

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT QUEENS COLLEGE

THE ARTHUR AND CAROLE ANDERMAN
CULTURE & ARTS FALL 2015

GUIDE



Faith, #39 They almost wiped me off the earth... © 2014 by Mark Podwal

GUIDE

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FALL 2015

SEPTEMBER

September 9 • Wednesday, 7 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall

MUSIC AND THEATER SERIES
*Listen to the Songs and the Prayers:
A Musical Prelude to the Holidays*

Cantor Raphael Frieder

OCTOBER

October 8 • Thursday, 7 pm
Colden Auditorium

MUSIC AND THEATER SERIES
The Mitvah Project

Featuring Roger Grunwald in a one-act play,
with lecture to follow

October 19 • Monday, 12:15 pm
Rosenthal Library, President's
Conference Room #2 (fifth floor)

Co-sponsored with Irish Studies

JEWISH LECTURE SERIES
Oral History Project
Dublin Jewish Spaces, Faces, and Places

Dr. Melanie Brown, Dublin Jewish Oral
History Project

October 29 • Thursday, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library, Room 230

JEWISH LECTURE SERIES
*Yearning and Returning: Retrieving
Spanish Nationality after 500 Years*

Prof. Emerita Jane Gerber, CUNY
Graduate Center

NOVEMBER

November 4 • Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Rosenthal Library, Room 230

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

*Archaeology and the Bible:
Two Witnesses to Ancient Israel*

Prof. Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, St. Joseph's
University, Philadelphia

November 15 • Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall

Co-sponsored with CERRU

**ANNUAL COMMEMORATION OF
KRISTALLNACHT AND
RECOMMITMENT TO COMBATING
ANTI-SEMITISM AND HATRED**

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Elizabeth Holtzman
*Bringing Nazi War Criminals in
America to Justice*

DECEMBER

December 2 • Wednesday, 12:15 pm
Rosenthal Library, President's
Conference Room #2 (fifth floor)

JEWISH LECTURE SERIES

Reading the Torah

Prof. Emerita Catherine Chaliier, University
of Nanterre, France

December 6 • Sunday, 2 pm
LeFrak Concert Hall

Co-sponsored with the American Sephardi
Federation

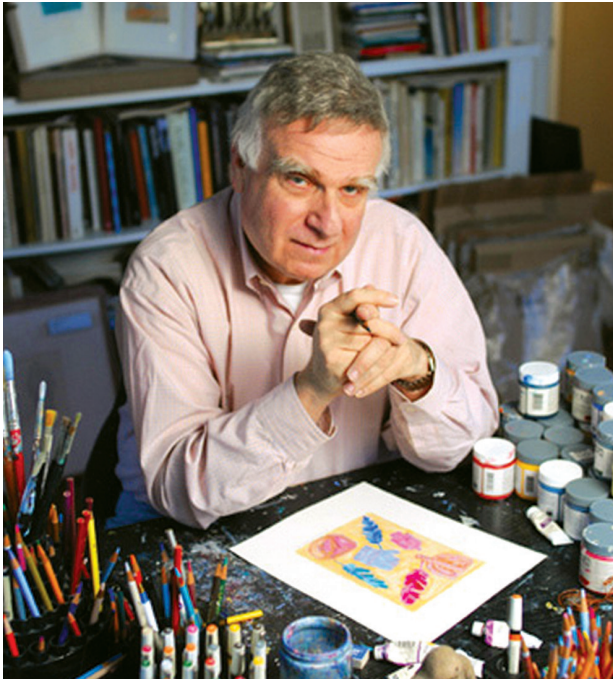
MUSIC AND THEATER SERIES

A Chanukah Celebration

David Serero, International Opera Star

Mark Podwal, A Renaissance Man

THE INCREDIBLE TALENT BEHIND OUR COVERS



For a number of years, **Mark Podwal**, Queens College alumnus and internationally acclaimed artist, has graciously provided his magnificent artwork to adorn the covers of each of the Fall and Spring issues of the *QC Center for Jewish Studies—Arthur and Carole Anderman Culture & Arts Guide*. We are indebted to him for each beautiful and meaningful image.

And this year he is especially to be feted: In 2014 Mark donated to the college's Godwin-Ternbach Museum an elaborate portfolio of prints he created, based on a series of artworks. The original paintings and drawings were exhibited at the Terezin Ghetto Museum in the Czech Republic. The portfolio,

entitled *All this has come upon us...*, contains 42 striking images, each depicting the various underlying anti-Semitic campaigns throughout history that led up to the Holocaust in our own time. Each image is accompanied by a biblical verse from the Book of Psalms, along with Podwal's commentary. The work as a

whole is a masterful amalgam of image and the written word creatively portrayed.

The beautiful cover art on this 2015 Fall *Guide* is image 39 of the portfolio. Entitled *Faith*, it is paired with Psalm 119:87 in Hebrew and in English translation: *They almost wiped me off the earth but I did not abandon Your commandments.*

It is accompanied by the following commentary: *"From slavery in Egypt to the loss of their homeland, from persecution to exile, from pogroms to near annihilation, through faith the Jews endured while their enemies vanished."*

To date, the portfolio has been acquired by various major institutions, with all 42 prints on permanent exhibition at Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus in the Rabin Center for Jewish Studies. A number of articles have been written about the portfolio, including a feature in the *Atlantic Magazine*.

In addition to his artistic endeavors Podwal is a respected dermatologist and the author of award-winning illustrated books, such as *A Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses and Crescents*; *A Jewish Bestiary*; and *Freud's Da Vinci*. He also has created political cartoons for magazines and newspapers – most notably the *New York Times* and special edition prints for the Metropolitan Opera and Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Cosponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum will exhibit the portfolio prints in 2016 in conjunction with rare books, manuscripts, and documents from the Jewish Theological Seminary Library. The opening is anticipated in April.

For more information on Mark Podwal's work and the portfolio please visit markpodwal.com.

Director's Report: The Year in Review

MARK ROSENBLUM, DIRECTOR



The Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College has just completed another extraordinarily productive and exciting year.

There are nine good reasons for our excitement and sense of accomplishment as we enter the New Year.

Award-Winning Public Education Program That Led to the Establishment of the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding (CERRU):

CERRU, as a sister organization to the Center for Jewish Studies, continues to bring together an astoundingly diverse group of students—both Jewish and non-Jewish from different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds—since 2009 when CERRU was born out of the Jewish Studies Program through a U.S. Department of Education Grant to foster cross-cultural understanding. As we begin our seventh year of partnership with CERRU, more than 500 Queens College students have been trained to pursue difficult dialogues and engage in reflective listening in order to enhance our con-

flict mitigation work. The student facilitators and fellow students they have recruited and trained have also organized more than several hundred events and programs over the past years. The programs ranged from “Walking in the Other Sides’ Neighborhood,” a fascinating street-level experience of Queens’ rich ethnic, racial, and religious neighborhoods led by scholars of the urban landscape, to large community forums like “Bridging the Divide,” where our trained student facilitators helped guide dialogues on some of the most contested and controversial local, national, and global issues with leaders from opposing sides.

In addition to the events each semester based on current student interests vis-à-vis understanding within the diversity of the campus, since its inception CERRU has hosted a unique capstone program to which the broader community is invited at the close of the Fall semester. Fall 2014’s programming closed with the Third Annual “Innovation Exchange,” entitled “New Frontiers Innovation in the Middle East” in the aftermath of the Third Gaza/Israel War and the ensuing Middle East Discussion series at Queens College. The event hosted by CERRU featured 12 speakers of unique stature ranging from an entrepreneur realizing his vision for private sector development to serve as the path leading to Palestinian economic development and growth of the first Palestinian planned city “Rawabi,” and the largest private sector undertaking of any kind in Palestinian history, to a Jewish educator championing a new educational model for students from poor neighborhoods populated by “castoffs,” immigrants

and refugees from over 30 countries including Sudan, Ethiopia, and other nations wracked by violent oppression and mass killing.

As a special feature of the 2014 CERRU “Innovation Exchange” event, students of the **Ibrahim Student Scholar Middle East Leadership and Dialogue Program with Queens College** (the Ibrahim Program) relayed unique anecdotes of their experiences from spending June 2014 in the Middle East. As a part of the newly established Ibrahim Program, over the past three years we have led groups of exceptional students from the United States in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet with political, religious, and cultural leaders from the region as well as with grassroots organizations. In June 2015, as in the previous two years, the travel itinerary included not only Israel, Jordan, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, but also the Palestinian territories. We envision further development of this program within the coming years as the world’s focus remains turned toward that region.

A Dynamic and Expanding Culture & Arts Program: This past year we offered 18 major programs, including world-class scholars and educators, renowned diplomats and political analysts, virtuoso instrumentalists and singers, compelling cinema, and a captivating musical drama, and we initiated additional annual events; last year’s newly created annual Chanukah Celebration boasted 400 plus attendees. In addition, we added a special lecture series to address the latest developments in the Middle East as the Third Gaza /Israel War was winding down.



Mark introducing the Ibrahim Program.



QC CERRU fellows, survivors, and the Townsend Harris High School Vocal Ensemble with 2nd, 3rd and 4th generations of the Zalisky Family at the *Kristallnacht* Commemoration.

The series was especially poignant in a debate between Prof. Moshe Halbertal, an award-winning scholar of Jewish thought and philosophy, and Khalil Shikaki, who has served as Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research since 2000.

Many of these superb and creative programs remain free to the public, and several of them included a sumptuous complimentary banquet. (Please see the detailed review of this past year's Culture & Arts Guide as well as our exhilarating programs for the Fall semester that follows this report.)

Distinguished Faculty: Our world-class Jewish Studies faculty, drawn from 15 different departments within the college, includes some of America's most eminent scholars. More than half a dozen of our professors have won the coveted Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, with one winner this past year of the prestigious National Jewish Book Award.

In a mix of senior as well as younger faculty, many of whom are quickly making their mark in contributions in their respective fields, the Queens College faculty continually grows in strength. This distinguished group of

dedicated educators continue to receive coveted awards, promotions, and national and international recognition. Read more detail in the following pages, especially in

the Faculty Notes: Achievements and Distinctions (pp. 23–29).

Diverse and Talented Students: At our spring 2015 commencement, yet another crowd of parents, relatives, friends, and faculty filled the Simon and Roslyn Gold Jewish Studies Library, which includes an elegant anteroom and is made accessible to all Queens College students during the academic year. Again, each of the graduates and awardees demonstrated anew their staggering academic achievements and demographic diversity. Our graduates and awardees are among the 2,000 students who speak dozens of languages and represent a multitude of different ethnic, racial, and religious groups, all studying Jewish topics in up to 80 of our Jewish Studies courses throughout the academic year, from over a dozen academic disciplines.

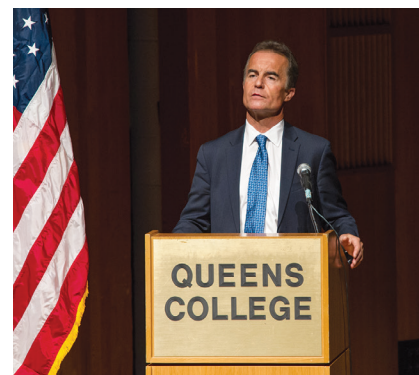
The academic acumen of our graduates and awardees is complemented by their ethical commitment and community service. They represent a core of the campus leadership, from the President of Hillel, to the campus coordinator for the American World Jewish

Service, to the co-editors-in-chief of the *Journal of Jewish Studies*. They also include two of the college's valedictorians over the past four years.

The Only Jewish Studies Journal in the Nation That Is Totally Student Produced and Where Students

Have the Last Word: The students who edit the *Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies* reflect the best of Queens College. This year, with a special section on the 70th Anniversary of Liberation, the *Journal's* inside cover incorporates a proverb chosen by the editor-in-chief from King Solomon: "A righteous man falls down seven times and gets up." Editor-in-chief Allison Teicher, and layout editor Kimberly Pillinger produced a memorable work. Special recognition to both of them for their diligence and commitment to see this project through.

The 17th edition of the *Journal* was overseen by Associate Director Diane Spielmann. As in the past, this year's volume will stimulate readers, making them swell with pride to be associated with the Queens College Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Jewish Studies. Once again it is a "labor of love" by those students who have mas-



Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger, keynote speaker at the *Kristallnacht* Commemoration.



Cynthia Zalisky, Director of the Queens Jewish Community Council and daughter of Holocaust survivors, with her son and grandchildren.

tered all aspects of the publication process: soliciting contributions, selecting those to be included, editing all materials, preparing camera-ready copy, and scouring the marketplace for the best printer at the most competitive price. This beautiful and inspiring publication is worth having in your collection. It is available for \$12 from the office of Jewish Studies, Jefferson Hall, Room 307; 718-997-4530.

Breakthrough Courses in Bukharian History and Culture: Another example of the excellence of our students that has allowed us to reach a segment of the Queens College Jewish student population significantly underenrolled in our classes is Imanuel Rybakov. A talented recent QC graduate, Mr. Rybakov is an activist within the Bukharian Jewish Congress who organized and took the lead in teaching the first-ever course on Bukharian history and culture at Queens College, which is now in its sixth year. Through Prof.

Rybakov's efforts, we have created the groundwork for an eventual course on the Bukharian-Jewish language (known as *Tadjik* within the community). Lead stories in the *Jewish Week*, *Daily News* and other newspapers heralded the initiative of offering academic courses on Bukharian culture, one of the first in the U.S.

It is estimated that there are nearly 1,000 Bukharian students on the Queens College campus. Bukharian Jews come primarily from Central Asia and the former Soviet Union, and the largest concentration of the Bukharian population in the U.S. resides in Queens.

The course Mr. Rybakov so effectively organized included trips to the Bukharian Jewish Museum, as well as bringing iconic Bukharian musicians and performers to the campus, including Avrom Tolmasov and Tamara Katayeva. This successful experiment in developing courses that engage the Bukharian student body at Queens College has allowed us to add a new course to the curriculum, "Bukharian Jewish Language."

Difficult Questions, Balanced Answers: Our Center remains committed to asking the hard questions that require responses from a diverse range of perspectives: Is it 1938 again? What is the future of Jerusalem? Are the U.S. and Israel under Obama and Netanyahu heading toward a strategic collision or a Solomonic compromise? How do we most effectively combat anti-Semitism and hatred? In recent years we have brought together some of the greatest minds and notable

leaders in Jewish life to address these provocative questions. Instead of one-sided answers, we have participated in a dialogue that includes strikingly divergent ideas:

For example, in my preface to *The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008*, I attempted to make a case for the broad band of opinion approach: "Multiple sides were represented, not because we are devotees of some kind of insipid relativism that insists every point has an equally valid counterpoint, but because there are fundamental issues about which we as a community are resolutely unresolved. Too often, these issues are explored in forums for the like-minded who gather to cheerlead, recite their best arguments, and send their embedded ideologues out to engage in political battle. Our hope was that we might clarify our differences and perhaps discover some unexpected agreement."

New Community Initiative: In addition to the Center's robust and highly regarded Faculty Speakers Bureau, we have dramatically expanded our community outreach. Over the past two years we have cultivated formal relationships with synagogues and community centers and developed a series of programs with Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn showcasing some of our most articulate student facilitators in interfaith dialogues and discussions about Israel and Jewish values, with another series of programs featuring compelling cinema. In recent years we have piloted a new program for high school students at Temple Beth Sholom. Entitled "Let's Talk About Israel,"

the course aimed to empower students to have knowledgeable, nuanced, and successful conversations regarding Israel, its history, and politics with peers and teachers on college campuses and other settings. Additionally, we accept invitations from various colleges throughout the nation to teach one of the popular classroom simulations associated with our award-winning “America and the Middle East: Clash of Civilizations or Meeting of the Minds” program. Each of these events has garnered rave reviews. And this year, under the leadership of Bernie Spear, Chair of the Center for Jewish Studies Advisory Board, we added another seven synagogues to the consortium, with the inaugural program held at the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, where Prof. Ronald Zweig, Director of the Taub Center for Israel Studies at New York University, addressed issues regarding the growing diverse populations of Israel today.

Creative Curriculum That Has Won National Acclaim: The U.S. Department of Education honor was bestowed upon the Center for Jewish Studies in part because of the Center’s award-winning curriculum and public education programs as well as the college’s stunning diversity, with students from more than 140 different countries, speaking more than 80 languages. Our nationally acclaimed curriculum has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, CBS-TV National News, National Public Radio, the *Jewish Week*, the *Forward* and a host of other electronic and print media.

Many deserve our appreciation: We wish to thank President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, who came to Queens College this past year, for his kind demeanor and personable style in listening and learning as he became involved in every aspect of the college, including his keen interest in the Center for Jewish Studies and assistance in helping us plan for the future. We also acknowledge Interim President Evangelos J. Gizis and Provost Elizabeth F. Hendrey for their enthusiasm and active participation in a number of our events, and Jeffrey Rosenstock, Assistant Vice President for External & Governmental Relations, for his steadfast support in helping to make many of our programs possible.

And after more than 12 years as Chair of the Jewish Studies Advisory Board, Arthur Anderman graciously stepped

down two years ago to “hand the torch” to another esteemed board member, Bernie Spear. Over the years, Arthur helped create new endeavors that have enormously enriched our Center and program, and happily he continues to serve actively on our Advisory Board. We also are fortunate to have continuity in the same caliber of leadership from our current chair, Bernie Spear, as he helps us meet the challenges for the future.

As in the past, we are indebted to our Vice Chair, Pearl Halegua, and also to Elsi Levy, yet another one of the stalwarts on the Center’s Board. Finally, thanks and deep appreciation to the two pillars of our program, Pat Tortorici and Rita Shliselberg. Their service to the Center and the academic program goes far beyond their job descriptions and their paychecks.

Thanks to Our “Friends”: Your Support is Our Future

Our latest grant from the U.S. Department of Education has helped us through these difficult economic times. No doubt, however, you continue to read in the Jewish press and elsewhere that like all institutions—for profit and not-for-profit—CUNY and Queens College were seriously impacted by the recent great recession and very fragile recovery. We are carefully addressing these challenges to ensure our long-term health, but we rely on your steadfast support to enable us to continue to offer so many free programs and to play such a pivotal role in the world of Jewish Studies.

Few institutions of higher education in the United States can offer such a broad range of courses in Jewish Studies, taught by such a learned and vibrant faculty, with such talented and engaged students, on a campus where diversity and respect are so twinned.

We thank you for your past support and hope you will take a few moments to fill out the enclosed envelope and join us as a new member or renew as a Friend of the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College.

Join us and experience the nine reasons why we are excited and proud.

Review of Culture & Arts Programming for 2014–2015

DIANE SPIELMANN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



From the start of our Fall programming to its finish in the Spring, “innovation and creativity” are the hallmarks of our programming . . .

Delightful and yet historically profound, “From Rosenfeld to Robeson,” a presentation of the National Yiddish Theatre–*Folksbiene*, opened the Fall season for the Queens College Center for Jewish Studies, and what an opening! Opera star Elmore James and *Folksbiene*’s Artistic Director, Zalmen Mlotek, captivated their audience with fresh interpretations in a unique blend of Yiddish favorites and American spirituals. Selections were based on the repertoire of singer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson, with a number of the songs of the Eastern-European immigrant experience in urban sweatshops taken from the lyrics of poet Morris Rosenfeld, a Polish émigré. Each selection included English and Russian superscripts, with many slides also featuring bios of the many poets and songwriters represented in the pro-



Zalmen Mlotek, artistic director of National Yiddish Theatre—*Folksbiene*.

gram. The visual presentations and the performances and narrations (by Avram Mlotek) delivered by James and Mlotek yielded a solid standing ovation for an unforgettably moving experience.

Noted archaeologist Jodi Magness, the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, once again drew a tremendous crowd as she presented her subsequent findings at the site of the ancient village and synagogue at Huqoq in Israel’s Galilee since her previous slide/lecture to us in 2012. Her focus included the stunning and unique mosaics from the fifth-century monumental late-Roman synagogue building with vivid depictions of the biblical hero Samson. Her delivery was as dynamic and exciting as her “literally ground-breaking” discoveries. The audience was enthralled with her slides, information, and delivery, and responded with one question after another.

How to express being a Jew from Aschkenaz to Sepharad? In back-to-back lectures on consecutive days: first in Germany during the Weimar Period, followed by Spain throughout the last millennium, beginning with the 10th century:

On a sunny Monday afternoon, Prof. Kerry Wallach, Assistant Professor of German Studies at Gettysburg College, addressed “Coming Out as Jewish in Weimar Germany” to a capacity audience in the President’s Confer-



Archaeologist Jodi Magness at the podium, with her excavation team shown on a slide.

ence Room in Rosenthal Library. In a well-structured delivery along with an illustrative PowerPoint presentation beginning in the 19th century, she discussed such issues as: Jews who wanted to be recognized as such with visual evidence (i.e. attire) vs. “secret” Jews; titles of periodicals such as Martin Buber’s journal, *Der Jude*; and the first Miss Judaic Beauty Queen in 1929. Questions flew as the audience digested the answers along with a Kosher lunch!



Prof. Kerry Wallach (Gettysburg College) delivering her lecture, *Coming Out as Jewish in Weimar Germany*.

The next evening, we went from a narrow time frame to a broad sweep of the Sephardic World from the 10th century to the 21st with Cordova at the core, delivered by master orator and historian Benjamin Gampel, holder of the Dina and Eli Field Family Chair in Jewish history at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His lecture, “Crisis and Creativity in the Sephardic World,” was presented at the Annual Leon and Morris Levy Memorial Lecture, endowed by the Levy Family. Prof. Gampel related how crises throughout time have led to Jewish creativity in not only coping with a crisis, but using it to their advantage in advancing their own status among the greater Muslim and later Christian communities. And his animated delivery moving about the stage and holding the audience with each word of historical fact deserved an Oscar!

Each year as the calendar turns to November, we begin to feel the cold of approaching winter accompanied by shorter days, and we also feel the approach of the solemn season of remembrance when synagogues were

burned in Nazi Germany during the infamous *Kristallnacht*. Two programs in 2014 highlighted that history. Prior to our official observance of *Kristallnacht* together with the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding (see below), we turned our focus to a dramatic reading by actor Stephen Singer of Bernard Otterman’s book launch of his latest anthology of historical fiction, *Inmate 1818*, based on the author’s own experiences during the Holocaust when he was a young child in the labor camps in Poland, and miraculously survived. While history relates the facts, historical fiction allows the author to ponder ideas within reality, making the reader think—and drama goes one step further in depicting the visceral. And so it was during a cold, dreary November evening at Queens College. In a four-part program, seasoned actor Steven Singer opened with a dramatic reading, co-sponsored by the college’s Department of Drama, Theatre, and Dance. And at the end of the central story of the anthology of the same title, Dr. Bernard Otterman took the

stage to offer his commentary as a Holocaust Survivor. The silence of the audience spoke volumes, together with some difficult moments for Dr. Otterman as he recollected the past.



Esteemed CJS Advisory Board member Elsi Levy with speaker Prof. Benjamin Gampel.

The silence was eventually broken only by the many questions in the Q&A session that followed, with a book signing by the author concluding the evening events.

Particularly poignant, the annual Center for Jewish Studies and Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding (CERRU) “Commemoration of *Kristallnacht* and Recommitment to Combating Anti-Semitism and Hatred,” supported by the Resnick Family and Sinai Chapels, sent a powerful message that “change is possible.” Keynote speaker Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger, an award-winning physician from Florida and author of several books—including *A German Life: Against All Odds, Change is Possible*—described his personal struggle growing up in Germany in the shadow of his father, a highly decorated WWII Nazi officer. Facing that legacy head-on with extraordinary courage and commitment, young Wollschlaeger would convert to Judaism, immigrate to Israel, and serve in the Israel Defense Forces as a medical officer, all the while concealing his



Dr. Houman Sarshar, Persian Jewry historian; Josephine Mairzadeh, American Sephardi Federation, NY; and George Izhak, *Reading Tehran in Tel Aviv* producer and director.

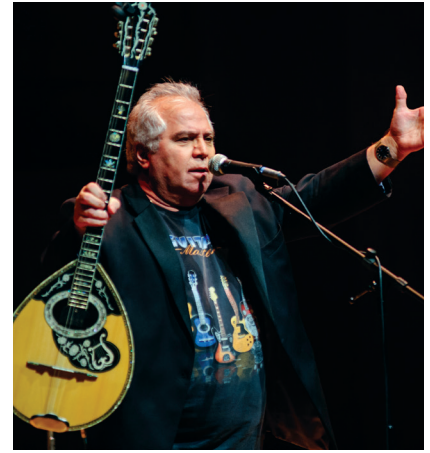


Motel Didner, Associate Artistic Director, National Yiddish Theatre, who appeared at our annual Chanukah celebration.

origins, until the day came when his children questioned him about his parents. Facing another challenge and with the support of his rabbis, he has since embarked on a mission of disseminating his message, that change is indeed possible. Resonating with the full-house audience, Wollschlaeger received an enthusiastic standing ovation, followed by an equally moving candle-lighting ceremony with five survivors, each escorted by CERRU fellows—all of whom committed to combat anti-Semitism and hatred—as well as a member of the Second Generation flanked by her son and his daughters. The musical interlude performed by the multicultural Vocal Ensemble of Townsend Harris High School and its director underscored the program’s message with the group’s fitting selections. Each segment of the program meshed with the powerful and poignant message.

Exploring an ancient community in the present was the subject of the next program, co-sponsored with the American Sephardi Federation: *Read-*

ing Tehran in Tel-Aviv, a documentary film by director George Itzhak (in English, Hebrew, and Farsi), was followed by a panel discussion. George Itzhak was joined by Josephine Mairzadeh, an artist and a subject of the film (who also is Development Director of the American Sephardi Federation), and Dr. Houman Sarshar, cultural historian of Persian Jewry. *Reading Tehran in Tel-Aviv* tells the story of two Iranian-Jewish women who use the arts as a means to create a bridge between Iran and Israel, as well as their identities as Iranians and Jews, and yet the attempted symbiosis also leaves them with unresolved feelings and tensions. In a beautifully arranged kaleidoscope of scenes and images the film questioned how do we as Jews from the diaspora internalize the “home country” along with our Jewish identity in the U.S. or Israel? The evening’s topic was universal in many ways, as it is also specific to one group. In the panel discussion, moderated by both Dr. Sarshar and Dr. Spielmann, the discussion helped



Avram Pengas adding Sephardic Greek flavor.

the audience understand this tension specific to Persian/Iranian Jewry from each of the panelists’ perspectives. A lively Q&A period with the audience and the expert panel further augmented the understanding of this rich cultural legacy.

“Exhilarating” was the word for the Music & Theater Series this year, which ended with our annual Chanukah celebration featuring the National Yiddish Theatre–*Folksbiene* presenting “Songs of Chanukah: Celebrating



Storyteller Peninnah Schram with musician/singer Rabbi Moshe Shur in a “duet” of story and music for Purim.

the Festival of Lights.” In Yiddish the word is *a gvure*, describing not only the performance but also the record-breaking 400-plus audience! Adding an international flair to the music, each of the seven musicians and vocalists, with musical director Zalmen Mlotek on piano, rendered both Ashkenazi and Sephardic selections in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, Greek, and Ladino—enhanced by enthusiastic audience participation in song, all the while clapping to the rhythm. And then came a surprise: Motl Didner, Yiddish actor and Associate Artistic Director of *Folksbiene*, in a one-man skit as a comic snowbird, equipped with a beach ball, enjoying Chanukah at the shore in Santa Monica! And it led to a standing ovation followed by a reception and buffet of potato latkes and *soufganiot* to close the evening and the Fall 2014 season.

After the Winter hiatus “A Purim *Spiel*” kicked off the QC Center for Jewish Studies Spring offerings. And a Purim *spiel* it was as a March 1 snowstorm brought us a wonderful preview of “Upside-down Humor.”



Children in costume, as is traditional for Purim, while adults and children enjoy the party as well.



Prof. Francesca Bregoli discusses her book, *Mediterranean Enlightenment, Livornese Jews, Tuscan Culture, and 18th-century Reform*.

A hundred brave souls came to hear Peninnah Schram, renowned storyteller, along with Renaissance man Rabbi Moshe Shur and his two sons, Yehuda and Mordecai, in the “Shur Thing” band. Quickly the storm outside was forgotten in the warmth of the music and “Upside-down Humor” that filled LeFrak Concert Hall as each of the mesmerizing tales unfolded, with the audience actively participating in the stories and music. The snowstorm outside was forgotten in the spirit of Purim and the hot sales of CDs and

books at the reception with the artists and *hamantaschen* galore afterward!

From soul-warming to heartwarming describes the next two programs presented by Queens College Prof. Mark Rosenblum, Middle East historian, in his screening and discussion of two unique films. The award-winning documentary *Strangers No More* (2010, English and Hebrew, directed by Karen Goodman and Kirk Simon), depicts the Bialik-Rogozin School, an exceptional school in Tel Aviv whose students from 48 different countries have experienced adversity and genocide. From grade school through high school level, each child related a story of hardship as they adjusted in a loving environment of dedicated teachers and counselors, all the while healing as they learned in Hebrew as their newly acquired language. There was not a dry eye in the house.

Another film, *Wadjda* (a 2012 feature film, in Arabic with English subtitles, directed by Haifaa Al Mansour) also “tore at one’s heart-strings.” This groundbreaking film, filmed in Saudi Arabia, features the





Moshe Halbertal at podium, discussing *Debate in the Aftermath of the Third Gaza–Israel War*. Seated are Khalil Shidaki and Mark Rosenblum, who acted as moderator.

country’s first female director and female lead actress, Waad Mohamed. Not only the story of a 10-year-old girl coming of age and seeking modernity within her culture, the film also reveals the difficulties of many women—including the girl’s mother—in a traditional society.

For both films Prof. Rosenblum not only answered specific questions as discussant, but laid the groundwork for understanding the region and lifestyles of those who question and challenge their condition.

For his next program, off campus at the Central Queens Y in Forest Hills, Prof. Rosenblum led a discussion of the Ibrahim Student Scholar Middle East Leadership and Dialogue Program with Queens College. He introduced the Ibrahim Program in a short film of a trip he took to the Middle East last May with some students, several of whom made up a panel at the Y. Addressing the topic “On the Frontline of Hope: A Student Awakening in the Tumultuous Middle East Transition,” each student discussed what had

impacted them the most during the trip, especially in “understanding the other,” in an area where “violence is a part of life.” With countless questions from the audience, especially vis-à-vis Israel, Prof. Rosenblum advised everyone to keep their hearts and minds open as the Passover holiday approached.

Continuing the focus on the Middle East, the Center of Jewish Studies went from Forest Hills to Hollis Hills. Later in the semester, the focus was on Israel for the Center’s inaugural off-campus program in conjunction with the newly created consortium of Queens and West Nassau Synagogues, conceived by the Center’s Advisory Board headed by Chair Bernie Spear. The Hollis Hills Jewish Center presented “The Peoples of Israel: Cultures, Ethnicities, and the Shaping of Israeli Politics,” with Dr. Ronald W. Zweig, Director of the Taub Center for Israel Studies at New York University. In his lecture to an attentive audience, following a wine and cheese reception, Dr. Zweig deftly explored

the complex map of what has been identified as the “groupings” in Israel, e.g., the secular Tel Aviv types, the Haredi, the Russians, the Israeli Arabs, and the settlers—and how the distinct agendas of each group have shaped Israel’s political reality.

Stepping back into history, we zeroed in on the western Levant in an afternoon luncheon and lecture on “Mediterranean Enlightenment: Livornese Jews, Tuscan Culture, and Eighteenth Century Reform,” presented by Queens College Prof. Francesca Bregoli, the Joseph and Oro Halebua Professor of Greek and Sephardic Studies, supported by the Pearl and Nathan Halebua Family Foundation. The lecture was based on Prof. Bregoli’s recent book of the same title, which was a finalist in the 2014 National Jewish Book Awards. To a full-house audience with not a seat to be had, Dr. Bregoli addressed the importance of the Mediterranean port of Livorno, home of one of the most privileged Jewish communities in early modern Europe. In her

examination of its interactions with the broader community, she juxtaposed the Sephardic Enlightenment with that of Western Europe, pointing out the subtle differences between each. She noted that until recently “Enlightenment” referred primarily to the West only. Along with her PowerPoint presentation, the lecture was an “eye-opener” for those attending, resulting in a lively Q&A period. In addition to savoring each word, the audience savored each morsel of the sumptuous kosher Italian lunch that followed!

Our Spring semester generally ends with the lecture in observance of *Yom HaShoah*, a program endowed by Celina and Marvin Zborowski, Survivors of the Holocaust, and so, too, it was this year. This particular program is one of the most solemn sponsored by the Center in tribute to the Survivors, and in memory of those who did not survive. With the 70th anniversary of Liberation, this year’s program was especially poignant, highlighting the



Speaker Ann Kirschner discussing her book, *Sala's Gift, My Mother's Holocaust Story*.

value of original documentation as time marches on. Dean Ann Kirschner of the Macaulay Honors College of the City University of New York presented “Sala’s Gift: My Mother’s Holocaust Story,” based on her book of the same title. It is an extraordinary example of a mother/daughter relation-



Kirschner beneath photo of her mother, Sala Garncarz, from her book.

ship. For almost a half century, Sala Kirschner, nee Garncarz, was silent. It was only just prior to heart surgery when she gave her daughter Ann 350 letters she had written and received from family and friends while interned in seven labor camps in Poland, Germany, and Czechoslovakia, safeguarding the letters throughout. In addition to the value of documentation, the lecture, accompanied by a multimedia presentation, also addressed the choice of a survivor to speak (or not) about his/her experience, and the effect that choice may have on the “Second Generation.” The interactive Q&A session reflected the intensity of the program, which was concluded by Marvin Zborowski. Coincidentally, he and his wife came from the same region in Poland as Ann Kirschner’s mother. With a quiver in his voice he asked the Survivors in the audience to stand up and be recognized. It was only a handful among the 122 individuals in the audience, a reality that marks the 70th Anniversary of Liberation.



Marvin and Celina Zborowski, benefactors of the endowed lecture for the commemoration of *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day), with friend Stella Skura—all Holocaust survivors. Ann Kirschner, the *Yom HaShoah* speaker, is behind them.

LISTEN TO THE SONGS AND THE PRAYERS: A MUSICAL PRELUDE TO THE HOLIDAYS

FEATURING RAPHAEL FRIEDER
Ronn Yedidia, Accompanist

September 9, Wednesday, 7 pm | LeFrak Concert Hall

Free and open to the public.



Cantor Raphael Frieder



Ronn Yedidia

Raphael Frieder, Cantor of Temple Israel of Great Neck since 1991, is a renowned cantor and performer of classical, Jewish, and Israeli music. His rich baritone and musical artistry are widely recognized in America, Europe, and Israel, where he was born. Internationally known, he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium, Vienna's Volkstheater, and Paris's Notre Dame Cathedral, and has worked with some of the world's leading conductors, including Zubin Mehta, Roger Norrington, Gary Bertini, and Leonard Bernstein, who selected him to perform the world premiere of his *Arias and Barcarolles* in Tel Aviv.

A featured soloist for the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music on the Naxos label, Cantor Frieder has made numerous recordings for Israel National Radio, and played the role of the Cantor in the hit film *Keeping the Faith*. He also appears regularly with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and the Yuval Ensemble Cantorial concert series, conducted by Mordechai Sobol.

Cantor Frieder is also a sought-after teacher of liturgical music. A mentor to many aspiring cantors, he has been teaching at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America for over a decade.

Ronn Yedidia is a musician and composer whose exceptional gift on piano became known when he won first prize at the Young Concert Artists' Competition of Israel at the age of eight. Since then he has become internationally acclaimed for his compositions and performances on piano, including classical, jazz/fusion, pop song, dance, theatre, and klezmer. As a teacher, he has mentored some of the finest young piano talent in the tri-state area and in international festivals and workshops. He is the founder of the New York Piano Academy on Manhattan's Upper West Side together with his jazz partner, Haim Cotton.

He holds a DMA in composition from Juilliard, where he was the recipient of numerous scholarships, and also twice won the Juilliard Composition Competition. In addition to several international awards, he has won special grants from both ASACP and BMI, and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship.

A CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

FEATURING DAVID SERERO

International opera singer, actor, and musician

December 6, Sunday, 2 pm | LeFrak Concert Hall

Co-sponsored with the American Sephardi Federation, NY

Free and open to the public.



Born in Paris of Moroccan Jewish heritage in 1981, **David Serero** is noted for his robust baritone. Uniquely versatile, he sings in 15 languages in multiple genres: opera, operetta, jazz, popular Broadway songs, and traditional Jewish music.

In Paris he studied jazz piano at the American School of Modern Music and at the Bill Evans Piano Academy, and was featured in Parisian television and film. In New York he studied voice with

teachers from Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera, and also studied acting at the H.B. Studio, where he played the role of Stanley in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, as well as in productions of Neil Simon's

plays. In Russia he studied at the Rimsky Korsakov Music Conservatory in Saint Petersburg. Most recently, David Serero starred as Shylock, in his own Sephardi and operatic adaptation of Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, which he directed and produced for the American Sephardi Federation at the Center for Jewish History in New York.

David Serero's celebration of Chanukah will include multi-language musical renditions

in Sephardi and Ashkenazi traditions, interspersed with song in all genres, as well as drama and comedy. Along with world-class piano accompanist Noriko Sunamoto, David Serero is not to be missed!

A Celebration for All Ages. Bring the Entire Family!

Reception to follow, with traditional kosher Ashkenazi and Sephardic Chanukah treats.

This program has been made possible through the Carole and Arthur Anderman Fund, supported by the Andermans. The Queens College Center for Jewish Studies (Center) is deeply grateful to Carole and Arthur (Advisory Board Chair Emeritus) for their generosity and dedication to Queens College and the Center throughout the years.

THE MITZVAH PROJECT

FEATURING ROGER GRUNWALD

October 8, Thursday, 7 pm | Colden Auditorium

Free and open to the public.



Roger Grunwald

The Mitzvah Project is a combination of theatre, historical presentation, and conversation in which Roger Grunwald, actor and child of a Holocaust survivor, explores one of the most shocking aspects of the Jewish experience during the Second World War. Through the character of Christoph Rosenberg, a German half-Jew, this one-man drama—created with director and co-author Annie McGreevey—reveals the surprising history of tens of thousands of German men known as *Mischlinge*, the derogatory term the Nazis used to characterize the men who served

in Hitler's army even though they were descended from one or two Jewish grandparents.

Uncovering subtle and implicit nuances within National Socialism, this disturbing, intriguing topic is based on the academic research of military historian Bryan Rigg (BA, Yale; PhD Cambridge University). Rigg is the author of *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers: The Untold Story of Nazi Racial Laws and Men of Jewish Descent in the German Military*, which won the Colby Award for military history in 2003. Since the time of its publication, the book has sparked interest in the topic as well as an ongoing debate among historians.

Following the performance Roger Grunwald will conduct a lecture delving deeper into the history that produced the *mischling*-soldiers—men who were the product of two centuries of German-Jewish assimilation, intermarriage, conversion, and the striving of a people committed to calling the German Fatherland their home. After the lecture, Mr. Grunwald will lead a discussion with the audience and a Q&A session.

Roger Grunwald has been a performing artist for over 30 years and is featured in the pilot episode of a Martin Scorsese-directed and produced HBO series on the rock 'n roll scene from the 1970s and 80s set to air later this year. Mr. Grunwald was honored with a 2013 grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) for the development of *The Mitzvah Project*. A graduate of the University of California—Berkeley and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, he has appeared in over 70 stage productions in the United States and Europe. From the early 1980s through the mid-2000s, he was one of the key founding activists who created the nonprofit All Stars Project (ASP), which has pioneered an innovative approach to youth development using theatrical performance. ASP has operations in six cities throughout the country including New York. During his 26-year tenure at ASP, he co-founded its experimental Castillo Theatre, where he starred in over 45 productions.

www.rogergrunwald.com.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE: TWO WITNESSES TO ANCIENT ISRAEL

ELIZABETH BLOCH-SMITH

November 4, Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Rosenthal Library, Room 230

Admission for open seating \$5. For further information, call 718-997-5730 or 4530.

Royal, prophetic, priestly, and scribal circles produced the Hebrew Bible to record Israel's history and her evolving relationship with the national God. However, the varying agendas of these authors and editors compromise the value of the book as an historical source. By contrast, archaeology presents an un-edited record of the same period, including details and facets of culture not recorded in the text.

—Elizabeth Bloch-Smith



An accomplished and noted archaeologist with over 40 years of field experience,

Prof. **Elizabeth Bloch-Smith** is a faculty member of the Theology and Religious Studies Department at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. She has taught various university courses on Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology since 1984 and also at the Hebrew

University of Jerusalem. Her research interests include archaeology of ethnicity, Near Eastern archaeology, the Levant, and the Ancient Near East. A prolific writer, she has published on the early Israelite and surrounding cultures, Israelite religion, women in the ancient Near East, and Jerusalem through the ages.

In her lecture, Dr. Bloch-Smith will examine instances where text and artifact agree, where they supplement one another, and where they disagree. The disagreements are intriguing because they provide keys to the manipulation of texts to foster the various authors' and editors' specific agendas. Studied together, Bible and archaeology reveal ancient Israelites trying to understand the role of their God, the king, and the community in the course of events.

Prof. Bloch-Smith earned her MA and PhD from the University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

The Israelite Conquest of Jericho: The Florence Baptistry door panel depicting Joshua's campaign to Jericho.

Lorenzo Ghiberti, 1425–1452, gilded bronze



Photo courtesy: © 2005 Mary Ann Sullivan.

DUBLIN JEWISH SPACES, FACES, AND PLACES

An illustrated history of the Jewish community of Dublin from the time of Cromwell to the present day.

MELANIE BROWN

October 19, Monday, 12:15 pm
Rosenthal Library | President's Conference Room #2 (fifth floor)

Co-sponsored by the Queens College Irish Studies program.

Free and open to the public.



Melanie Brown coordinates the ongoing Dublin Jewish Oral History Project, a voluntary undertaking whose object is to chart the lived experience of Dublin's Jewish community in the 20th and 21st centuries, of which she is a part.

The Dublin Jewish Oral History Project was conceived by the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland in 2010, as a response to an imperative to capture life-stories of members of the

aging and rapidly diminishing Jewish community of Dublin. Dr. Brown was invited to coordinate this project on a voluntary basis in 2011; since then over 40 interviews have been conducted, mainly in Dublin, but also in the UK, the USA, Canada, and Israel. Among the themes that have emerged are Jewish communal, religious, and secular life in Dublin; education; emigration; and philo-Semitism and anti-Semitism in Ireland.

Dr. Brown previously was the Composer-in-Residence with the National Chamber Choir of Ireland, and is currently a Local Centre Examiner at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin. Her principal research interests include Irish Jewish culture and identity, and both oral and documented Jewish history in Ireland from 1660 to the present, topics upon which she frequently presents and publishes to an international audience.

A Kosher lunch will be available.

**RSVP: 718-997-5730
or 718-997-4530 or email
rita.shliselberg@qc.cuny.edu.**

Paid parking is available in the Student Union; for information on parking call 718-997-3964.

YEARNING AND RETURNING

RETRIEVING SPANISH NATIONALITY AFTER 500 YEARS

JANE GERBER, PROFESSOR EMERITA
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

October 29, Thursday, 7:15 pm | Rosenthal Library, Room 230

Free and open to the public.



Jane Gerber is Professor Emerita of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where she taught classes in Classics, History, and the MA in Liberal Studies program through the Center of Jewish Studies at CUNY, specializing in Sephardic history. She currently serves as Director of the Institute for Sephardic Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, and is noted for her books in the field, including *The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience* (Macmillan, The Free Press, 1992) and *Jewish Society in Fez* (E.J. Brill, 1980).

She also has served as President of the Association of Jewish Studies, and is currently on the board of CUNY, the Center for Jewish History, and the American Sephardi Federation. She earned her PhD from Columbia University and an MA from Harvard.

In her lecture Dr. Gerber will discuss the latest developments in Spain concerning the recent reinstatement of Jewish citizenship after more than 500 years for those descended from Spain, while confronting the many questions the proposal raises.

Presented by the Annual Leon and Morris Levy Memorial Lecture, endowed by the Levy Family.

The Queens College Center for Jewish Studies is deeply grateful to Elsi Levy and her family for their generosity and dedication to Queens College and the Center for Jewish Studies throughout the years.

READING THE TORAH

CATHERINE CHALIER

December 2, Wednesday, 12:15 pm
Rosenthal Library | President's Conference Room #2 (fifth floor)

Free and open to the public.



"To struggle against darkness, historical, and critical readings teach us to understand the books of the Torah by relating them to the past, and to their authors' intentions. But does this scientific refutation of fundamentalism not omit some essential questions?"

In our own time, readings of the Holy Books pose burning questions, such as those related to the land of Israel and to Jerusalem, to the singular destiny of the Jewish people, and to politics. Here the spiritual reading has its say: *It beckons us to work in the direction of a peace, dedicated to a concern for the fate of others.*"

Professor **Catherine Chaliar** will explain how a spiritual reading—in this case according to the Jewish tradition—sheds light on other aspects, suggesting that the language of the texts under scrutiny contains meanings to be unfolded through time.

Catherine Chaliar is a French author and a Professor Emerita of Philosophy at the University of Nanterre. Born in Paris, she received a classical French education. She holds an MA in Hebrew and a PhD in philosophy from the University of Paris. Her main interest lies in the Hebraic source of Western culture; she will

explain why and how this source may provide new insight on philosophical questions (such as nature, history, the senses, and emotions).

Prof. Chaliar has published several books on the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, whom she first met as a student. She also is interested in the dialogue between religions, especially with Christians and Muslims. She has published a book entitled *L'écoute en partage* with Minister Marc Faessler on the dialogue between Judaism and Christianity (Prize Colladon).

A prolific and award-winning writer, her most recent publications include *Des anges et des hommes* (Albin Michel, 2007; also translated into Italian); *R. Kalonymus Shapiro, Rabbin au Ghetto de Varsovie* (Arfuyen, 2011); *Présence de l'espoir* (Seuil, 2013); *Lire la Torah* (Seuil, 2014); and *Aux sources du hasidisme: le Maggid de Mezeritch* (Arfuyen, 2014).

A Kosher lunch will be available. RSVP: 718-997-5730 or 718-997-4530 or email rita.shliselberg@qc.cuny.edu.

Paid parking is available in the Student Union; for information on parking, call 718-997-3964.



ANNUAL KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION

Annual Commemoration of *Kristallnacht* and
Recommitment to Combating Anti-Semitism and Hatred

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BRINGING NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN AMERICA TO JUSTICE

THE HONORABLE ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN

November 15, Sunday, 2–4 pm | LeFrak Concert Hall

Free and open to the public.



*Presented by the Resnick Family
and Sinai Chapels, Fresh Meadows,
Queens, NY.*

Elizabeth Holtzman has had a distinguished 20-plus year career in public service. In 1973 she won a Brooklyn Congressional seat in a major political upset, becoming the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, a record she held for 42 years. Ms. Holtzman served for eight years in the House of Representatives, where she won national attention for her role on the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment proceedings against President Richard Nixon during Watergate. She also won international acclaim for her pioneering work in bringing Nazi war criminals in America to justice. After uncovering the presence of Nazis here, she created a special unit to bring them to justice and secured passage of the law (the "Holtzman Amendment") that facilitated the removal from the U.S. of those who engaged or assisted in acts of Nazi persecution.

Elizabeth Holtzman also was a leader in the women's movement, co-founding the bipartisan Congresswoman's Caucus, and authoring legislation protecting the privacy of rape victims. She also chaired the Immigration and Refugees Subcommittee, where she helped deal with the plight of the Vietnamese boat people, and authored the Refugee Act with Senator Ted Kennedy.

Subsequently, Ms. Holtzman was elected District Attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn) in 1981, the only woman ever elected DA in New York City, serving for eight years. She was then elected Comptroller of New York City, again the only woman to serve in that capacity.

Called back to the federal government in 1998, Ms. Holtzman was appointed by President Clinton to a federal panel that oversaw the declassification of more than eight million pages of U.S. government secret Nazi war crimes files. In May 2013, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel appointed her to a federal panel responsible for reviewing the problem of sexual assault in the military and developing recommendations for

reform. She now chairs a successor federal panel.

Elizabeth Holtzman has written three books and numerous op-ed pieces, and has appeared on TV and in films, including two Academy Award-winning documentaries, "Hotel Terminus" on Gestapo Chief Klaus Barbie and "Women—for America, for the World" on nuclear disarmament.

The program also will include a candle-lighting ceremony with six Holocaust Survivors, escorted by student fellows from the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, each of whom makes a commitment to combat anti-Semitism and hatred after introducing a survivor. In addition there will be a multicultural invocation and audiovisual and musical interludes.



Organized by Queens
College's Center for Jewish
Studies and the Center for
Ethnic, Racial & Religious
Understanding, the Queens Jewish
Community Council, Kupferberg
Holocaust Research Center and
Archives at Queensborough
Community College, and others.

Faculty Speakers Bureau

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Queens College Center for Jewish Studies Speakers Bureau has been established as a public service to the community to foster learning and education about Jews and their culture. Supplementing the center's numerous, varied, and rich cultural programs on the campus, the Speakers Bureau seeks to serve organizations and agencies that wish to sponsor stimulating, appealing programs for their members in the community. Its faculty resources are also available to educational institutions, such as high schools and colleges.

The Speakers Bureau is composed of outstanding faculty members from Queens College who are associated with the Jewish Studies Program on campus. Many are award-winning scholars, teachers, and internationally recognized figures whose opinions on historical and contemporary issues are much sought after by academicians and laypeople alike. They are specialists in Jewish history, sociology, philosophy, political science, music, media, and language and literature.

Specific subject areas in which they will speak include:

American Judaism
Anti-Semitism
Biblical Studies
Hasidism
Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture
Holocaust: History, Film, Literature, and Theology
Zionism
Contemporary Israel
American-Israeli Relations
Israel-Arab Conflict and Peacemaking
Jews and Film
Jewish-Christian Relations
Jewish History: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern
East European Jewry
German Jewry
Sephardi Jewish History and Culture
American Jewry
New York City
Jewish Humor
Jewish Labor Movement
American Jewish Literature
Jewish Music/Jews and Music
Jewish Thought, Philosophy, and Messianism
Women in Judaism and Jewish Life
Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture

PARTICIPATING FACULTY

In addition to its own faculty, the Queens College Center for Jewish Studies annually hosts visiting faculty from the United States and abroad who may also be available to participate in the Speakers Bureau. Please keep in mind that faculty also go on leave from time to time and may be unavailable.

For updates on available speakers, please call the Jewish Studies Office, 718-997-4530, or consult the center's website, www.qc.cuny.edu/centerforjewishstudies. Speakers must be booked at least six weeks in advance.

Achievements & Distinctions

FACULTY NOTES

The faculty associated with Jewish Studies at Queens College are exceptional scholars and award-winning teachers. Some of their highlights are listed below.

RIKKI ASHER

Secondary Education

is the recipient of the New York City Higher Education Art Educator of the Year Award from the New York City Art Teachers Association (NYCATA), which was presented to her in a ceremony at MoMA. Dr. Asher lectured in Baltimore at the National Art Education Association conference, “When Women Pursue Justice,” giving a talk about a mural project in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn in honor of Shirley Chisholm and other women activists. Together with Prof. Mark Rosenblum and Dr. Amy Winter, Dr. Asher also co-curated “Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan,” which was exhibited at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, Dec. 2010–Jan. 2011.



ELISSA BEMPORAD

History

is an Assistant Professor of History and occupies the Jerry and William Ungar Chair in East European Jewish History and the Holocaust at QC. She teaches a variety of courses on Russian and Eastern European Jews, women and gender, and genocide. She is the author of *Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk* (IUP, 2013),

which won the 2013 National Jewish Book Award for Writing based on Archival Material and was a finalist in the 2013 NJBA category on “Modern Jewish Thought and Experience.” The book also won the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History (2013), and was a finalist for the Schnitzer Prize in Modern Jewish History (2014). A Russian translation of the book is forthcoming with ROSSPEN in the series “History of Stalinism.” Prof. Bemporad has received an NEH Fellowship for 2015–2016, in support of her new book project, *Legacy of Blood: Jews, Pogroms and Ritual Murder in the Lands of the Soviets*. She also is the recipient of a research fellowship from the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies in Washington, DC for the Fall of 2016. In 2014–2015, she presented her work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, and Yale. She is currently co-editing (with Natalia Aleksium) a volume entitled *Women and Gender in Modern Jewish History: Historical Sources and Interpretations*, the first comprehensive effort to integrate the gender perspective at the very center of the selection of sources on Jewish life in Europe from the early modern period to 1948. Prof. Bemporad also is co-editor (with Margherita Pascucci) of a book series in Yiddish literature and culture. As part of this series she is at work on a new volume entitled *Vilna: la capitale dell'ebraismo dell'est Europa*.



THOMAS E. BIRD

European Languages and Literatures

was once again also a faculty member in the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute at Columbia University; the 2013 theme was “America’s Russophone Refugees and Immigrants, 1917 to the Present.” In the summer of 2012 he became Associate Editor, then Acting Editor, of *Yiddish/Modern Jewish Studies*. In July Prof. Bird was interviewed by Belarusian State TV on “The Belarusian Presence in Queens,” and in August he chaired the symposium, “Soviet Yiddish Writers” at the YIVO Institute in Manhattan. In November he served as the Queens College chapter delegate to the 43rd Phi Beta Kappa Triennial meeting in Florida, and the Institute of Current World Affairs in Washington, DC, elected him to membership. As a panelist (with Prof. Elissa Bemporad and Rabbi Moshe Shur), Prof. Bird spoke about “The Theological Background of *The Dybbuk*”—part of a celebration of the QC Drama Dept.’s presentation of Sh. Ansky’s play. He also was named to the Advisory Board of the European Humanities University in Vilnius, Lithuania (together with Prof. Evan Zimroth). At the college he gave a presentation at the Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar entitled “Mendele, Chagall, and Me.” In December he was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the North American Association for Belarusian Studies. He lectured about “The Amazing World of Yiddish” at

the Elmont Jewish Center. In April of 2013 he chaired the Belarusian Panel at the annual conference of the Association of Nationalities at Columbia University.



**FRANCESCA
BREGOLI**

History

is an Assistant Professor of History and the Joseph and Oro Halegua Professor of Greek and Sephardic Studies. Her work focuses on the cultural and social history of Italian and Western Sephardi Jews during the 18th century. Currently she is working on a project about kinship and emotional ties in a Jewish family with members in various Mediterranean ports. During the past academic year, Prof. Bregoli served as acting director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, a co-convenor of the NYC Seminar in Jewish History at the Center for Jewish History, and a consultant on Italian Jewry for the Posen Library of Jewish Civilization. She also co-organized the international conference “Italian Jews in Context: Relations, Exchanges, Networks” at the CUNY Graduate Center, organized an AJS roundtable on “Transnational Jewish Families and Mobility in the Early Modern Period: Challenges, Methodologies, Sources,” and presented her work in various forums at Columbia University, the universities of Venice and Pisa (Italy), and Queens College. She is the author of *Mediterranean Enlightenment: Livornese Jews, Tuscan Culture, and Eighteenth-Century Reform* (Stanford University Press, 2014), finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in the categories of Sephardic Studies and Writing based on archival materials, which provides a new view on Jewish

interaction with Enlightenment culture and the reforming-absolutist state by focusing on the Jews of Livorno, a free port on the Mediterranean Sea.



SAMI S. CHETRIT
**Classical, Middle
Eastern & Asian
Languages &
Cultures**

is advisor and coordinator of the Hebrew language program. A Moroccan-born Jew raised in Israel, he writes and publishes poetry, prose, and research, and produces documentary films. Dr. Chetrit’s book, *Intra-Jewish Conflict in Israel: White Jews, Black Jews*, was published by Routledge (London and New York, 2009). His other recent books are *Yehudim (Jews)*, a poetry book released by Nahar Books (Israel, 2008), and *Ein Habuba (Doll’s Eye)*, a novel (Hargol-Am Oved Publishers, Israel, 2007). A forthcoming book project is about the Mizrahi voice in Israeli poetry. In 2009 Dr. Chetrit finished his second documentary film, *Azi Ayima (Come, Mother, Israel)*, about his mother’s classmates in Morocco 60 years ago. The film was selected for the 2009 DocAviv and Darom film festivals in Israel. His first film, which he wrote and co-directed, *The Black Panthers (in Israel) Speak* (Israel, 2003), is about the Israeli Mizrahi social uprising during the 1970s. It was selected to be shown at many festivals around the world. His next film project will explore the concept of Jewish statehood throughout Jewish history.

HARRIET DAVIS KRAM
History

is working on a revision of *No More a Stranger and Alone*, a study of immigrant Jewish women during the Progressive Era. She published an

article on the Clara de Hirsch Home (1897–1927), and is completing a study on “The Inmates of the Clara de Hirsch Home.” She lectures widely on behalf of the Center for Jewish Studies at communal organizations, and also lectures for the New York Council for the Humanities, which has listed her as one of its “star lecturers.” Two of her popular lectures include “Jewish Communal Organizations” and “Rebels in Red Kerchiefs” about Jewish women activists in the U.S. and Eastern Europe from the late-19th century through the end of World War I.



**ABIGAIL
DOUKHAN**
Philosophy

is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and holds the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Professorship in Ethics and Tolerance, supported by the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Family Foundation. Recently Prof. Doukhan has been focusing much of her research on her forthcoming book, *Biblical Portraits of Exile* (Ashgate, 2016), an exploration of the philosophical significations of exile in the book of Genesis. The book attempts to reframe the experiences of exile undergone by a number of protagonists in the book of Genesis (Adam, Eve, Cain, Abraham, etc.) from being interpreted as a mere punishment to a fecund and rich experience having ethical and redemptive implications. She also has started writing a small monograph on the Song of Songs from a feminist/philosophical perspective drawing on 20th-century thinkers such as Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, and Emmanuel Levinas in order to distill from the Song an ethics of love. Part of her work was presented at the December 2014 Association of

Jewish Studies Conference in a paper entitled “The Motif of the Lilies in the Song of Songs: A Rosenzweigian Reading.” Finally, Prof. Doukhan is continuing her work in development ethics, having taught an intensive class in February 2015 in the newly formed country of South Sudan.



LIBA H. ENGEL
Elementary & Early Childhood Education

had a recent conference presentation published:

“Democratic Education in Practice: A Case Study of the Democratic School, Hadera, Israel.” Other publications include “A Case Study: Implementation of Janusz Korczak’s Pedagogy in the Democratic School, Hadera, a Contemporary Israeli School”; “*Dor le dor*: Studies in the History of Jewish Education in Israel and the Diaspora”; and “Experiment in Democratic Education: Dewey’s Lab School and Korczak’s Children’s Republic,” in *Jewish Social Studies*.



ARNOLD FRANKLIN
History

is Associate Professor of History. His research focuses on Jewish

social, political and intellectual life in the medieval Islamic world. Along with Roxani Margariti, Marina Rustow, and Uriel Simonsohn, he was a co-editor of *Jews, Christians and Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern Times: A Festschrift in Honor of Mark R. Cohen* (Brill, 2014). His article, “More than Words on a Page: Letters as Substitutes for an Absent Writer,” appeared as one of the contributions to that volume. In December Dr. Franklin spoke

about letters from the Cairo Geniza at a workshop at UCLA entitled “Languages of Everyday Writing in the Medieval Islamic World.” He also delivered papers at the 2014 meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Baltimore and at the 2015 World Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, both of which presented findings from his most recent project, an analysis of the prayer commentary of David ben Joshua Maimuni, a 14-century Egyptian scholar and communal leader.



NORA GLICKMAN
Hispanic Languages & Literatures and CUNY Graduate Center

is Associate Editor of

Modern Jewish Studies, with a special issue devoted to Hispanic Jewish Literature (2007); co-editor of the *Latin American Jewish Studies Association Bulletin* and member of its Executive Board; and President of the American Association of Professors of Yiddish. She has organized a LAJSA Colloquium at the Graduate Center on “The Current State of Latin American Ashkenazi and Sephardic Studies” (2007). Her publications include a selection of monologues in *Claves para el teatro de Nora Glickman* (2007) and film reviews. Her book reviews include “El tiempo y las palabras: Literatura y cultura Judeo-hispanoamericana contemporaneas,” Steve Sadow, ed., in *LAJSA Bulletin* Vol. 27, 2, 2008; “Paula Varsavsky, El resto de su vida,” in *Hispanamerica*, 2007; “Moshe Liba, Dos Pintele Yid,” in *LAJSA Bulletin*, Vol. 28, 1, Spring 2008; and “Angelina Muniz-Huberman, La burladora de Toledo,” in *World Literature Today*. Her monologues were performed at the Center for Jewish History, NY

(2007); her latest play *Preludes* and monologue *Lot’s Wife* were performed at the Hasimta Theatre in Jerusalem in 2008. Dr. Glickman received a PSC/CUNY Award in 2007–08. She has lectured on Latin American Jewish cinema and theatre, and has read from her short stories at various public institutions and Jewish centers.



SAMUEL HEILMAN
Sociology

was awarded the highest university rank of Distinguished Professor by

CUNY and won the Marshall Sklare Memorial Award for his lifetime of scholarship from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. He is the Harold Proshansky Chair in Jewish Studies at the Graduate Center, and also serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *Contemporary Jewry*, the premiere scholarly journal on the social scientific study of Jewry. Recently he published *The Rebbe: The Life and Afterlife of Menachem Mendel Schneerson*, co-authored with Menachem Friedman (Princeton, 2010), which won the National Jewish Book Award. In addition, Prof. Heilman gave the keynote address at the Bar-Ilan University Conference on Cultural Vitality and Jewish Education. This past year he did an extensive interview on “Religion and Ethics” with PBS, focusing on the difficulties of leaving the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community.



LEO HERSHKOWITZ
History

has centered much of his work on the study of the early pre-19th-century

Jewish community of New York City and has lectured widely on this subject

to various groups, including the Jewish Historical Society of England and the American Jewish Historical Society. He also has published extensively in the publications of the American Jewish Archives, American Jewish Historical Society, and the Holland Society's *de Halve Maen*, and is presently working on a study of Jews in 1790 in New York City. He mostly uses primary archival sources, thereby presenting new and challenging interpretations of the history of this period. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the prestigious Lee Max Friedman Award by the American Jewish Historical Society in 2008 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2006 from the Hebrew Institute of Religion as a "beloved professor of History, Conscientious Teacher . . . whose scholarly research and writing have given the academic world an appreciation for and a deeper understanding of the presence and contributions of Jews in the days of New Amsterdam until the present day."

SARI KISILEVSKY

Philosophy

is Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Previously she held the Pearl and Nathan Halegua Chair in Ethics and Tolerance. In addition to her affiliation with Jewish Studies at Queens College, Prof. Kisilevsky is a scholar with CUNY School of Law, where she teaches philosophy of law, political philosophy, and ethics. She received the Faculty Publication Program Fellowship Award for the Spring 2011 semester, and the college's President's Award for Innovative Teaching in 2010. Additional achievements include Force and Freedom: Workshop on Arthur Ripstein's *Force and Freedom: Kant's Moral and Legal Philosophy*, organized with Martin Stone, Cardozo/

New School and Lon Fuller's *The Case of the Speluncean Explorer* to the Honors in Social Science 200. She served as Program Committee Chair (with Jonathan Peterson, University of Toronto) of Philosophy of Law and Social and Political Philosophy for Congress 2010 of the Canadian Philosophical Association. In 2011 she presented "Security, Liberty, and Procedural Justice: Rethinking the Balance," at Nassau Community College, and "Easy Cases and Social Sources: Toward a New Defense of Legal Positivism," at The Nature of Law: Contemporary Perspectives, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Her publication of "Equity, Necessity and the Rule of Law," *Proceedings of the 10th International Kant Congress*, was published by de Gruyter Publishers, Berlin.

STEVEN KRUGER

English

Prof. Kruger published *The Spectral Jew: Conversion and Embodiment in Medieval Europe* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006).

CHAVA LAPIN

Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages & Cultures

continues to teach and lecture to academic and public-interest audiences about the cultural and literary traditions of Eastern European Jewry and the flowering of that legacy in more recent times. In Spring 2008 she presented "The Power of the Proverb" to the International Resources Center at the Queensborough Public Library, and in 2009 a lecture entitled "*Loshn un Shteyger*" (Language and Lifestyle) to a broad array of participants in a four-day EPYC conference at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Her recent publications include "The Unknown Folk Poet—A Lamentation on the Holocaust," an analysis of the hitherto unknown and unpublished poetry of Felix Horn, a survivor who describes for the first time, in verse, the destruction of Mogielnica and his personal saga in Vol. CXII of *Die Zukunft*, a 112-year-old literary Yiddish journal (the oldest extant to this day). She also conducted a week of advanced classes in Yiddish language and literature (in Yiddish) and focused on the 150th birthday of Sholem Aleichem for the Jewish Cultural Experience at Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake, NY.



KRISTINA RICHARDSON

History

recently had her book, *Difference and Disability in the Medi-*

eval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies (Edinburgh University Press, 2012) issued in paperback (2014). The book also was distributed in North America by Columbia University Press. For the 2014–2015 academic year, she served as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bonn in Germany, where she worked on an autograph manuscript from historians of 15th- and 16th-century Mamluk and Ottoman Syria. Prof. Richardson recently completed a two-year fellowship (2012–2014) from the Gerda Henkel Foundation, based in Düsseldorf, Germany. She also worked at the Institut für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft in Münster, Germany, where she began her second book project, a history of blue- and green-eyed peoples of the medieval Islamic world.



DAVID RICHTER English

published “Keeping Company in Hollywood: Toward an Ethics of the Nonfiction

Film,” focusing largely on Stephen Spielberg’s *Munich*. It appeared in the journal *Narrative*, 15:2 (May 2007). He was invited to contribute “Robert Alter and the Resistance to Theory” to the Academic Roundtable on Alter’s biblical translations and interpretations, published in *Expositions 2:2* (2008). His essay “Genre, Repetition, Temporal Ordering: Some Aspects of Biblical Narratology” was translated into Mandarin and republished in the Chinese edition of *The Blackwell Companion to Narrative Theory* (Beijing: Peking University Press, 2009). In addition, he reviewed Northrop Frye’s *The Educated Imagination and Other Writings on Critical Theory, 1933–1963* for the *University of Toronto Quarterly*, 77.1 (Winter 2008). Prof. Richter spoke on “Rereading/Rewriting the Story of Korah” at Congregation Habonim in Manhattan (2009), and was invited to the plenary lecture, “Difficulty and Recalcitrance in Biblical Narrative: Judges 19–21 and Job 42,” at the International Narrative Conference in Chongqing, China (2009).

ALAN ROSENBERG Philosophy

has focused his scholarly work on philosophical issues relating to the Holocaust and issues that arise in connection to psychoanalysis as well as key themes in continental philosophy, value theory, and philosophy of the social sciences. He is the co-author of over 80 journal articles and book chapters. He also is co-editor of numerous books, including *Echoes*

from the Holocaust: Philosophical Reflections on a Dark Time (Temple University Press, 1988); *Healing Their Wounds: Psychotherapy and Holocaust Survivors* (Praeger, 1989); *Psychoanalytic Versions of the Human Condition* (New York University Press, 1998); *Contemporary Portrayals of Auschwitz: Philosophical Challenges* (Prometheus Books, 2000); *Foucault and Heidegger: Critical Encounters* (University of Minnesota Press, 2003); *Experiments in Thinking the Holocaust: Auschwitz, Modernity and Philosophy* (Polish edition: Wydawnictwo Naukowe “Scholar,” 2004); and *Reading Nietzsche at the Margins* (Purdue University Press, 2008). For the past few years Prof. Rosenberg has served as co-editor of the electronic journal *Foucault Studies*, and as of March 2007 has been managing editor. In 2008 he served as Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. Peking University has bought the rights to translate into Chinese *Foucault and Heidegger: Critical Encounters* (2010).



MARK ROSENBLUM History

has seen his project “America and the Middle East: A Clash of Civilizations or a Meeting of Minds” continue to garner considerable national acclaim and media attention for its requirement that Jewish and Muslim students immerse themselves in the opposing group’s history relative to the Middle East conflict and construct a compelling “narrative” that supports the opposing viewpoint. The program has been featured in the *New York Times* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as well as on CBS-TV

national news, National Public Radio, and a host of other electronic and print media; the project received a \$100,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. Prof. Rosenblum was selected by the Clinton Global Initiative as one of two winners of an award for his work in the field of Religion, Conflict, and Reconciliation: “Insight on Incitement: A Public Education Program on Israeli-Palestinian Understanding.” In Fall 2009 he was appointed director of a new initiative devoted to fostering racial and ethnic understanding. This initiative has been awarded a \$285,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Education and helps facilitate conflict resolution training of Queens College students, and engage members of the broader Queens community. Prof. Rosenblum co-edited *The Jewish Condition, Challenges and Response: 1938–2008*, a collection of essays that assesses the state of world Jewry from competing perspectives (Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick and London, 2008). He also authored “After Rabin: The Malaise of the Israeli Zionist Left,” Robert O. Freedman, ed., in *Contemporary Israel: Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy and Security Challenges* (Westview Press, Boulder, 2008). His most recent writing includes “The Quest for Impact: Lessons Learned from the American Jewish Peace Camp,” in Robert O. Freedman’s *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US–Israeli Relations*, Westview Press, 2012. He is the winner of the Queens College President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and was selected by the *Forward* newspaper as one of the 50 most influential American Jews. For the third year Prof. Rosenblum led a group of student scholars on a leadership and dialogue program in the Middle East, including Israel and Saudi Arabia as

part of the college's Ibrahim Student Scholar Leadership and Dialogue Middle East Program.



IMANUEL RYBAKOV

Jewish Studies

is a researcher of the history and culture of the Bukharian Jews and Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies at Queens College, CUNY. He is the President of the Association of the Bukharian Jewish Youth of the USA "Achdut-Unity." He has published more than 100 articles about Bukharian Jews in Russian, Hebrew, and English in the *Bukharian Times*; the Bukharian Jewish Community Center, New York; *Menorah*, World Congress of the Bukharian Jews, Israel; *Haiton HaBukhari*, Brit Yotzey Bukhara, Israel; and International Literary-Publicistic magazine *Shalom*, World Congress of the Bukharian Jews, Israel. He is a co-author of *The History of the Bukharian Jews* in two volumes (New York, 2005, World Congress of the Bukharian Jews & Club "Roshnoyi-Light"); and *Kekokhavim Leolam Vaed* (Israel, 2010, World Congress of the Bukharian Jews with the support of Makhon Ben Zvi). In 2011 Prof. Rybakov published a study guide to the language of the Bukharian Jews, *Easy Bukharian*. He also rendered assistance in preparing *The Bukharian Jews, Encyclopedic Dictionary* (New York, 2009, Club Roshnoyi-Light). Currently he is working on his second book on the history and culture of the Bukharian Jews, and he recently published (in Russian) *The Bukharian Jewish Merchant Class* (Bukharian Jewish Youth of the USA, Achdut: New York, 2014); he is working on an English version.



MIRYAM SEGAL

Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages & Cultures

is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Classical, Middle Eastern & Asian Languages & Cultures, and director of the Religious Studies program. In February 2015 she spoke at Northwestern University on "Poet, Prophet, Worker: Male and Female Poetic Personae in Early 20th-Century Palestine," excerpted from her book manuscript in progress. In May 2015 she spoke at the EIR-AAR conference in Montreal on the Jewish devotional vow (*neder*). In Fall 2014 she had two entries accepted for publication (on H.N. Bialik and Rahel Bluvshtain) by Routledge's *Encyclopedia of Modernism*.



ARTHUR SHIPPEE

Religious Studies

gave the inaugural lecture for the newly created Interpretations of Ancient Judaism Series in April 2013, extending the popular Biblical Archaeology Series, and in March 2014 addressed the Jewish Studies Faculty Colloquium analyzing how the term "anti-Semitic" misrepresents the ideas and history of the New Testament in a lively talk entitled "The Anti-Semitic New Testament: Really?" An ordained Presbyterian minister, he served as Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly (2012), and was quoted in the *New York Times* after the Divestment motion was defeated; he subsequently worked with local Jewish groups planning for the 221st General Assembly and beyond. On the Council of the Presbytery of

Southern New England, he chairs the Ecclesiastical Relations Committee. A winner of Queens College's 2005 Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award for Adjuncts and chair of the selection committee for several years, he has taught at the college for 20 years. Prof. Shippee and Philip Culbertson edited *The Pastor: Readings from the Patristic Period*, which has been republished by Fortress Press.

SHEILA SPECTOR

English

recently published *Byron and the Jews: A Study in Translation* (Wayne State University Press, 2010). Her essays include "Byron and the Bund: The New York Connection between the British Poet and Russian-Jewish Revolutionaries." She was selected for inclusion in *Byron's Transatlantic Influence and Reputation* (eds. Mathew Scott and Joel Pace). Her publications include *Orientalism: Contextual Approaches and Pedagogical Practices* (Diane Long Hoeveler and Jeffrey Cass, eds., Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2006); "A Kabbalistic Reading of *Jerusalem's* Prose Plates," invited for inclusion in *Women Read William Blake: "Opposition Is True Friendship"* (Helen P. Bruder, ed.); and the forthcoming *I give you the end of a golden string: A Kabbalistic Guide to Blake's "Jerusalem"* (manuscript completed). Prof. Spector's lectures and readings include "Objections to Objects," a special session for the 2007 International Conference on Romanticism, "Romantic Objects," held in Baltimore; "Byron and the Jews," presented at a 2007 Queens College Center for Jewish Studies Faculty Colloquium, and "Byron and the Russian Revolution,"

presented at the 2006 International Conference on Romanticism, “Engaged Romanticism,” held at Arizona State University. She was organizer and chair of “Romanticism and Translation,” a special session for the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism 2006 Conference, “Scientia and Techné,” held at Purdue University.

JOSEPH SUNGOLOWSKY European Languages & Literatures

published a chapter entitled “André Neher (1918–1988) et Erets Israel” in *La Pensée Juive contemporaine* (Editions parole et Silence, 2008) and “Hidden Children in France (1940–1944): A Memoir” in *The Hidden Child* (XVI, 2008). He is the author of “Rabbi Joseph Sinzheim, President of Napoleon’s Sanhedrin and First Chief Rabbi of France,” which appeared in *Midstream* (Winter 2009) and of “Holocaust and Autobiography” published in *Bloom’s Guides: “Wiesel’s Night”* (Chelsea House, 2009). He reviewed “Les Trains du souvenir,” a World War II memoir by Victor Brombert, in *Tsafon: A Journal of Jewish Studies* published by the Université Charles de Gaulle, Lille, France (Winter 2009).

IZABELLA TALER

Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library manages a Lucius N. Littauer Grant for the library, enabling the purchase of new Holocaust publications each year. She has been able to purchase 251 volumes (231 titles) over the past several years. Among her recent achievements are “The Jewish Studies Book Awards: A Collection Development Strategy for Non-Sectarian Academic Libraries,” in *Collection Building*, Vol. 30, 1,

2011. She also delivered a paper, “Uncovering Jewish Resources in the Benjamin Rosenthal Library,” at the Queens College Faculty Colloquium, October 2011.



EVAN ZIMROTH English

received the Medal of Honour from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lithuanian Millennium Star, in September 2009 for “the fostering of friendly relations between the Lithuanian and Jewish nations.” The Millennium Medal was presented to her by the Foreign Minister of Lithuania in a ceremony at the Lithuanian Consulate in New York. That year she also gave the ASH Lecture at Clare Hall, Cambridge on “Isaiah Berlin: Baltic Jew,” and in June 2010 was on the organizing committee for the First Annual Isaiah Berlin Lecture in Riga, Latvia, given by Anne Applebaum on “The New Authoritarianisms.” In May 2011 Prof. Zimroth delivered the keynote address “The Limits (if Any) of Holocaust Discourse” at a conference on “The Problems of Literary Genres,” University of Lodz, Poland. The essay was published in April 2012 in the journal *Kinds and Styles of Criticism*. In June 2011 she spoke at Cambridge on the use of the computer for literary composition in a symposium on English language usage, and later that year met as a consultant with the Lithuanian government on Jewish heritage issues. In Spring 2012 she was named advisor for the Jewish Studies program at the European Humanities University, Vilnius, and joined the Board of Advisors devoted to Jewish-Lithuanian reconciliation. In June

2012 she spoke in Riga, Latvia, on “Lithuania’s Jewish Heritage: History, Memory and Public Policy” as part of the annual commemorative events for the Isaiah Berlin Centenary, for which she had been co-organizer in 2009. Additionally she published “Lithuania’s Jewish Issues as Seen in the U.S.: Problems and Advances,” Litvak Heritage Conference: “No Simple Stories,” University College London, December 2012; “Virginia, Lydia and Foreignness,” 23rd Annual Virginia Woolf Conference, Vancouver, June 2013, a presentation on Virginia Woolf’s attitudes to foreigners and Jews. *Text Rain*, an interactive video-installation of Prof. Zimroth’s poem, “talk, YOU” was featured at the First Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN, Feb.–May 2013.

Center for Jewish Studies 27th Annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony

The Center for Jewish Studies and the Jewish Studies Program's 27th Annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony was held on May 28, 2015 following the college graduation. Proud parents, relatives and friends, faculty, and sponsors of the various awards were beaming with joy during the festivities at the Simon and Roslyn Gold Jewish Studies Library (Library) at the Center for Jewish Studies, where a sumptuous luncheon was served.



Graduates, award recipients and guests at the 27th Annual Jewish Studies Graduation.

THE 2015 GRADUATES FEBRUARY

Ashley J. Dworkin

MAY

Daniella E. Baratz

Ilana E. Saltzman

THE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Center for Jewish Studies Award

Kimberly Pillinger

Sadaf Sourì

Allison Teicher

William Fenster Memorial Scholarship

Shirley Aguilar

Morris Flatow Memorial Award

Daniella E. Baratz

Jan Sinnreich Award for Writing Excellence

Hisham Quhshi

The M. Hrach Zadoian Student Essay Prize in Holocaust Studies

(Established in memory of
Ambassador Henry Morgenthau)

Chris Bonfiglio

Prize for Academic Excellence

Ilana E. Saltzman

Stefa Berger Communal Service Award

Megan Casey



Jan Sinnreich Award for Writing Excellence winner Hisham Quhshi with Leonore Sinnreich.



Center for Jewish Studies Award winner Kimberly Pillinger with Diane Spielmann.



The M. Hrach Zadoian Student Essay Prize in Holocaust Studies winner, Chris Bonfiglio with Diane Spielmann.



Stefa Berger Communal Service Award winner Megan Casey with Eva Zimmerman.



Jewish Studies Faculty: Prof. Thomas Bird, European Languages & Literatures; Prof. Abi Doukhan, Philosophy; Prof. Arnold Franklin, History; Prof. Francesca Bregoli, History; Prof. Elissa Bemporad; Prof. Moshe Shur, History; and Hillel Director Uri Cohen.



Morris Flatow Memorial Award recipient Daniella E. Baratz with Diane Spielmann.



Award Sponsors: Jan Fenster, William Fenster Memorial Scholarship; Eva Zimmerman, Stefa Berger Communal Service Award; and Leonore Sinnreich, Jan Sinnreich Award for Writing Excellence.

In the warm and friendly ambiance of the Library, students and guests mingled and discussed their achievements, hopes, and aspirations for the future while reminiscing about their experiences at Queens College along with a number of their professors who were present. All were delighted as our graduates and awardees demonstrated anew their staggering academic achievements. Much praise was also given to the three recipients of the Center for Jewish Studies Award, which was bestowed upon the students working hard in both the office of Jewish Studies as well as on the editorial board of the *Journal of Jewish Studies*, a student-run publication since 1998!

Especially poignant were the discussions between the awardees and their sponsors. Each of the benefactors present, Jan Fenster (Fenster Award), Leonore Sinnreich (Sinnreich Award), and Eva Zimmerman (Berger Award)

reminisced as they shared their incredible memories of loved ones for whom each of these awards are named. They include two alumni of Queens College, now deceased, as well as an aspiring student in Europe who perished in the Holocaust.

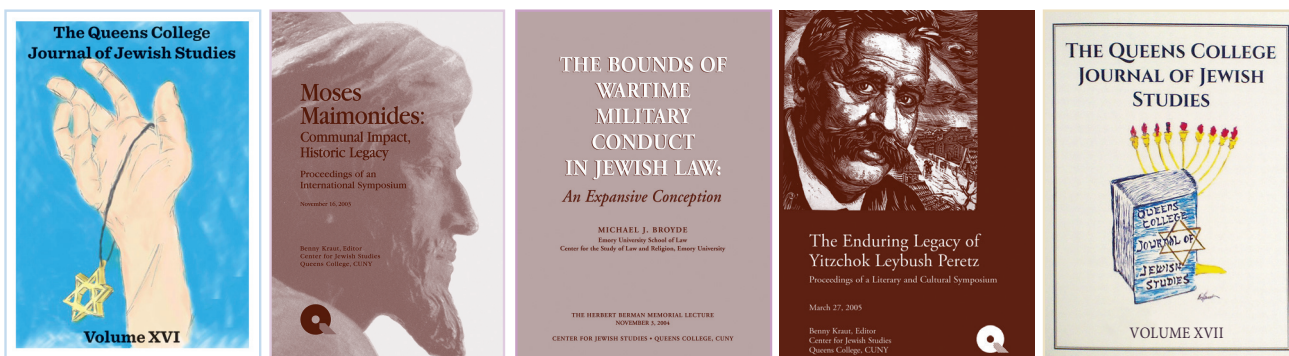


William Fenster Memorial Scholarship winner Shirley Aguilar with Jan Fenster.



Center for Jewish Studies Awardee Sadaf Souri with Diane Spielmann.

Our Publications



The Center for Jewish Studies has a growing number of significant academic publications, of interest to scholars and laypeople alike. The complete list appears below; several publication covers are also reprinted above.

Individual publications may be purchased directly from the Center. If you wish to obtain a specific publication, please contact the center, either by calling the number above, or by email (rita.shlisselberg@qc.cuny.edu).

THE HERBERT BERMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Israel Singer, *Holocaust Era Assets: The Moral Perspective*, November 17, 1999

Elisheva Carlebach, *The Death of Simon Abeles: Jewish-Christian Tension in Seventeenth-Century Prague*, November 7, 2001

Suzanne Last Stone, *Between Truth and Trust: The False Prophet as Self-Deceiver?*, October 29, 2003

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

Geoffrey Hartman, *Holocaust Testimony, Videography and Education*, The Marvin and Celina Zborowski Endowment Lecture, May 2, 2001

Warren Zev Harvey, *Maimonides' Political Philosophy and Its Relevance for the State of Israel Today*, The Dean Ernest Schwarcz Memorial Lecture, November 15, 2001

Feige Kaplan, *Should We Be Moaning About Cloning? Opportunities and Concerns in the New Genetics*, The Dr. William Weil and Dr. Martha Weil Memorial Lecture, March 6, 2002

Jenna Weissman Joselit, *From Ghetto to Suburb: American Jews on the Move, 1880s–1950s*, The Jack, Louis and Ida, and Rose Lummer Memorial Lecture, October 8, 2003

Warren Zev Harvey, *Judah Halevi's Political Philosophy and Its Relevance for the State of Israel Today*, The Dean Ernest Schwarcz Memorial Lecture, November 19, 2003

QUEENS COLLEGE JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES: A STUDENT PUBLICATION

Volume I, Spring 1999, Michael Adler & Daniel Chung, eds.

Volume II, Spring 2000, Elana Ducat & Malka Epstein, eds.

Volume III, Spring 2001, Dena Bieler & Leah Rabinovits, eds.

Volume IV, Spring 2002, Rifka Libman Schulman & Justin Engel, eds.

Volume V, Spring 2003, Rebecca Finkel & Deborah Kahan, eds.

Volume VI, Spring 2004, Nicole Iny & Russel Neiss, eds.

Volume VII, Spring 2005, Michael Gutman & Bracha Feit, eds.

Volume VIII, Spring 2006, David Greenberg & Lauren Talerman, eds.

Volume X, Spring 2008, Ari Moshkovski, editor-in-chief.

Volume XI, Spring 2009, editors-in-chief Faigy Abdelhak & Laura Sonneborn-Turetsky.

Volume XII, Spring 2010, editors-in-chief Daniella E. Adler & Chana Rosenthal.

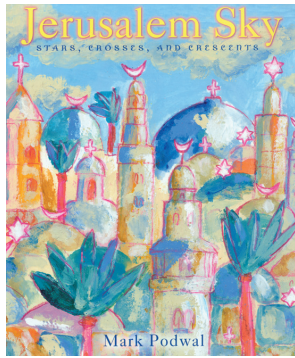
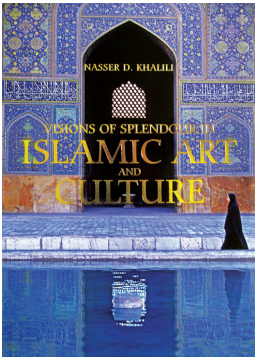
Volume XIII, Spring 2011, editors-in-chief Natalie Davidson & Camelia Serghie.

Volume XIV, Spring 2012, editor-in chief, Camelia Serghie.

Volume XV, Spring 2013, editors-in chief, Daniella Chaim & Laura Meltzer.

Volume XVI, Spring 2014, editors-in chief, Allison Teicher & Daniella Chaim.

Volume XVII, Spring 2015, editor-in chief, Allison Teicher.



Other special publications available through the center

Nasser D. Khalili, *Islamic Arts & Culture*. Mark Podwal, *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents*. Mark Podwal, "Sweet Year" Wall Calendar.

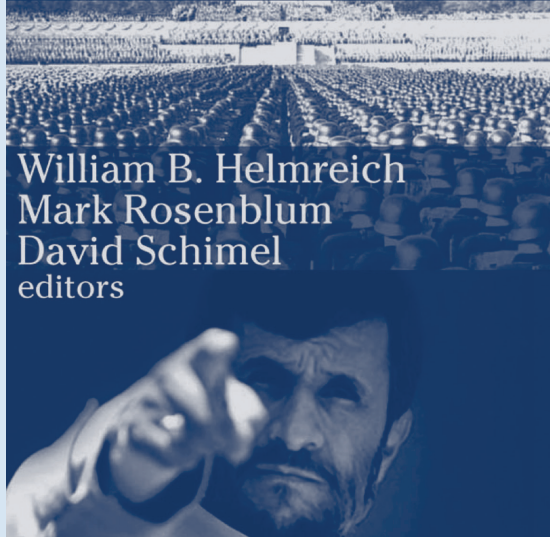
Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies: A Student Public Conference/Symposium Proceedings

Moses Maimonides: Communal Impact and Historic Legacy: Proceedings of an International Symposium, November 16, 2003, edited by Benny Kraut [Essays by Profs. David Berger, Jane S. Gerber, Warren Zev Harvey, and Allan Nadler]

The Enduring Legacy of Yitzchok Leybush Peretz: Proceedings of a Literary and Cultural Symposium, March 27, 2005, edited by Benny Kraut [Essays by Profs. Chava Lapin, Emanuel S. Goldsmith, Dan Miron, and Ken Frieden]

The Jewish Condition

Challenges and Responses — 1938-2008



William B. Helmreich
Mark Rosenblum
David Schimel
editors

The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses, edited by William B. Helmreich, Mark Rosenblum, and David Schimel [Essays by Norman Podhoretz, Michael Walzer, Irving Louis Horowitz, Alan Dershowitz, Malcolm Hoenlein, Leonard Fein, Susannah Heschel, and others]

Our conference, "Is it 1938 Again?," has been published by Transaction Publishers, April 2008, under the title *The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008*. Limited copies are available, so rush your orders for this probing study of the peril and promise of the Jewish condition at a special discount price of \$15.00.

PURCHASE PRICE OF PUBLICATIONS (INCLUDING SHIPPING)

The Herbert Berman Memorial Lectures: \$4.00 each
Occasional Papers: \$4.00 each
Conference/Symposium Proceedings Maimonides Conference: \$12.00

Peretz Symposium: \$7.00
Journal of Jewish Studies: A Student Publication:
Volumes I–VII and X–XI: \$10.00 each;
Volumes VI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV & XVI: \$12.00 each

About the Center for Jewish Studies

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Jewish Studies is the research and outreach arm of Jewish Studies on campus, promoting Jewish knowledge, scholarship, and culture outside the formal classroom setting. Serving as a bridge between the academic program and the community, the center has a wide array of exciting extracurricular events, making it a preeminent Jewish intellectual and cultural resource for the entire region. Through its imaginative programming, the center seeks to:

- Engage the college and general public in Jewish education and culture by organizing lectures, symposia, conferences, films, music and theater performances.
- Foster Jewish learning in the community.
- Publish and disseminate scholarly proceedings to laypeople and scholars.
- Promote academic community among students and faculty.
- Encourage and sustain the pedagogic and scholarly activities of the faculty and students within the Jewish Studies Program at Queens College.
- Combat and overcome intolerance and stereotyping while promoting understanding among diverse groups on campus and within the broader community, with a belief in nurturing a sense of shared citizenship on issues transcending differences while recognizing and celebrating the beauty of difference.

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A Note from Elsi Levy



An interesting parallel appears on the Web, accidentally setting a good example for us as Jews. It involves two men

of the same name whose accomplishments are mistakenly intertwined in extensive columns on our computers. Both gentlemen died in recent years and were leaders in their industries and in their world involvements. Of the two, which is our Leon Levy and which is the other?

One Leon Levy's estate recently left twenty-five million dollars to the New York Botanical Gardens. That's not our Leon Levy. One gave thirty million dollars to City College. That's not our Leon Levy, either. One gave millions to museums, opera companies, symphony orchestras, and archaeological digs worldwide. Not our Leon Levy! He was the other one. But our Leon Levy did give thousands of dollars to our own Center for Jewish Studies, as well as QC Hillel, and thousands to Hillcrest Jewish Center, and thousands to the Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills, all in Queens. He gave thousands more to AIPAC and the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations, and thousands to the Joint Distribution Committee, and thousands to the American Sephardi Federation, and thousands to the Center for Jewish History, and Bar Ilan University and Meir Panim and UJA, among many, many other recipients worldwide! The differences between our Leon Levy and the other Leon Levy are twofold. First, one gave in the millions while

the other gave in the thousands, and that's all right. They both felt their responsibility to give back to society, not to just take, consume, and leave. The second difference becomes obvious and worrisome in that only one Leon Levy understood his responsibility to Jewish causes. He couldn't help his people with millions of dollars, but he could give whatever was available within his means. There's nothing wrong with helping Jews with whatever we have—millions, thousands, hundreds, whatever and whenever we can. If each of us follows the path of our Leon Levy, giving and doing what we can for causes that will help our people survive, one Leon Levy multiplied by the rest of us right here, right now, can make the difference throughout the world. It's that simple! Please give as you can, or rather, give as you must, to worthy Jewish causes. And also consider leaving a bequest to the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College to

ensure the continuation of this important organization, which supports students and the Jewish community.

Planned Giving: Leaving a Legacy for the Next Generation

If you want to ensure that the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College will continue to serve and delight generations to come, you may wish to consider making a planned gift. Planned giving helps you maximize the tax benefits of your charitable donation while allowing you to provide a gift that you may not have thought possible. Regardless of your age or income, you can benefit from estate planning, and planned giving. There are many creative ways to provide a contribution to the Center for Jewish Studies while enhancing and safeguarding your own financial situation. For more information about planned giving, please contact the Office for Institutional Advancement at 718-997-3920 and speak to one of our advisors.

Friends of The Center for Jewish Studies

Like all Queens College Centers and Institutes, the Center for Jewish Studies must be financially self-sustaining. Its numerous free or nominally priced programs, publications, enhanced academic curricular offerings, and student scholarships simply would not be possible without external funding assistance. The Center for Jewish Studies is, therefore, most grateful for the gifts and grants that it receives from alumni, program patrons, elected public officials, and foundations, and is particularly thankful for the membership gifts (\$36 and above) of those who have joined the Friends of the Center organization.

The Friends was established as an annual membership organization to maintain the functions and activities of the center. Monies of the Friends underwrite student scholarships, the student *Journal of Jewish Studies*, new courses, and public programs—for example, our "Is It 1938 Again?" conference attended by over 1,000 participants. Members of the Friends become active stakeholders in the Jewish Studies' initiatives at Queens College and can take heart that they are supporting vital and dynamic Jewish academic and intellectual/cultural programs.

For Member Benefits, see page 38.

Friends of the Center

It is with deepest gratitude and appreciation that we publish here the names of those who have contributed to the Center for Jewish Studies at all levels as of July 31, 2015.

We have attempted to list member names as accurately as possible. If by chance your name has been omitted, misspelled,

or misidentified we apologize. Please alert our office and we will correct our database. Call 718-997-5730.

The donors identified below include only those who have provided financial assistance to the Center between June 20, 2014 and July 31, 2015.

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- Luncheon with Director and pre-event dinners with our distinguished speakers.
- A copy of Nasser D. Khalili's spectacular book *Visions of Splendor in Islamic Art and Culture*.
- A copy of *The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008*.
- 2 DVDs of concerts and interfaith dialogue.
- Free tickets to all events, reserved seating; free annual publications; advance notices, auditing of classes; listing in the *Culture & Arts Guide*.
- Two of the renowned author and illustrator Mark Podwal's beautiful children's books: *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents* and *Built by Angels, The Story of the Old-New Synagogue*.

DEAN'S CIRCLE (\$5,000–\$9,999):

- A copy of Nasser D. Khalili's spectacular book *Visions of Splendor in Islamic Art and Culture*.
- A copy of *The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008*.

- 2 DVDs of concerts and interfaith dialogue.
- Free tickets to all events; reserved seating, free annual publications, advance notices; auditing of classes, listing in the *Culture & Arts Guide*.
- Two of the renowned author and illustrator Mark Podwal's beautiful children's books: *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents* and *Built by Angels, The Story of the Old-New Synagogue*.

FACULTY CIRCLE (\$2,500–\$4,999):

- A copy of Nasser D. Khalili's spectacular book *Visions of Splendor in Islamic Art and Culture*.
- A copy of *The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008*.
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- A copy of the renowned author and illustrator Mark Podwal's beautiful children's book, *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents*.

PATRON CIRCLE (\$500–\$2,499):

- A copy of Nasser D. Khalili's spectacular book *Visions of Splendor in Islamic Art and Culture*.
- A copy of *The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008*.
- 2 DVDs of concerts and interfaith dialogue.
- Reserved seating; free annual publications, advance notices; auditing of classes; listing in the *Culture & Arts Guide*.

SPONSOR (\$100–\$499):

- A copy of *The Jewish Condition: Challenges and Responses—1938–2008*.
- Reserved seating; free annual publications; advance notices; auditing of classes; listing in the *Culture & Arts Guide*.

SUPPORTER (\$36–\$99):

- Free annual publications; advance notices; listing in the *Culture & Arts Guide*.



Bernie Spear, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish Studies, and his wife, Laurie Spear. Both had been longstanding members of the Advisory Board prior to Bernie's appointment in 2013.



Michael Resnick (left) and Howard Kahn (right) of Sinai Chapels, Fresh Meadows, Queens, New York.

Parking and Transportation

Free parking available on campus for LeFrak Concert Hall events: Lot 15, Reeves Avenue.

GETTING TO QUEENS COLLEGE

BY CAR

From Long Island and points East:

Long Island Expressway to Exit 23 (Main Street). Left at light and immediate left at next traffic light (Horace Harding Expressway/ L.I.E. service road eastbound). Continue on service road to Reeves Avenue. Right turn onto Reeves and another right onto 61st Road to parking lot 15. See map on this page.

From Manhattan and points West:

Long Island Expressway to Exit 24 (Kissena Blvd.). First right turn onto Reeves Avenue and another right onto 61st Road to parking lot 15. See map.

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

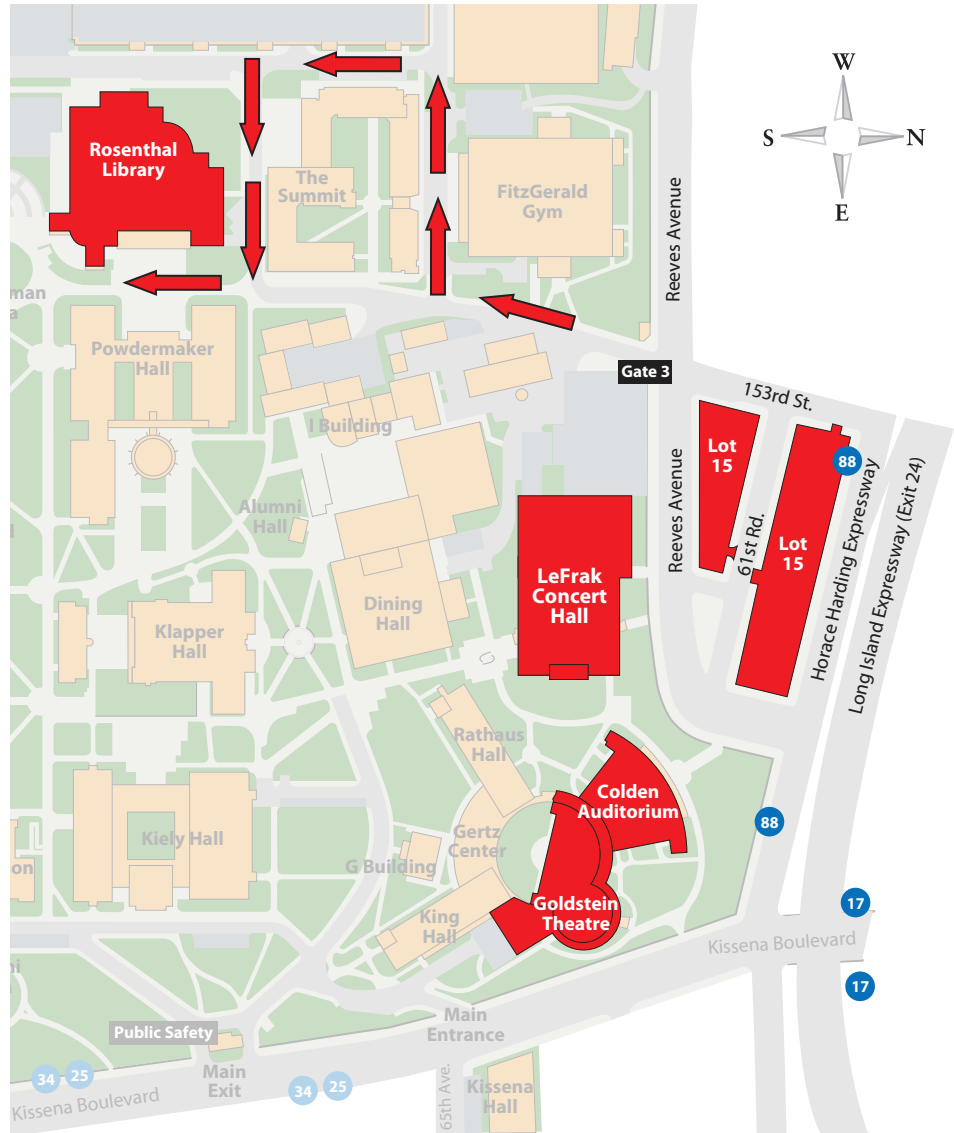
Take the Q17, Q25-Q34, or Q88 bus to the corner of Kissena Blvd. and Horace Harding Expressway (L.I.E. service road). Buses can be coordinated with E, F, M, R, or #7 subway trains.

Elevator Access to LeFrak:

Cross Reeves Avenue and walk through the opening in the big iron fence to the rear entrance of the LeFrak Concert Hall. Pathway through the opening in the fence leads directly into the building. Proceed down the entrance hallway to the elevator on your left. An attendant will take you up in the elevator to the Concert Hall level. This is not a self-service elevator; it requires the attendant with a special key. Stairs from the ground floor, to the right of the entrance as you enter, also will take you to the Concert Hall level. See map.

For Rosenthal Library, Room 230:

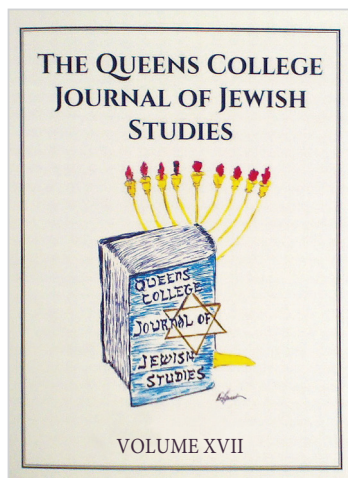
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NINE GOOD REASONS

Why Your Contribution to The Center For Jewish Studies at Queens College Is a Wise Investment:

- **An Award-Winning Public Education Program** that has been singled out by the U.S. Department of Education for a grant to create a new “Center For Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding.”
- **A Distinguished and Growing Faculty**, six of whom have won the college’s coveted “Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.”
- **Creative Curriculum That Has Won National Acclaim** and has been featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *New York Times*, *New York Jewish Week*, National Public Radio, CBS-TV national news, and a host of other electronic and print media.
- **A Dynamic and Expanding Culture & Arts Program** that includes world-class scholars and educators, renowned diplomats and political analysts, virtuoso musicians and singers, and compelling cinema.
- **Our Diverse and Talented Students**, who speak dozens of languages and represent a multitude of different ethnic, racial, and religious groups, all studying Jewish topics across more than a dozen academic disciplines.



- **The Only Jewish Studies Journal in the Nation That Is Totally Student-Produced:** The Journal’s motto, drawn from Pirkei Avot (4:1), is an invitation to join us: “Who is Wise? One who learns from everyone.”
- **Breakthrough Courses in Bukharian History and Culture** that have been heralded as some of the first such courses offered in the nation.
- **Asking Difficult Questions and Providing Balanced Answers** to the most pressing issues facing the Jewish People today.
- **New Community Initiative** dramatically expands our outreach program off campus which includes compelling interfaith dialogues and discussions, powerful film series and performances.