Jonathan Taylor** and **Josh Harlow** were both raised Jewish, claiming ancestors from Ukrainian-Jewish communities in two villages that have disappeared, victims of pogroms and the Holocaust. Strikingly, both grew up with a set of songs, intended to be sung on Passover, that are traced back to their respective ancestral villages and are, so far as they know, completely unique to their families. Upon discovering this amazing coincidence, they started a new project, Teiku (which means "unanswered question"), to document, perform, and breathe new life into these beautiful old melodies. They aim to situate traditional cultural melodies and traditional spirituality in a forward-looking context.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 7:00-8:30pm

#### JONATHAN NETANYAHU LECTURE

#### THE CHALLENGE IS NOT HOLOCAUST DENIAL, BUT VULGARIZATION, TRIVIALIZATION, MINIMIZATION

#### AND FALSIFICATION BY FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE

Club Spartan, Case Hall (3rd Floor)

When Holocaust denial first began in the early 1980's, people were fearful of its consequences. Increased and improved scholarship, the self-destruction of David Irving in 2000, and the departure of Iranian President Ahmadinejad have diminished the challenge of denial. Dr. **Michael Berenbaum** will discuss how important new challenges to our understanding of the Holocaust and its role in public discourse are now more pressing and potentially more dangerous.

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

#### ANNUAL KESSLER FILM

#### GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II

MSU Main Library's Green Room (4th Floor West)

For the annual Kessler film, the Jewish Studies Program will show *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II*. This film tells the story, in their own words, of the hundreds of thousands of Jewish Americans who fought in World War II. They describe how they fought for their country and their people, struggled with anti-Semitism, and emerged from the war transformed as both Americans and Jews. The film's director, **Lisa Ades**, will introduce and discuss the film afterwards.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 3:00-5:00pm

#### GUEST PANEL

#### JEWS, GENDER, AND DIFFERENCE IN THE US ARMED FORCES: A HISTORICAL DISCUSSION

B-342 Wells Hall

The Jewish Studies Program will sponsor a panel exploring what Jewish soldiers' historical experiences have to tell us about religious outsiders and the military today. Panelists include **Ronit Stahl**, an Assistant Professor of History at the University of California, Berkeley; **Jessica Cooperman**, an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Muhlenberg College; and **Kirsten Fermaglich**, an Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies at MSU.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 7:00-8:30pm

#### GUEST LECTURE

#### ASHKENAZIM, SEPHARDIM, ROMANIOTS? BOOK OF YOSIPPON AS A MODEL FOR THE SHOAH

James Madison College Library (332 Case Hall)

Dr. **Steven Bowman** of the University of Cincinnati recently translated *Sepher Yosippon* and will tie this important work to the origins of Sepharad, Ashkenaz, and the Romaniots and also its ramifications for the Shoah. *Sepher Yosippon* has been the most popular read for Jews, Christians, and many Muslims in multiple languages for the past 1000 years. It is the first history of the Second Temple period from Cyrus to Titus since Josephus Flavius' Jewish War with the Romans that led to the destruction of Jerusalem, its Temple, and the power of the priestly class. It is traditionally read on Tisha be Av, the Ninth of Av.