

D R E X E L U N I V E R S I T Y

The Judaic Studies Program

“Without knowledge, how can there be discernment?”
(Judah HaNasi. Jerusalem Talmud: Berakhot 5.2)



THE JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM

The Address for Jewish Education and Culture at Drexel University.

Greetings!

It is an honor for me to welcome you to the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Judaic Studies Program at Drexel.

In August, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Drexel University as one of this country's most innovative universities. We have demonstrated that spirit in many ways, from being the first to make our entire campus wireless in 2000, to opening a new Center for Graduate Studies in Sacramento, California, in January 2009. We are internationally respected for the ways that we have integrated technology into the way we teach.

But in a world that grows flatter every day, where information flows 24/7 through devices of increasing variety and decreasing size, universities must hold even tighter to their historic missions of celebrating the richness and diversity of peoples and cultures and teaching the lessons of history.

The Judaic Studies Program is the perfect example of the enrichment we are proud to provide at Drexel. For ten years it has woven archaeology, song, ritual, poetry, faith, literature, history, custom, art, dance, work, psychology, and technology into a tapestry that has brought generations together, and inspired student, senior and child alike.

Ten years ago, in September 1998, I was pleased when Dr. Rakhmiel Peltz was appointed the first Director of Judaic Studies and showed such interest in the study of religion, ethnicity, and immigration. He has achieved more than anyone could have anticipated. I know you will join me in celebrating his efforts and this wonderful Program. I urge you to give it your personal support so that it has the resources that it will need to continue its important work for yet another decade.

Congratulations to Dr. Peltz and to all who have helped to make the Judaic Studies Program at Drexel such a success!

Sincerely,

Constantine Papadakis, Ph.D.
President



Pres. Papadakis greets Harry Stern, '44 '56, at the dedication of the Harry Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room.

The College of Arts and Sciences enjoys the unique privilege of educating all Drexel students, not only in the sciences, but also in the humanities and social sciences, which provide a historical, psychological, cultural and literary context to our students' studies. It is this interdisciplinary approach, together with the sense of community afforded by our small college atmosphere, that ignites in our students the skills and passion necessary to succeed in a diverse, global, and ever-changing world.

Over 10 successful years, the Judaic Studies program has continually demonstrated the ideals of the College of Arts and Sciences. With courses ranging from Jewish Spirituality and the Psychology of Happiness, to Jewish American Writers, to Biblical Archeology, the program has found creative and insightful ways to examine Jewish culture. Their countless lectures, art exhibits, films and special events, along with their intergenerational ethnic education programs, have redefined the college classroom and reinforced the sense of community that is so essential to our College.

The great success of the Judaic Studies program would not have been possible without the energy and enthusiasm of Dr. Rakhmiel Peltz. Dr. Peltz's commitment to the whole

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

FROM DREAM . . . TO REALITY

Ten years of providing educational and cultural programs for our students, the Drexel community, Philadelphia, and the world!

Interview with Founding Faculty Members

“We operated in a fog...in a daze,” he said, his voice low and deep. We had little or no notion of what a Judaic Studies program could be.” His deep voice is captivating; it invites me into his story—or rather the history of Drexel University’s Judaic Studies program.

“He” is Dr. Arthur Shostak, Professor Emeritus of Sociology. With the help of Dr. Doreen Steg, Professor of Human Development, Dr. Jerold Muskin, Professor of Marketing, and Dr. William Rosenberg, Professor of Politics, the plans for the program were laid out. As it turned out, Muskin knew

about the program at Lehigh University and arranged a visit. The 1996 visit to Lehigh was very inspiring. “That day we had seen that it was real, that it was possible,” Shostak said. Shortly afterwards, Muskin retired, and Rosenberg picked up the ball in his place. The youngest and perhaps most energetic of the four, Rosenberg had joined the committee when, he says, they “seemed to be floundering.” The hopeful committee faced “bureaucratic after bureaucratic problem. We were uncertain of whether the authorities would ever go along,” Shostak said. “We did not identify Drexel University as fertile ground.” After much perseverance, however, the goal was met. The Faculty Senate at the university approved a minor in Judaic Studies in 1997. It was a meaningful step for those involved; the program had been on the drawing board for years, with certain of the initiators having reached or nearing retirement.



Dr. William Rosenberg at a Judaic Studies Faculty Committee meeting.



Donna Murasko speaks at the dedication of the Helen and Stanley Segal Holocaust Book Collection.

person, and to the power of interaction across lines of diversity, is the embodiment of the principles of the Judaic Studies program.

I am proud to have both Dr. Peltz and the Judaic Studies program as part of the College of Arts and Sciences and Drexel University.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Murasko, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

In addition to the program’s approval, the funding opportunity enabled the hiring of a program director. Dr. Rakhmiel Peltz came to Drexel from Columbia University, where he was the director of the Yiddish Studies program. “He was very much sought after once the group met him,” Rosenberg recalls. Peltz worked to establish a new angle on the program that the committee had not thought of: the outside. “The events that I attend are intergenerational,” Shostak recalls. It is this quality that makes Drexel University’s program so successful. “You don’t have to be Jewish to be engaged in Judaic Studies,” Rosenberg says, “and I think that is one of its strengths.” Shostak added, “We never, Muskin, Rosenberg and I, the three musketeers, we never imagined community outreach. Rakhmiel is owed impossible-to-estimate credit... He’s turned it into something so much better.”

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

A DESIRE TO LEARN

Interview with Dr. Cecilie Goodrich



For Dr. Cecilie Goodrich, the desire to learn more about Jewish culture sparked when she was young; a next-door neighbor returned from Israel where she lived on a kibbutz and showed Goodrich a soprano recorder, a khalil, used in folk dancing. This opened the door to a new world previously unexplored. “I had done some folk dancing, knew very little about Israel, Israeli folk dancing—nothing!” Goodrich said. From then on she got involved; she joined a folk dance group and toured at various festivals. It was this cross-cultural experience that eventually enhanced the vision of Drexel’s Judaic Studies Program.

Dr. Goodrich was the Dean of Drexel University’s College of Arts and Sciences from 1997-2000. Before her years as dean, several faculty members attempted to create a Judaic Studies program, but the dean at the time was uninterested. When Goodrich took the position, however, the wheels turned. Enter Dr. Rakhmiel Peltz. “We were fortunate to meet Dr. Peltz just when he indicated that he might be interested in coming to Philadelphia,” Goodrich said. “We hired him, it was a perfect match. He was exactly what we needed. He crystallized the interest we already had [and] allowed us to get started and bring it into being.”

As if to prove the point that everyone could benefit from a cross-cultural perspective, one of Peltz’s first courses on Yiddish literature filled with students from Malaysia. These Malaysian students -- who were Muslims at that -- came to the United States for training as civil servants, and left with a new perspective of another culture. This appreciation from a foreign group “was exactly what we intended, but it was unexpected in how it happened,” says Goodrich.

If the class with Malaysian students was any indication of how the program would succeed, then good things were certainly to come. Presently, Dr. Goodrich is a professor of bioscience at Drexel University. Flyers continually land in her office mailbox, e-mails in her inbox, advertising the program’s numerous events. It would be difficult to contest the program’s place at the university. “I look at the e-mails and the flyers and smile,” says Goodrich. “It’s doing the things I was hoping it would do.”

Interview with Ruth Nathanson



As the original planners will tell you, the Drexel University Judaic Studies program expanded far beyond what anyone could have imagined. Among those witnessing this expansion was Ruth Nathanson, a key catalyst behind the program’s start. “I assumed it would be for Jewish youngsters,” she says, “but obviously it evolved into something in which others would be interested.” These ‘others’ included Nathanson herself, and not just as a benefactor. “What I enjoyed the most was when I actually attended class,” Nathanson recalls fondly. She attended a Yiddish language course that dealt with the migration of Jewish culture from eastern Europe.

Nathanson’s connection with the JSP began long ago: she is the daughter of the late Louis and Bessie Stein, the benefactors behind the Louis Stein Minor in Judaic Studies. The University approached Nathanson and her sister, Marilyn Bellet (of blessed memory) with the idea for the program. The program would be self-sustaining in three years, she was told, and Nathanson, through the Louis and Bessie Stein Foundation, decided to back the program. Since then, the program has greatly expanded, and today it still benefits from her continuous support.

A CATALYST

This benefaction was no surprise. According to Nathanson, her father was always involved with Drexel University. He established a scholarship at Drexel for exchange students at the Technion in Haifa, Israel, which still continues today, but branches out beyond students. Professors and researchers along with students are eligible for the exchange fellowship, together with their Israeli counterparts. Like the rest of her family, "I support a lot of Jewish causes." Says Nathanson

on her decision to donate the financial support, "I thought that it would be significant to have something like this on the campus." Looking at the growth the program experienced over the years, the initial and ongoing support of the Stein family has enabled the work of the program at Drexel as well as the creative ways that the academic JSP interacts with the university's outside community, a model to be emulated.



JS Students Eric Rosenzweig, '08 and Kady Amado, '10 speak at a JS Advisory Board meeting



Henri Levit (C), JS Advisory Board Chair, with Dr. Edward Ray (L) and Rakhmiel Peltz (R), at the dedication of the Judaic Studies Seminar Room book cabinet donated by the family of Dr. Doreen Ray Steg.



Board members Harriet and Albert Soffa celebrate the JSP 5th Anniversary with Rakhmiel Peltz.

Judaic Studies Advisory Board

Adina Cimet, Ph.D.
D. Walter Cohen, D.D.S.
Susan B. Daroff, '70
Lisa Eizen
Rabbi Aaron Landes
Henri C. Levit, '68, Chair
Bennett Nathanson
Larry Newman, Esq.
George M. Ross, '55
Harriet Soffa
Ellen Weisbord

Albert Soffa, '44, z"l
Harry Stern, '44 '56, z"l



LOUIS STEIN MINOR IN JUDAIC STUDIES

The JSP oversees the Stein Judaic Studies Minor, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and open to undergraduates across the university. Most of the students enroll in the JS courses to complement their studies in other fields, or to use them as general electives. The JS courses and special programs have consistently been offered together with all the humanities and social science departments and programs of the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as with the Film and Video department and the Pearlstein Gallery of the College of Media Arts and Design, the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the College of Engineering, the Hagerty Library, the Division of Student Life, and Hillel. From the onset, it became clear that the JSP courses were adding significantly to the overall university curriculum

The Minor in Judaic Studies requires eight courses, three required core courses, covering the historical development of the Jewish people and its culture, and five electives.

Three Core Courses—



Jewish Literature & Civilization • JUDA 201 • ENGLISH 350

An introduction to the first five books of the Torah, the Jewish Bible, that also explores the influence of the Torah on the Jewish calendar and the daily lives of Jews, including personal and family life cycles.

Jewish Life and Culture in the Middle Ages • JUDA 202 • HISTORY 253

An introductory survey of the history of the Jewish people, their civilization, religion, and contacts with other cultures in medieval times. Topics include the rise of Christianity and Islam, the Talmud, the development of the Jewish community, Jewish mysticism, and the growth of Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewry.



Modern Jewish History • JUDA 203 • HISTORY 249

An exploration of the social, cultural, political and religious forces that have shaped Jewry the world over from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Topics include emancipation and enlightenment, modern religious movements, socialism, Hebrew and Yiddish literature, the Holocaust, Zionism and the state of Israel.

Elective Courses Given by Judaic Studies

Biblical Archeology - Biblical Narrative: Images of Leadership - Jewish Ethical Literature - Jewish Spirituality and the Psychology of Happiness - Jewish Cultural Tapestry - Jewish Women in Literature and History - A Thousand Years of Jewish Life Through Yiddish Literature - Yiddish Literature and Culture - The Holocaust - Holocaust Testimonies - The American Jewish Experience - Language and Cultural Diversity in the USA - Jewish American Writers - Israel: Language and Society - Israeli Cinema - Contemporary Jewish Life - Hebrew Language

WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS?

Hundreds of Drexel students have embraced the JSP courses and programs. Some students learn about their Jewish identity in our classes, and others learn about the parallel lessons that relate to the history of their non-Jewish ancestors. The first JS minors who graduated in June 2003 were Robin Levine, a Psychology major in COAS, and Jeremia Israel, a Business Administration major in the LeBow College of Business.

The Josephine and Julius Cohen Award in Judaic Studies

Each year students who study in the courses of the Judaic Studies Program are eligible for an award given for outstanding achievement in Judaic Studies. Supported by a fund established by JS Advisory Board Member Dr. D. Walter Cohen, Chancellor Emeritus of Drexel University College of Medicine, in memory of his grandparents, the award is publicly announced on Honors Day of the College of Arts and Sciences.

A glance at the record shows what became of some of the Cohen awardee-graduates and provides a gratifying feeling that the JSP has helped guide them in their future creative paths. Pamela Boimel, '04 was performing at Drexel on a voice scholarship, doing research at Fox Chase Cancer Center and was a United Synagogue Youth leader, at the same time she was studying biology and Judaic Studies. She is now pursuing a joint MD-PhD program at Einstein Medical College of Yeshiva University. Christian Blasy, '04 has been a commissioned US Naval officer since leaving Drexel, having been part of Naval ROTC while at the university and studying History and Politics. Erica Green, '05 took a job after graduation at the Eastern State Penitentiary doing development work in conjunction with the renovation and opening of the old synagogue on the Penitentiary grounds. Marshall Rovner, '05 is pursuing an MD degree at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Eric Rosenzweig, '08 is starting the MLIS program at Drexel's I-School, where he will specialize in archival management and continue his interest in Jewish historical documentation.



“With just one prior Jewish studies class before this one, I am finally beginning to understand what it really means to be Jewish ... What was most interesting to me, though, was the fact that they were singing about the same God that I believe in, but with [Jewish] Indian music, in a place that seems so far away.”

--- Courtney Fefer, '03

“I have seen that without memories, this culture would not exist. I see the importance of passing down recollections from generation to generation, “*l'dor v'dor*,” from my experiences as a young girl. My parents and grandparents have always reminded me where my religion and culture have come from, as both of my grandparents are Holocaust survivors.”

--- Shayna Wetzel, '04

DREXEL JUDAIC STUDIES STUDENTS HAVE THE WORD

“At the outset of the project it seemed to me that there is something holy about Yiddish, and that there is a certain way that Hasidim use it to bring out that holiness... For those Hasidim who are completely isolated from the world, it would seem that there is no question about whether they should teach their children Yiddish or English. But for the Hasidim who are putting themselves in the world, Yiddish is more of a conscientious effort. These Hasidim maintain their families’ use of Yiddish not because they perceive it as a holy language, but because they are committed to continuity... Yiddish binds both individuals and generations, and more importantly, it is a means of cleaving to Divinity.”

--- Eric Rosenzweig, '08



Drexel Yiddish Literature students talk with Holocaust survivor Stephen Guzik during an intergenerational program.

“The “Our” [*Our Holocaust* by Amir Gutfreund] in the book’s title can be interpreted as the Jew’s, or the second generation’s, but also humanity’s Holocaust. I appreciated this sentiment. As a non-Jew, I enrolled in this class, not to learn about one minority, but to learn about the systems of oppression that affect all minorities... in a paraphrase of a passage from his novel, he recounted an instance when his grandfather, who had just received a parking ticket, rejoiced in that the ticket was not written in German, but in Hebrew. While this seemed somewhat strange to me at first, it became apparent that Gutfreund was suggesting something about my own freedom as an American. I should be grateful that I am able to live a normal life without the fear of losing my culture and language.”

--- Manna Pourrezaei, '07

Who Is the Staff? Who Are Our Teachers?

Rakhmiel Peltz, Director

Rakhmiel Peltz is the founding Director of the JSP and Professor of Sociolinguistics in the Department of Culture and Communication. He implemented the plan for the program and designed the curricula of the core courses. He teaches the core course on Modern Jewish History, as well as several electives, and works with students on independent work in Judaic Studies.

Kathleen Carll, Associate Director

Kathleen Carll has administered the office and all activities of the JSP since 1999, serving as liaison with other university departments, the JS Advisory Board, and the JS Faculty Committee. A talented graphic artist, she creates all publicity, reports, and the website of the Program (www.drexel.edu/judaicstudies). In addition, she arranges all aspects of the JS public events.

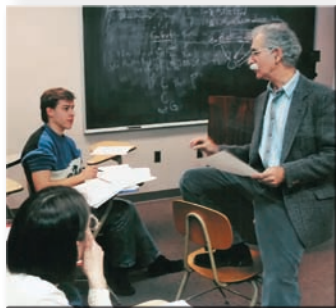


WHO ARE OUR TEACHERS?



Emilie Passow, Auxiliary Professor

Dr. Emilie Passow is an Auxiliary Professor in the Judaic Studies Program and the founding Co-Director of the Certificate Program in Humanities, Health Sciences and Society, in the Department of English and Philosophy. A scholar of English Literature, she has lectured widely on Jewish topics. Since coming to Drexel in 2002 to teach Judaic Studies courses, Dr. Passow has offered a variety of courses on Jewish literature and civilization.



Amiram Amitai, Adjunct Professor

Professor Amitai, a native of Israel, is an independent film maker who produced the documentary, *The Case of Jonathan Pollard* (2001). He served as Artistic Director during the pre-production and early post-production stages of the JS film project on the life and art of Toby Knobel Fluek. From 1999-2002 he taught the JS courses on Israeli culture.

Robert Kovacs, Adjunct Professor

Dr. Kovacs taught in the Judaic Studies Program 1999-2002, bringing to Drexel deep knowledge of Jewish sources and how to present them to younger generations.

Letter from Nihat Bilgutay (1952-2008)

Vernon L. Newhouse Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Associate Dean of Engineering for Assessment and Evaluation



JS Faculty Committee meeting honoring Nihat Bilgutay, January 15, 2008. L to R: Nihat Bilgutay, his daughter, Deniz Bilgutay, and Joseph Alper, performing Turkish music.

I have enjoyed serving on the Judaic Studies Faculty Committee and participating in the meetings and programs the Program organizes, partly because of the long and friendly historical relations between Turks and Jews. I have been very active in the Turkish American Friendship Society of the US and through TAFSUS arranged for the Judaic Studies Program to show the film *Desperate Hours* that recounts the little known story of Turkey helping to save thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Among the attendees at the filmshowing were Professor Emeritus Leon Bahar, saved by the Turkish Consul in Rhodes, and Professor Emeritus Robert Fischl, who later exhibited and presented his cousin Sonya's story through the Judaic Studies Program.

I would like to share the recollections of my parents and their feelings of gratitude regarding their German Jewish professors who fled Nazi Germany and were invited and encouraged to come to Turkey, as shown in the film. They were hired into academic positions in Turkish universities to educate some of the first generations of university students in the new Turkish Republic that had been established in 1923. My mother Dr. Utarit Bilgutay (Ph.D. in Geology) and my father Dr. Sabahattin Bilgutay (M.D., Psychiatrist) were fortunate enough to be educated by these outstanding scholars.

I was also a supporter of the Drexel Co-op initiative in Israel that worked so well for our students. I encouraged engineering students to take part in and attend the meetings relating to the project. Our President Dr. Constantine Papadakis is planning to restart this Co-op program again. Recently, I was also involved in meetings with the Rector of Ben Gurion University. I hope that there will be many beneficial exchanges between Drexel and Israeli institutions.

JUDAIC STUDIES FACULTY COMMITTEE

One of the great strengths of the JSP has been the enthusiastic support of its mission by Drexel's faculty across the university. Being a small program, the JS Faculty committee effectively broadens the work of the program and provides much needed advice and intellectual support.



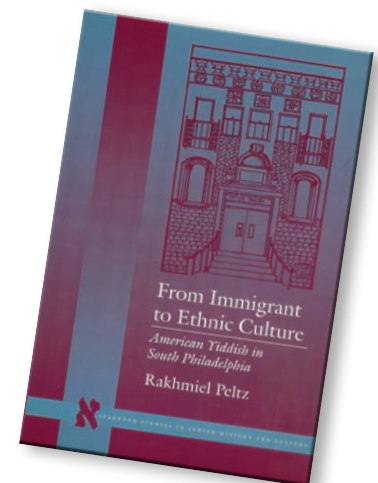
Research, Scholarship, and Creativity

From its inception, the JSP was envisioned as based on a firm tradition of ongoing research in Judaic Studies. Rakhmiel Peltz, a Ph.D.-trained molecular and cell biologist with a second doctorate in linguistics and Yiddish Studies, was recruited to Drexel to continue his research on the social history of Yiddish language and culture. The standing faculty at Drexel, in addition, boasts other professors who contribute scholarly and creative work to many disciplines of Jewish studies.

Moreover, in order to train our students by an enlarged pool of teachers, the JSP has invited to its classes numerous leaders from the worlds of scholarship and artistic creativity. In one year, for example, luminaries such as Jeffrey Tigay (University of Pennsylvania, biblical studies) and Daniel Heller-Roazen (Princeton University, comparative literature) lectured to our students along with scholars at the beginning of their careers, such as Miriam Goldstein (Judeo-Islamic studies), Benjamin Porter (biblical archeology), and Yechiel Schur (medieval studies). Over the years, we have also brought to Drexel the leading creative artists in the Jewish field and have sponsored countless book signings.

The years of the JSP were bookended by the appearance of **Rakhmiel Peltz's** *From Immigrant to Ethnic Culture: American Yiddish in South Philadelphia* (Stanford University Press, 1998) on the one end and, on the other end, the film *Toby's Sunshine* (2008) that he produced. Some of the highlights of Dr. Peltz's scholarly contributions in the intervening years include "Immigrant Neighborhoods That Never Die," in *Still Home* (National Museum of American Jewish History, 2000), "Yiddish: A Language Without An Army Regulates Itself," in *Germanic Standardizations: Past and Present* (Benjamins, 2003), and "The History of Yiddish Studies: Take Notice!," in *Language Loyalty, Continuity and Change* (Multilingual Matters, 2006), a volume he co-edited and to which he contributed an analysis of Joshua Fishman's scholarship in Yiddish Studies. In press, are his chapters, "125 Years of Building Jewish Immigrant Communities in Philadelphia," in *Global Philadelphia* (Temple University Press), "The Sibilants of Northeastern Yiddish: A Study in Linguistic Variation," in *Eydes: Evidence of Yiddish Documented in European Societies* (Niemeyer), and "Telling the American Story: Yiddish and the Narratives of Children of Immigrants," in *AJA Festschrift* (American Jewish Archives). Dr. Peltz is currently editing the work of Uriel Weinreich on Yiddish language and culture in eastern Europe, in order to make it accessible to a new generation of Yiddish scholars in training. During a recent sabbatical leave, he was the Miles Lerman Fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Emanuel Patt/Workmen's Circle Fellow at the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research. Currently, he holds a Stein Israel Research Exchange Fellowship.

Renee Chase - Design
Paula Marantz Cohen - English & Philosophy
Bruce Eisenstein - Electrical & Computer Engineering
Alexis Finger - English & Philosophy
Alexander Fridman - Mech. Engineering & Mechanics
Alexander Friedlander - Culture & Communication
David Gefen - Management
Barbara Hoekje - English Language Center
Tobie Hoffman - English Language Center
Dov Jaron - School of Biomedical Engineering
Miriam Kotzin - English & Philosophy
David Kutzik - Culture & Communication
Peter Lewin - School of Biomedical Engineering
Harriet Millan - University Writing Program
Neal Orkin - Legal Studies
Emilie Passow - Judaic Studies, English & Philosophy
Douglas Porpora - Culture & Communication
David Raizman - Visual Studies
William Rosenberg - History & Politics
Vivian Rosenberg (emerita) - English & Philosophy
Arthur Shostak (emeritus) - Culture & Communication
Milton Silver - Management
Donald F. Stevens - History & Politics
Eva Thury - English & Philosophy
Lazar Trachtenberg - Electrical & Computer Engineering
Harri Weinberg - Information and Systems



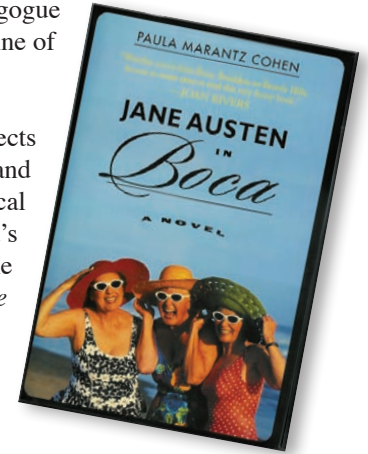
RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVITY

Emilie Passow, Auxiliary Professor of Judaic Studies and Co-Director, Certificate Program in Humanities, Health Sciences, and Society, Department of English and Philosophy, published “The Hermeneutics of the Hamantash,” in *The Great Latke – Hamantash Debate* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2005) and coauthored “Holocaust Narratives and Their Impact: Personal Identification and Communal Roles,” in *Jewishness: Expression, Identity, and Representation* (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2008). She facilitates Jewish book clubs and lectures at synagogues and programs under the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania Council on the Humanities.

Members of the JS Faculty Committee write about Jewish subjects, research Jewish culture and society, and create works of art on Jewish themes. A selection from these activities is listed below:

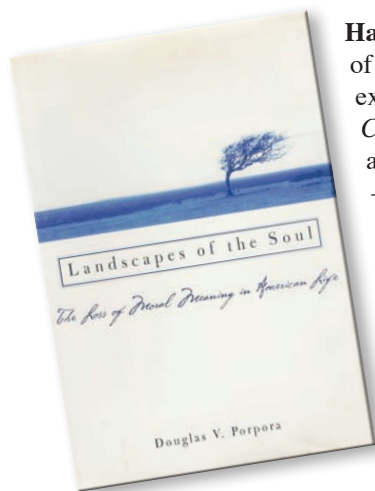
Renee Weiss Chase, Professor of Design, has been commissioned to create bimah and torah covers for synagogue use, most recently based on themes dealing with Jewish women and the Holocaust. She also produces a line of hand- and machine-crafted colorful, leather *tallit* bags and *kippot* called Yad Leatherart.

Paula Marantz Cohen, Distinguished Professor of English, has published three novels with Jewish aspects and themes (all by St. Martin’s Press): *Jane Austin in Boca* (2002), *Much Ado about Jesse Kaplan* (2004), and *Jane Austin in Scarsdale or Love, Death, and the SATs* (2006). Her scholarly work also includes the critical treatments: “Situating the Jew in American Culture,” *Michigan Quarterly Review* (2001); “Sargeant’s Wertheimer Portraits,” *Raritan* (2001); “Israel and Daniel Deronda,” *The Hudson Review* (2002); and “The Figure Not in the Carpet: Bernard Berenson and James’s Rejection of the Modern *The Outcry*,” *The Yale Review* (2004).



Tobie Hoffman, Assistant Director, English Language Center, choreographed dances based on the biblical figures, Leah and Rachel.

Miriam Kotzin, Associate Professor, English and Philosophy, published poems that refer to Judaism and Jewish life in various journals. Several of her poems, including “House” and “Seder”, appear in her new collection, *Reclaiming the Dead* (New American Press, 2008).



Harriet Levin Milan, Director, University Writing Program, after publication of her prize-winning book of poems, *The Christmas Show* (Beacon Press, 1997), has had numerous poems on the American Jewish experience and the legacy of immigration appear in journals, such as *Kenyon Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Ploughshares*, *Iowa Review*, and *Denver Quarterly Review*. Oral histories from a project on refugees and immigrants that she organized with her students were serialized in the *Philadelphia City Paper* (January – April 2008).

Neal Orkin, Associate Professor, Legal Studies, continues his research on Kafka and Czech Jewish society. He published a short story, “Exile,” in the Czech cultural journal, *Kosmos* (2004).

Douglas Porpora, Professor of Sociology, and Department Head, Culture and Communication, published the book, *Landscapes of the Soul: The Loss of Moral Meaning in American Life* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2001), based in part on data collected in the Jewish sector. In addition, he contributed, “Bystanders,” to *The Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity* (Macmillan, 2005).

William Rosenberg, Professor of Politics, produced the following studies: “Temple Brith Achim Membership Survey: Directions for a Congregation’s Future” (Temple Brith Achim, King of Prussia, PA, 2002); “Community Perspectives on Philanthropy” (Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey, 2006); “2007 American Friends Service Committee Immigration Focus Group Study” (American Friends Service Committee, 2007); and “2007 National Immigration Opinion Study” (American Friends Service Committee, 2007). He has also lectured at conferences on immigration policy.

Arthur Shostak, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, published an essay, “Humanist Sociology and Holocaust Memorialization: On Accenting the Positive” (*Humanity and Society*, 2007) and is currently working on a book, *Stealth Altruism: Caring and Compassion in the Concentration Camps*. He was instrumental in editing the memoir of survivor Henry Skorr (*Through Blood and Tears: Surviving Hitler and Stalin*, 2006). In addition, he delivered the keynote address at a Conference on Humanism and Education, sponsored by the Israel Ministry of Education, on the role of Jewish values in a multi-cultural school system.

OUR SPECIAL MESSAGE AND MISSION

The Drexel JSP special message and mission encompass intergenerational education, teaching about the vibrant life and culture of pre-World War II Europe, and presenting the centrality of Israel in Jewish consciousness and history.



“Betty Sved is a child of east European Yiddish culture. Her life through tumultuous years spans the transition of European Jews into American Jews. Her story is significant, not only for historical purposes, but also, and perhaps more importantly, for the generations of Jewish Americans who have not been exposed to Yiddish culture. During her visit to Akiba Hebrew Academy, the importance of her message was most definitely recognized by the students, both of Akiba and Drexel. Her tales of heartache and happiness give testimony to the people lost and serve as a living defiance of the Nazis’ intention. I witnessed a connection between her and the students, whose genuine interest allowed a real understanding of not only the specifics of life before the war, but also the importance of not permitting the culture to be forgotten.”

--- Christian Blasy, '04

Judaic Studies Organizes Intergenerational Ethnic Education Projects

“Study nature, not books,” the words of the renowned embryologist Jacques Loeb cry out to those who enter the venerable Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Drexel’s Judaic Studies Program maintains the study of books and the analysis of texts at the center of its curriculum. Yet, at the same time, the program strives to familiarize its students with the world as lived by the Jewish people, by going out into Jewish social institutions and by getting to know community members first-hand. “Who knows only his own generation remains always a child” (-- George Norlin, pres. U. of Colorado). Drexel’s JSP has consistently integrated intergenerational learning into its course curricula. Rakhmiel Peltz has been organizing such study programs for the past twenty-five years. These activities have become a model for the ways in which a university can interact with the outside community through joint learning. A report on this work, “Living Jewish History: An Intergenerational Conversation,” appeared in *Ideas for Intergenerational Living* (2003, Penn State University).

Starting with its celebratory kick-off event in the Mandell Theater in June 1999, as Drexel students, students from area Jewish day high schools, and South Philadelphia senior citizens discussed the advantages of staying put in a neighborhood, up through the shared intergenerational class on Sex and Love in Jewish Literature during academic year 2007-8, the JSP has collaborated with myriad Jewish institutions and individuals.

Drexel students and community members have participated in study programs involving Akiba Hebrew Academy, Congregation Beth-Zion–Beth Israel Hebrew



OUR SPECIAL MESSAGE AND MISSION

School, JCCs Klein Branch, JCCs Stiffel Senior Center, Perelman Jewish Day School Stern Center, Society Hill Synagogue Hebrew High School, Stern Hebrew High School, and Torah Academy.

The topics of these intergenerational learning projects cover the gamut of Jewish life, including the role of Yiddish language and culture in each other's lives, a comparison of observing Jewish traditions in Israel and the USA, pre-war Jewish family life of Holocaust survivors, growing up in Israel at different times in the history of Israel, continuing the cultural traditions of Jewish subgroups by family members of different generations, and using Yiddish words when writing English poetry. Participants in these programs varied in age from five to ninety, Jewish and non-Jewish.



"I arrive at the Perelman School and the kids are safely tucked away in their respective classrooms when the hustle and bustle of the seniors enters... The vibe was friendly and confident, people smiling and talking to the Drexel students without a formal introduction... I walked over to Liz, she and the kids got along well. They would ask her questions and she would bring up many points... and then the kids would conference among themselves, repeating what she said and how to write it down clearer and correctly. She brought in pictures of her parents who migrated in 1910... When the music started, that's when the party really began. Kids were dancing, seniors were also, or clapping, or tapping, but the joy filtered through the room. I even have some pictures of Bryna and Gabriel [Drexel students] dancing. The music had a strong effect and the senior citizen players and singers were the cause."

--- Jessica Pearl, '01



"We met Lidya Solomonov and her son Tomer at the Society Hill Synagogue Hebrew High School. They shared with us their thoughts about what it is like to be Jewish in Israel and to stay Jewish in Philadelphia... When Lidya was in the army, she had her first encounter with Judaism. That is when she decided that in her family Jewish traditions and religion will be practiced. She taught her children how to be Jewish... I was amazed that a young woman, such as Galeet [Dardashti, leader of the singing group Divahn], is carrying on the Jewish tradition. She does it in a different way from Lidya, but both of them are trying to keep the Jewish heritage and identity alive. I come from an Ashkenazic family, where my grandparents know Yiddish and Jewish traditions and observe as many traditions as they can. My parents are not observant. I was not fully exposed to Jewish tradition until I came to America. As I get more and more exposed to the tradition, I want to have it in my family."

--- Olga Zalan, '07



RECOVERING A WORLD THAT WAS DESTROYED

An important focus of the Judaic Studies Program is education about Jewish life in Europe before World War II. Rakhmiel Peltz's expertise is the history of Yiddish language and culture, and the program aims to help cultivate the appreciation of Yiddish through courses, scholarly lectures, workshops, concerts and meetings with community members who were raised with this culture in Europe and the US. Working towards its goal of providing cultural continuity, the JSP produced the educational documentary film *Toby's Sunshine*.



Nessel Galperin Godin, Speaker's Bureau, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, addresses Drexel audience on, "From Shavl to Washington, D.C.: The Story of One Holocaust Survivor."

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University Presents

Lomir Ale Zingen!

(Let's All Sing!)

A Festival of Yiddish Song in Eastern Europe

Sunday, May 23, 2004
4:00 — 6:00 pm
Stein Auditorium
Nesbitt Hall
33rd and Market Streets
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

Featuring Performances by
Congregation Beth Am Israel's
Shira Kodasha Choir
Alexander Botwinik, Choir Director
Cantor Naomi Hirsch
Fran Kleiner
Richard Lenewitzky
Shern Labowitz
Children singers
Violinist Marvin Weinberger
Pianist Andrew Heller

Free and open to the public.
Refreshments will be served. For more information,
contact: Kathy Carl, 215-895-6382,
kathy.carl@drexel.edu

Adults possible by grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Student Organization Christian Foundation, The Yiddish Studies Fund of the Judaic Studies Program, and the Louis and Irene Stein Foundation.

The Judaic Studies Program and the Leonard Pearlstein Gallery of Drexel University present

Revisiting Vilna:

my art, my life, my native town

A lecture by Samuel Bak

Exhibit Opening
From Genesis to Vilna—Paintings by Samuel Bak

Sunday, November 20, 2005
4 pm—Lecture
5 - 6:30 pm—Reception and Booksigning (Painted in Words-A Memoir)

Nesbitt Hall
Drexel University
NE corner 33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

From Genesis to Vilna—Paintings by Samuel Bak
November 20 through December 17, 2005, Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, 1st Floor, Heger Library, 518 corner 33rd and Market Streets
Pearlstein Gallery hours - M-F 11-5, Heger Library hours: 25

Samuel Bak, born in 1933 in Vilna, Poland and recognized from early age as possessing extraordinary artistic talent, had by exhibition at age 9 in the Vilna ghetto. Surviving with only Bak has spent his life artistically expressing the destructive dehumanization which make up his childhood memories. His paintings have received the highest critical acclaim.

Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Information: Kathy Carl, 215-895-6382, kathy.carl@drexel.edu. Books sold by Harkov-Kovacs-Book-Center, The Judaic Studies Program. Acknowledges the support of Friends of Judaic Studies, Mr. Edward Bar, the Milton and Miriam Handler Foundation, and the Louis and Irene Stein Foundation. The Leonard Pearlstein Gallery acknowledges support of the Friends of Cullback. Exhibit is courtesy of the Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA.

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University Presents

~ A Concert ~

Yiddish Song

Between Two Worlds

Janet Leuchter, Vocals
Art Bailey, Keyboard and Accordion

Sunday, March 11, 2007
1:00 to 3:00 pm
Auditorium
Bosson Enterprise Research Center
Drexel University
Market St. between 31st and 32nd Sts.
Philadelphia, PA

Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The Judaic Studies Program acknowledges the support of the Yiddish Studies Fund, the Milton and Miriam Handler Foundation, the Louis and Irene Stein Foundation, and the Friends of Judaic Studies. For further information: Kathy Carl@drexel.edu, 215-895-6382.

Don't miss the chance to hear Janet Leuchter, from New York, veteran interpreter of the Yiddish repertoire, present:

the old ~~~~ the new
religious ~~~~ secular
Yiddish ~~~~ mixed-language

Please Post!

RECOVERING A WORLD THAT WAS DESTROYED



Toby Fluek visits JS class on the Holocaust.

Toby's Sunshine – Our Film

The afternoon of Sunday, June 1, 2008 in Drexel's Mandell Theater, represented the culmination of six and one half years of work by Drexel's JSP. The JSP film, *Toby's Sunshine: The Life and Art of Holocaust Survivor Toby Knobel Fluek*, was previewed by an appreciative crowd of Drexel students, community supporters, and family members of Ms. Fluek. Not only was this the first screening of the fifty-minute educational, documentary film, but the carefully executed and aesthetically engaging

afternoon also showcased a concert of songs that were specially selected, arranged, and recorded in Drexel's studios for the film project; as well as the viewing of an artistic montage of the images that Ms. Fluek created to recount her life story; a panel discussion with Ms. Fluek and film historian, Dr. Eric Goldman; and a celebratory reception. The project had grown out of Toby Fluek's visit to a JS class on the History of the Holocaust years earlier.

Toby Fluek is a unique teacher of the lessons of survival gleaned from the rich home and communal life that nurtured Jews for centuries in eastern Europe. Her drawings and paintings focus on the traditional Jewish life of her childhood village in Poland. Her style has an allure that attracts the contemporary student. Education about the life and culture that thrived before the Holocaust and was destroyed has been the most difficult realm to present successfully to future generations. The JS film project team researched the background of the film and worked



Videographer Brook Smiler '02 puts microphone on Toby Fluek, while filming assistant Amy Ballard '02 looks on.

with Ms. Fluek, her Holocaust survivor contemporaries, and her family, to create a film that conveys the vibrancy of the life that she depicts.

Israeli filmmaker, Amiram Amitai. The project utilized the skills of Drexel-trained experts, as well as the technology of Drexel's state-of-the-art sound-recording studios, DUTV, and Instructional Media Services. Whenever needed, the project enlisted professionals in film and Jewish history and education. Future work will engage educational consultants in applying the film to various Jewish and non-Jewish curricula, in formal and informal education, for young and old.



Our Kitchen by Toby Knobel Fluek

Produced and planned by a Drexel team under Rakhmiel Peltz's direction, the early stages developed under the artistic direction of veteran



JSP crew, including Dr. Adina Cimet and Amiram Amitai, films Toby Fluek at work in the Catskill Mountains, while husband Max Fluek looks on.

RECOVERING A WORLD THAT WAS DESTROYED

Toby's Sunshine – Our Film

“The majority of these types of films are centered on a thesis created by a director. These directors then interview historians, scientists, and many other scholars on the specific topic... *Toby's Sunshine* did not do this at all...No one else tells her story, only she and those closest to her... It is because of this that the documentary has a more intimate feel...”

--- Meliza Moran, '10

“Other pictures that explain how people lived before the Holocaust include a picture of a broom, and a particularly realistic picture depicting a cracked egg, other food, and cooking tools. These pictures tell a story of a sophisticated society that once thrived. The objects all seem ready to be used, making it seem like the society was disturbed without notice, resulting in an environment that was frozen in time. This fact reflects the truth, in that the environment, while destroyed in real life, is still intact in Toby's and other survivors' memories.”

--- Nathan Wald, '12



At the film showing reception, Toby Fluek chats with Dana Chartan, granddaughter of Holocaust survivor Boris Chartan, also featured in the film.



The Basket with Eggs by Toby Knobel Fluek

“What a beautiful film...with the music and dialogue and storyline, you've elevated the communicative power of her art to a new level! And in the process you've given new meaning to the phrase, “talking picture.” Thank you so much for sharing your appreciation of this woman and her art with us all.”

Lauren Eskreis-Winkler, Univ. of Pennsylvania, '09

“I just want to tell you that the event on Sunday was very special. The program was perfect -- a balance of film, music and personal sharing. The film is powerful and moving and should prove to be a wonderful tool in teaching children and adults about the Jewish life lost to us, a way to perpetuate the memory of a wholesome and grounded life. Toby Fluek's art is very expressive and invites connection to that world -- as if she were the *shaliakh* -- the vehicle for transmission. I found this most touching of all.”

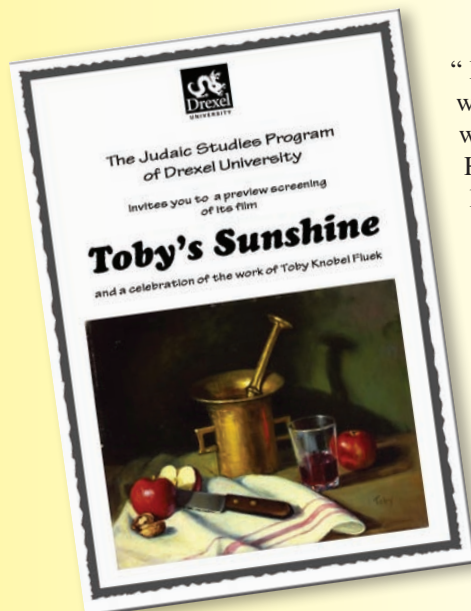
Dr. Bea Hollander-Goldfein
Director, Transcending Trauma Project
Director of Supervision, Council for Relationships

“Wow! Just want to tell you I thought the film was excellent!!! *Toby's Sunshine* is going to have a profound effect on many young people.”

Addy Sugarman
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

“I have been filled with memories and images of the film and art and music since yesterday. Thank YOU for the opportunity.”

Dr. Barbara Hoekje, Drexel University
Chair, Afternoon Events, *Toby's Sunshine* filmshowing



“ In my high school, what we learned, of course, was the horrors of the Holocaust... We never learned anything about the culture that the Nazis attacked... That was good enough for me, but now that I know just what it was that the Nazis were trying to destroy, and did a pretty complete job of it, it is so much more potent.”

--- Addison Davis, '12

ISRAEL IN THE CENTER



Sandra Reuveni and her son Roy at Drexel intergenerational program on Israel

“Dr. Mazal Menahem, an Israeli psychologist, visited Drexel to give a lecture about perspectives on trauma and resilience amongst Israeli children coping with terrorism and war. The lecture was a memorial to Drexel’s Dr. Doreen Steg [Menahem’s Ph.D. advisor], the former Professor of Human Behavior and Development and the initiator of the university’s Judaic Studies Program... Menahem balanced the Israeli experience with the Palestinian. I feel that her emphasis on cooperation and integration was one of the most, if not the most, valuable points she made.”

--- Manna Pourrezaei, '07



Panel discussion on growing up in Israel marks the 60th anniversary of the state of Israel at Drexel.



Bella Schafer describes fighting in the War of Independence to students.

A major academic focus of the JSP has been to underscore the centrality of Israel for the Jewish people during its history. Nowadays when a student’s familiarity with Israel often relates only to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the JS courses and programs stress the diverse nature and significant accomplishments of Israeli society. The JSP has been instrumental in planning and supporting Drexel’s Co-op in Israel Program, as well as broader exchange with Israeli academic institutions, involving research, study, and teaching.

The history of Zionism and aspects of Israeli society and culture are studied in many JS courses. Furthermore, the JSP has hosted several visits of the Rector of Ben Gurion University and the President of the Hebrew University. Plans are underway for expansion of already existing collaborations with Israeli scholars that have been fostered by the Stein Fellowship at Drexel.

An array of lectures, discussions, and concerts have enriched the coursework that relates to Israel, culminating with the marking of the sixtieth anniversary of the State of Israel, by listening to a panel of five diverse individuals who grew up in a variety of Israeli worlds at different times in the history of the state. The JSP has become a forum for Jewish and non-Jewish students of all ages to explore the issues and history of Zionism and Israel.



ISRAEL IN THE CENTER

A Visit to Israel

by Vivian Rosenberg

Jon Bishop, a Junior majoring in engineering, talked with me about his Israel experience as we sat in a sunny cafe at the top of Mt. Carmel, in Haifa. "I still can't believe that this is what I see everyday from my own apartment," Jon observed, pointing toward the blue-green Mediterranean Sea sparkling below us. And since the Drexel gym is not nearby, Jon keeps in shape by running around the hills of Haifa, where at every turn he sees another gorgeous vista.

view of the Tel Aviv skyline. Traveling to foreign shores was no novelty for him, Jeff told me. He left his home in Kenya when he was fifteen to study in the United States, and he is now eager to immerse himself in other cultures, too. The fact that he could do so while practicing his computer skills in an international firm made Israel a particularly attractive destination.

Luckily, Drexel found the perfect coordinator for their Israel program: Shoni Pomerantz, was the lively matchmaker who linked Drexel students with appropriate employers, guided them through the bureaucratic tangles of visas and work permits, helped them get settled, and even provided chicken soup when necessary!


Many of the companies Drexel students work for have branches in other countries, opening up interesting possibilities for future employment. A Drexel engineering student of Jewish background, Jessica Fuhrer, who was part of Drexel's first contingent in Israel, worked at Intel in Jerusalem. Before she left, her employers told her that they would be delighted to hire her after graduation at any Intel site in the world!

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University Presents

Transformations

in Israeli Society

A Lecture by **David Macarov**
Professor Emeritus
Paul Baerwald School of Social Work
Hebrew University



Professor Macarov will review societal developments during the Ottoman and British regimes, the kibbutz at that time, as well as more recent events.

Refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public. For further information, contact: Kathy Corl, 215-895-4398, kathy.corl@drexel.edu.

Made possible by grants from the Milton and Miriam Shouder Foundation and the Louis and Miriam Shouder Foundation.

Please Post!

Thursday
April 10, 2003
2:00-3:15 pm
Stern Judaic Studies
Seminar Room
Room 302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

For Jewish students, the Drexel's Co-op in Israel Program has obvious attractions: they want to explore their Jewish roots and perhaps learn Hebrew, and some even have Israeli relatives. Jon, however, is not Jewish. Why then did he choose to co-op in Israel? For Jon, this is not a mystery. He wanted the experience of living in another culture--and he wanted at the same time to work in a high-tech company known world-wide for its innovative, cutting-edge research.


Jeff Kiyenje, Jon's friend and fellow Drexel student, also took advantage of the Co-op in Israel program. He lived and worked in Tel Aviv for six months. Jeff and I spent a Shabbat walking around Old Jaffa, with Jeff expertly reading the map as we walked through the narrow old streets of this unusual art colony. Making our way down the winding stone stairway to the port, we located the little boat we had seen from above and hopped aboard for a spectacular

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

A Thoughtful Discussion On Living in the Land of the Bible

by
Shouki Kassis, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor of Arabic and Hebrew
Drexel University
and
Sarit Sadeh
Liaison of Academic Affairs
Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia

Thursday, February 12, 2004
9:30-11 am
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA



The two participants will reflect on their feelings and thoughts that relate to growing up amongst places and sites that are significant to the traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. You are cordially invited to take part in the conversation that will follow. Don't miss this special occasion!

Please Post!

The Shouki Center
Made possible by grants from the Louis and Miriam Shouder Foundation, and the Milton and Miriam Shouder Foundation.

Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For further information, contact: Kathy Corl, 215-895-4398, kathy.corl@drexel.edu.

Dr. Vivian M. Rosenberg, Professor Emerita of English and Philosophy and member of the Judaic Studies Faculty Committee, visited the Drexel students in Israel in Fall 2000.

The Israel co-op was initiated by Drexel University president Constantine Papadakis after a visit to Israel in May 1998 with then Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge. Dr. Peltz went to Israel immediately after starting at Drexel, together with Drexel's co-op staff leaders and Dr. Papadakis. The Judaic Studies staff was instrumental in implementing all aspects of the Israel co-op program. Thirteen Drexel students lived and worked in Israel between spring 1999 and fall 2001. The program was halted because of the intifada and economic decline. President Papadakis has once again initiated the program. We plan for the first contingent of Drexel students to do their Co-op in Israel in the renewed program in fall 2009.

ART EXHIBITS ♦ CONCERTS



Panel from “Sonja’s Legacy” exhibit which features artwork from the Terezin concentration camp by Sonja Fischerova, cousin and childhood playmate of Drexel Prof. Emeritus Robert Fischl. Sonja perished after being deported to Auschwitz.



Samuel Bak speaks at the opening of the Drexel exhibition “Samuel Bak: From Genesis to Vilna.”



At the Gate
by Samuel Bak



Dr. Robert Fischl speaks about the “Sonja’s Legacy” exhibit to members of the Azuka Theater Collective of Philadelphia.



Harvey Finkle gives a gallery tour of “Philadelphia Mosaic: New Immigrants in America.” The exhibit depicted immigrant families from all parts of the world that settled in Philadelphia.



Miriam Dukuray Prepares Her Daughter, Mamie, for Church by photographer Harvey Finkle.



The Shabbatoners perform at Drexel Alumni Weekend, celebrating the JSP 10th Anniversary.



Rakhmiel Peltz at the 5th Anniversary Concert, with “Lost in the Stars” musicians, Adrienne Cooper, Adrienne Greenbaum, and Dan Rosengard.



“Concert of Sephardic Music”— Alex Botwinik and Congregation Beth Am Israel Choir



Yiddish performers at “Lomir Ale Zingen” concert



Joseph Alpar and Brenda Alpar perform Turkish music for JS Faculty Committee meeting to honor Nihat Bilgutay.

LECTURES

All of our programs have been offered to the community free of charge. Drexel students, faculty, and community members have been treated to some of the most active minds that are dealing with Jewish studies and creativity in the world today. It certainly was a coup for the JSP to have the outstanding Jewish artist Samuel Bak address our audience. We also hosted the first time that Penn historian Jonathan Steinberg presented an evaluation of his father Rabbi Milton Steinberg's books; and that literary scholar Dr. Rena Potok shared her interpretation of her father Chaim Potok's *My Name Is Asher Lev*. Moreover, students in our Contemporary Jewish Life course were inspired by Michael Azeez's story of the rededication of the old synagogue in Woodbine, New Jersey, as both a synagogue and a museum that preserves the history of Jewish cooperative, agricultural settlement and welcomes the memories of the community's new Latino residents. When meeting the authors of the books they read, our students learn history, such as the story of the Jewish wife of a Nazi officer. When the students met with American-born Mary Leder, who was confined in the Soviet Union for most of a lifetime, they also were treated to the interpretation of those years by her editor, Rutgers historian, Laurie Bernstein. Young scholars have come to Drexel, as well as young artists, such as filmmaker Jackie Borock, graphic artist J.T. Waldman, and writer Dara Horn. When the new movie version of *The Merchant of Venice* was released, we assembled a panel of scholars who revisited the role of Shylock. Furthermore, we have found that through music we can best teach a culture. Musical performances, in addition to lectures about music, form an integral part of the unique JSP curriculum.

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

Rebecca Gratz And the American Jewish Dilemma

A lecture by
Dr. Elanur Ashton
Professor of Philosophy and Religion and
Member of American Studies
Drexel University

Tuesday, November 30, 2004
9:30-11:00 am
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Rebecca Gratz (1816-1890) was one of the first American-born Jewish women to receive a college education. Her life was a struggle between her religious and cultural heritage and the American dream. This lecture will explore her life and her role in the development of the American Jewish community.

Please Post!

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

Good Neighbors, Good Fences?

The Archaeology
of Israel, Moab, and Edom

A lecture by
Dr. Benjamin Porter
University of Pennsylvania
Near Eastern Archaeology Magazine

Monday May 21, 2007
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

The Bible never mentions the wall between Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. This lecture will explore the archaeological evidence for the wall and the role of the Temple Mount in the history of the city.

Please Post!

~Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary Year~

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

Echolalias: On Yiddish and the Forgetting of Language

A lecture and book signing by
Daniel Heller-Roazen
Professor of Comparative Literature and
Director of Graduate Studies, Princeton University

Thursday February 28, 2008
10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Mary E. Hagerty Room
L33 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Heller-Roazen's new book, *Echolalias*, explores the history of the word 'echo' and its role in the history of language.

Please Post!

~Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary Year~

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University
in cooperation with the Jewish Publication Society
presents

THE BOOK OF EXODUS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE PASSOVER SEDER

A lecture by
Dr. Jeffrey H. Tigay
A.B. (1964) and Ph.D. (1968), Hebrew University
and Princeton, University of Pennsylvania

Friday, February 22, 2008
11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Mary E. Hagerty Room
L33 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Although the Passover Seder is inspired by the account of the Exodus in the Bible, the Seder as we know and practice it today is a product of more than 1500 years of Jewish history and oral tradition.

Please Post!

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

Hazards of the Borderlands:

Mark Arnstein and Polish-Jewish Theater

A lecture by
Dr. Michael Stairdust
Assistant Professor of History, State College
of New Jersey

Tuesday, November 11, 2003
11:00 am-12:30 pm
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Stairdust's new book, *Hazards of the Borderlands*, explores the history of the Polish-Jewish theater.

Please Post!

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe

Perceptions of the
Religious 'Other'

A lecture by
Dr. Talya Fishman
Associate Professor
of Religious Studies
University of Pennsylvania

Thursday, February 22, 2007
9:30 am to 10:45 am
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Fishman's new book, *Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe*, explores the history of the religious 'other' in medieval Europe.

Please Post!

The Judaic Studies Program
and Modern Languages, Department of Culture and Communication, of Drexel University present

Of Land and Love: Modern Hebrew Poetry in Song

A lecture by **Dr. Marsha Eidelman**
Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania
(Drexel Publication Society, 2003, reprinted 2007)

Wednesday, May 30, 2007
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Eidelman's new book, *Of Land and Love*, explores the history of modern Hebrew poetry in song.

Please Post!

THE JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

THE YIDDISH CINEMA: A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE

A lecture by
Dr. Eric Goldstein
Executive Director of the Yiddish Book Center
Yiddish Book Center

Wednesday, February 16, 2005
5:00-10:30 pm
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Goldstein's new book, *The Yiddish Cinema*, celebrates the history of American Jewish life.

Please Post!

BOOK SIGNINGS



Anthropologist Dr. Melvin Konner (Emory University) lectures at Drexel's Ross Commons on his book *Unsettled: An Anthropology of the Jews*.

The Saligman Program on Intergenerational Ethnic Education of The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

JEW VS. JEW

Struggle for the Soul of American Jewry

(Thomas F. Pogrow, Issues 4, Volume 2005, winner of The National Jewish Book Award)

A Lecture and Booksigning by Samuel G. Freedman
Professor and Associate Dean
Graduate School of Journalism
Columbia University

Tuesday, November 16, 2004
7:30 to 9:00 pm
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

As a time when contemporary Jews have been depicted by American society more than ever before, increasing friction and tension within American Jewry have arisen. Samuel G. Freedman eloquently and incisively analyzes the complex nature of this struggle between Jews and Jews.

Books will be made available from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Free and open to the public. For further information, contact Kathy Gifford at 215-895-6386. kathy.gifford@drexel.edu

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

OUR HOLOCAUST:

WRITING WITH HUMOR ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Monday, November 6, 2006
7:30 to 9:00 pm
Stern Judaic Studies Seminar Room
302 Hagerty Library
Drexel University
33rd and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA

A lecture and book-signing by Amir Gutfreund
Author of *Our Holocaust*
(Foley Press, 2006)

Amir Gutfreund is one of Israel's most popular younger fiction writers, author of the best-selling *The World a Little Later* and *The Bluebird Man*.

The Holocaust and humor are not naturally brought together, especially in Israel. "When I started writing *Our Holocaust*, I was confronted very early by a serious problem: I couldn't write without humor, a lot of humor." Gutfreund says. "The formal Holocaust could not have a smile or a wink, but I knew that the Holocaust involved a more complicated picture. I have admirable memories and recollections, crisp and wise, multi-layered and very precise. I wanted to write these things with love and compassion, but to describe them exactly as they were..."

Please Post!

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

Gender and the Book of Esther

A Lecture and Booksigning by JT Waldman
Author of *Magillat Esther*
(A new graphic interpretation, recently released by the Jewish Publication Society)

Books will be made available from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Free and open to the public. For further information, contact Kathy Gifford at 215-895-6386. kathy.gifford@drexel.edu

Dara Horn signs copies of her book, *The World to Come*



The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

DISPLACED PERSONS

Growing Up American After the Holocaust

2006

Lecture and Booksigning by Joseph Berger
New York Times Deputy Education Director

Thursday, February 26, 2002
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Drexel University
Behrakis Grand Hall
Cressie Student Center
3210 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA

Books will be made available by Penn Book Center.

A Lecture and Booksigning by JT Waldman
Author of *Magillat Esther*
(A new graphic interpretation, recently released by the Jewish Publication Society)

Books will be made available from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Free and open to the public. For further information, contact Kathy Gifford at 215-895-6386. kathy.gifford@drexel.edu

The Judaic Studies Program of Drexel University presents

An American Jew in Stalinist Russia:

Mary Leder's Journey

A Booksigning and Lecture by Dr. Laurie Bernstein
Associate Professor of History and
"Chairer of Women's Studies"
at Rutgers University, Camden
and
Mary M. Leder
An American Woman Looks Back
Revisited in 2002 in paperback by
Indiana University Press!

Tuesday, May 21, 2002
2:00 - 3:30 pm
2020 MacAlister Hall
Drexel University
33rd and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA

Books will be made available by Penn Book Center. Free and open to the public. For further information, contact Kathy Gifford at 215-895-6386. kathy.gifford@drexel.edu

In Queen Esther's Garden
An Anthology of Jewish-Persian Literature

Translated and with an introduction and notes by Vera Basch Moreen

INVITATION!

The JSP, as part of the curriculum of its Modern Jewish History class in April 2005, and in conjunction with the opening of an exhibit it mounted of the photographs of Harvey Finkle, depicting local immigrant families, invited Judith Bernstein-Baker, esq. (Executive Director, HIAS and Council) to lecture on the "Jewish Communal Experience in Welcoming the Stranger." We also invited as a discussant her colleague, Father William Ayres, Director, Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees, Archdiocese of Philadelphia. As we see in the accompanying letter, Father Ayres was connected to our program in ways in which we had been unaware. It just goes to show, that souls with common interests share important social network links.

Dear Rakhmiel,
Thank you for allowing me to share in the wonderful program yesterday. It was great to be able to participate in such an event, especially as a Catholic priest as part of a Judaic Studies program!
I wanted to let you know that the little I do know about Jewish history in Philadelphia comes from you! I didn't make the connection until you were introducing Harvey, but a kid I knew and keep in touch with from Olney had your class several years ago. His name is Steven Ngo, and he'll be graduating from Drexel this year. He raved about your class, and as you began talking about walking around the neighborhood down there, I realized you were his professor. It's especially interesting now, since I live at Epiphany of Our Lord Church, at 11th and Jackson. But I remember Steven talking a lot about that corridor you spoke of, and also about the Jewish basketball teams and how that was the true birth of Philadelphia as a great basketball city. Again, thanks for having me there! I enjoyed it immensely and learned a lot.
Father Ayres

LOOKING FORWARD WITH THANKS

By Rakhmiel Peltz

As we celebrate ten years of our program, I realize that our expanding plans and progress are developing some sixty-three years after the remaining European Jews walked out of the concentration camps. In our courses and programs, we are steadfast in our devotion to continuity of the tradition and way of life that thrived before World War II. Universities, by deciding what to teach and how to teach, can, in part, determine whether cultural traditions receive attention. For victims of genocide, such as the Jewish people, who internalize the message of being valueless and targets for elimination, the reestablishment of internal, communal conduits for education and transmission of culture is a long and arduous path. University programs, through partnership with the community, can help such healing and teaching. Therefore, it is not odd that a technological university like Drexel should grow its Judaic Studies Program. We are in the global market place of ideas, and we strive to promote the cultural values that are noble and worthy of transmission. A university must present a culture, whether from the ancient time of the bible or from the contemporary day, as vibrant and thriving. Thus, each student, from every religious and ethnic background, can be taught to appreciate the spirit of human creativity throughout history.

The most popular Yiddish poet of the twentieth century, Itzik Manger, having found refuge in London after escaping from eastern Europe, wrote the following lines in the midst of the second World War:

Kh'vel oyston di shikh un dem troyer,
Un kumen tsu dir tsurik –
Ot azoy vi ikh bin a farshpilter,
Un shteln zikh far dayn blik.
Mayn got, mayn har, mayn bashafer,
Layter mikh oys in dayn shayn -- ...

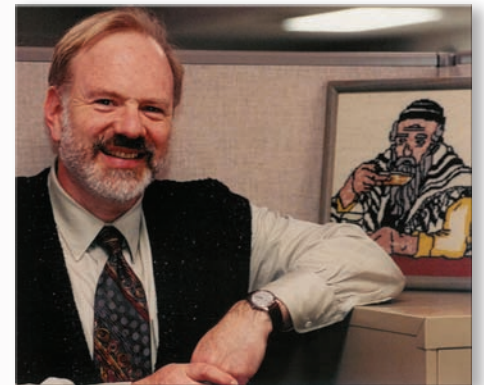
Ikh hob dokh geton dayn shlikhes
Un getrogn dayn getlekh lid –
Tsi bin ikh den shuldik, vos s'gramt zikh,
Al-pi toes yid mit lid.
Tsi bin ikh den shuldik, vos s'gramt zikh
Al-pi toes sheyn mit geveyn,
Un di benkschaft, di emese benkschaft,
Vogt kseyder aleyn?

I'm going to take off my shoes and my sorrow,
And make my way back to you –
Since I no longer have a tomorrow,
I'll put myself into your view.
My God, my lord, my creator,
Purify me in your light...
I have carried out your mission,
Borne your godly song, indeed.
Is it really my fault if by error
Yid (Jew) happens to rhyme with lid (song)?
Is it really my fault if by error
Sheyn (beautiful) happens to rhyme with geveyn (weeping)
That longing, genuine longing
Is always alone with its pain?

(English translation, M. Wex)

Drexel's Judaic Studies Program has received much help from many different corners to achieve our mission. We have built all this out of a conviction that, *mikol milamday hiskalti* (I learn from everyone, Hebrew). That is the strength of a university, to bring different people together to learn together, who may normally otherwise never meet. Our program is proof of the positive value of that goal. Judaic Studies at Drexel would never have come to fruition without a president, dean, and a large and creative group of faculty members that wanted this to happen. Our devoted Judaic Studies Advisory Board has stood by us, including dedicated Drexel alumni and the Distinguished Founders, of blessed memory, Albert Soffa '44 and Harry Stern '44,'56.

If there is one factor that insured our founding and continuity, I must point to the continual financial support of The Louis and Bessie Stein Foundation, represented by Ruth Nathanson and Judaic Studies Advisory Board Member Bennett Nathanson. Drexel's JSP is not an ordinary academic program. Our achievements in research and teaching during the ten years were enabled by the many, complementing enrichment activities, which only took place thanks to the generous contributions of members of the community, the Friends of Judaic Studies. May we continue to work together in the years to come.



We can learn the amazing lessons of survival. We can teach about the Jewish tradition of *teshuva* (return, repentance), that there always remains the possibility of return, of going home. And the survivors of the worst destruction taught us about the drive of life, about the life force that motivates us to get up in the morning and create further.

"to bring different people together to learn together, who may normally otherwise never meet"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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For those wanting to support the Judaic Studies Program, please make checks **payable to Drexel University** and note “Judaic Studies” on your check, and mail to —

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Ten years of providing educational and cultural
programs for our students, the Drexel community,
Philadelphia, and the world!

