

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT QUEENS COLLEGE

THE ARTHUR AND CAROLE ANDERMAN

CULTURE & ARTS SPRING 2016

GUIDE



Prayer (Image #7 from the Terezin Portfolio), © 2014 by Mark Podwal

GREETINGS

from our New Director, Professor Arnold Franklin



Dear Friends,
It's a great honor to have been named the new director of the Center for Jewish Studies, and as we

begin the spring semester I'm excited to get down to work. My first exposure to Queens College and the Center for Jewish Studies came in 2003, when I spent a year on campus on a post-doctoral fellowship generously funded by the Danzig family. I was so utterly impressed by what I saw around me—motivated students, engaged faculty, and a bounty of stimulating programs—that when, six years later, a full-time position opened up in my field, I jumped at the opportunity to return. And so it's with a genuine esteem for the Center for Jewish Studies and a commitment to its historic role as a vibrant cultural and intellectual hub that I now assume my current position.

Since its inception the Center for Jewish Studies has benefited from strong and inspired leadership. Under its founding director, Ernest Schwarcz, and, later, under Benny Kraut, the Center developed into a national forum for exploring the very best of Jewish art, ideas, and culture. And thanks to the visionary leadership of Mark Rosenblum

over the past eight years the Center finds itself today on a secure footing and having launched a range of bold and highly successful programming and curricular initiatives.

Looking to the future, I aim to build on the strong foundation laid by my predecessors by continuing to expand our presence in Queens and the greater New York area through efforts like the new community initiative, which has already yielded results, and by reaching out to as yet untapped institutions and sectors of the local population.

I have also made it a priority to try to increase student and faculty involvement in our programs. This promises not only to deepen the very conversations we seek to cultivate, but also to lay the groundwork for the next generation of supporters of the Center and its mission. Catherine Chalier's public lecture last semester, arranged by Abi Doukhan of the Philosophy Department and attended by a large contingent of undergraduates, demonstrates what can be achieved when we bring our different audiences and constituencies together.

Needless to say, nothing would be possible without the hard work of our devoted board and tireless staff, and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Diane Spielmann, Pat Tortorici, and Rita Shlisselberg individually for their

tremendous efforts. They keep the Center running smoothly and continue to show me on a daily basis how to do my job.

Over the past six years I've gotten to know many of you either in the classroom or at Center for Jewish Studies events, and I encourage anyone I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting to introduce yourselves. Please feel free to pick up the phone, send me an email, or just drop by the Center's office in Jefferson Hall, 3rd floor.

With a mindfulness of our past and an eye on the future, I look forward to working with students, faculty, and community members alike to continue the important mission of the Center for Jewish Studies and its tradition of outstanding public programming.

Arnold Franklin
Associate Professor of History

Center for Jewish Studies		
PROFESSOR ARNOLD FRANKLIN Director Center for Jewish Studies	DR. DIANE SPIELMANN Associate Director Center for Jewish Studies	PROFESSOR EVAN ZIMROTH Associate Director Jewish Studies Program
<p>EXECUTIVE BOARD</p> <p>Ernest Schwarcz, Founder* Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, Chair Emeritus* Herbert Berman, Esq., Chair Emeritus* William Ungar, Executive Vice President* Arthur Anderman, Esq., Chair Emeritus Bernard Spear, Chair Pearl Halegua, Vice Chair Gary Sazer, Vice Chair Simon Gold, Esq., Honorary Vice Chair*</p>	<p>Elsi Levy, Honorary Vice President for Cultural Affairs</p> <p>GENERAL BOARD</p> <p>Daniel Andron* Elayne P. Bernstein-Schwartz* Barbara Finger, Esq. Nathan Halegua Jerry Kirschbaum Marilyn Kirschbaum Dr. Sheldon Landesman Leon Levy* Amy Magid Marc Magid</p>	<p>Leon Miller Sandi Povman Judith Rosen, PhD Marcia Schorr Dr. Arden Smith Laurie Spear Jeffrey S. Wiesenfeld Marvin Zborowski</p> <p>STAFF</p> <p>Pat Tortorici Rita Shliselberg</p> <p>*deceased</p>

JEWISH LECTURE SERIES

The Strangers We Became: Lessons in Exile from One of Iraq's Last Jews

Dr. Cynthia Kaplan Shamash

Wednesday, March 16, 12–2 pm

Rosenthal Library • President's Conference Room #2 • 5th floor

Free and open to the public



In October 1972 as a nine-year old girl clutching her doll, separated from her parents and three siblings in an adjacent room in the

local Iraqi police station, Sanuti (Cynthia) Shamash was interrogated by a policeman after the family tried to escape from Iraq. Already at that tender age Cynthia was composed as the policeman insinuated that the family was Jewish with an allegiance to Israel. Given her exposure to the dire circumstances in which Jewish families lived in Iraq, young Cynthia's answers were negative. So the policeman ruthlessly took the doll from her and dismantled its head, arms, and legs to search for hidden messages implying espionage. Finding no such evidence, he dismissed her as she collected the broken pieces of the doll, and was returned to her family in the adjacent room, only to spend several weeks in a local jail before the family's odyssey would take Cynthia to five different countries. From Turkey, they fled to Tel Aviv and then

Amsterdam, where her father soon died of a heart attack. At age 12 Cynthia was sent to London for schooling for a year, and lived with the Chief Rabbi and his family in an Orthodox Jewish enclave. After returning to The Netherlands and finishing her dental degree, Cynthia moved to the United States.

A delightful, articulate, and dynamic speaker, **Dr. Cynthia Kaplan Shamash** will describe her experiences and ordeal as well as what it means to be of Iraqi–Jewish heritage living in the United States. She was featured in the *New York Times* (Nov. 2013) when she wrote an op-ed piece that includes the fate of the Iraqi–Jewish Archives, now housed in Washington, DC. In 2011 she was elected to the board of the World Organization of Jews from Iraq. Cynthia Kaplan Shamash has her own dental practice and is married with five children.

Copies of Dr. Kaplan Shamash's book will be available for sale at a discounted price (cash or check).

Light Kosher refreshments. RSVP by March 10, by phone to 718-997-5730 or 4530, or via email to rita.shliselberg@qc.cuny.edu.

Paid parking for this daytime event is available in the Student Union at the corner of Kissena Blvd. and Melbourne Ave. For information please call 718-997-3964.

MUSIC AND THEATER

A JOYFUL PURIM CONCERT

With the National Yiddish Theatre *Folksbiene*

Featuring songs from *The Megile of Itzik Manger*

Sunday, March 20, 3 pm

LeFrak Concert Hall

Free and open to the public



Celebrate the joyous holiday of Purim with the music from the hit production featured in *Folksbiene's* 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Songs in Yiddish, with English and Russian translation supertitles, based on the poetry of Itzik Manger, with music by Israel Prize-winning composer Dov Seltzer.

With original cast members Stephen Mo Hanan, Stacey Harris, Andrew Keltz, Hannah D. Scott, Adam Shapiro, Rachel Arielle Yucht, and other special guests, and Dmitri Zisl Slepovitch at the piano.

Musical Direction by Zalmen Mlotek
Stage Direction by Motl Didner

A reception follows with kosher hamantashen and beverages.

This program has been made possible through a grant from New York City Councilman Rory Lancman.

RSVP by March 10, by phone to 718-997-5730 or 4530, or via email to rita.shliselberg@qc.cuny.edu.

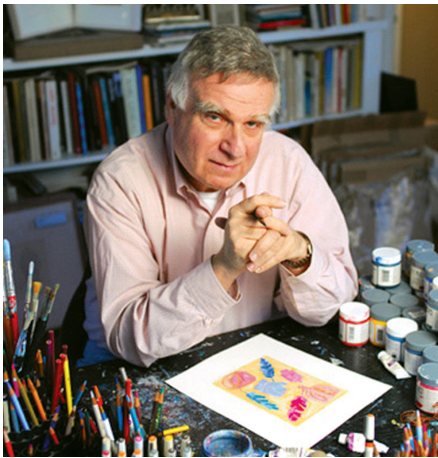
See parking information for LeFrak Concert Hall on page 10.

THE TEREZIN PORTFOLIO BY MARK PODWAL

**Exhibition at Queens College's
Godwin-Ternbach Museum**

**April 4–June 4, 2016
Klapper Hall • Room 405**

Free and open to the public



The Terezin Portfolio of prints, entitled *All this has come upon us...*, relates to the Terezin Ghetto and Concentration Camp and the Holocaust. The original paintings were exhibited in the Terezin Ghetto Museum (Prague) in April 2015. The portfolio was a recent gift to the Godwin-Ternbach Museum by Mark Podwal, an alumnus of Queens College.

Jewish-themed works from the Godwin-Ternbach Museum collection and images of prints, book folios, and an original manuscript from the Jewish Theological Seminary Library will

complement the portfolio and expand the significance and impact of its context with related materials.

The 42 prints in this series are a disturbing reminder of how Europe's extensive history of anti-Semitism laid the groundwork for Terezin and Auschwitz. Given that Jews have long been known as the "People of the Book," each piece of artwork resembles a book's pages. The tragedies and injustices pictured in these works are paired with biblical verses from the *Book of Psalms*.

The beautiful cover art on this *Guide* is Image #7 of the Portfolio. Entitled *Prayer*, it is paired with Psalm 122:6 in Hebrew and in English translation: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be at peace.*

It is accompanied by the following commentary: "Though Jerusalem is called 'The City of Peace,' no place has been fought over more."

**Museum Hours: Monday–Thursday,
11 am–7 pm; Saturday, 11 am–5 pm**

Paid parking for Godwin-Ternbach Museum events is available in the Student Union at the corner of Kissena Blvd. and Melbourne Ave. For information please call 718-997-3964.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE TEREZIN PORTFOLIO EXHIBITION

(All events are free and open to the public.)

Ideological Roots of the Holocaust: Ancient, Medieval, or Modern?

Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 5:30–7 pm
Baruch College, CUNY
(special off-campus event)
Wasserman Jewish Studies Center,
55 Lexington Ave. at 24th St., Manhattan

David Engel, Maurice R. & Corinne P. Greenberg Professor of Holocaust Studies, Skirball Center for Hebraic & Jewish Studies, New York University

RSVP by March 15 via email to Jewish.studies.center@baruch.cuny.edu.

Opening Reception

Thursday, April 7, 2016, 6–8 pm
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Klapper Hall, Room 405

Featuring a conversation between Mark Podwal and Amy Winter, Director of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum

KOSHER REFRESHMENTS

RSVP by March 24, by phone to 718-997-5730 or 4530, or via email to rita.shliselberg@qc.cuny.edu.

Panel Discussion: Anti-Semitism from Antiquity to the 20th Century

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 6:30–8:30 pm
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Klapper Hall, Room 405

Moderator:

David Kraemer, Joseph J. & Dora Abbell Librarian and Professor of Talmud & Rabbinic Studies, Jewish Theological Seminary

Panelists:

Steven Fine, *Jews & Judaism in the Roman Empire*; Dr. Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History, Yeshiva University

Robert Chazan, *Medieval Jewish History*; S.H. & Helen R. Scheuer Professor of Holocaust Studies, Skirball Center for Hebraic & Jewish Studies, New York University

Elissa Bemporad, *Modern Jewish European Studies*; Jerry & William Ungar Professor in Eastern European Jewish History & the Holocaust, Queens College, CUNY

My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes

Film directed by Oren Jacoby, Oscar Nominee

Monday, May 2, 2016, 12:15–1:30 pm
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Klapper Hall, Room 405

This documentary film describes how Italians, including Roman Catholic priests, risked their lives to hide Jews from Nazi troops after the German occupation of Italy in 1943.

RSVP by April 21, by phone to 718-997-5730 or 4530, or via email to rita.shliselberg@qc.cuny.edu.

The Queens College Godwin-Ternbach Museum and the Center for Jewish Studies gratefully acknowledge the generous support of Dr. Roslyn Gold and Family in memory of Simon Gold, husband and father, on his first Yahrzeit.

For many years the Simon and Roslyn Gold Lecture Series Endowment has helped to make such programming possible.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mark Podwal, a Renaissance Man

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

In 2015 Mark donated to Queens 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 *Guide* is Image #7 of the Portfolio. Entitled *Prayer*, it is paired with Psalm 122:6 in Hebrew and in English translation: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be at peace.*

It is accompanied by the following commentary: "*Though Jerusalem is called 'The City of Peace,' no place has been fought over more.*"

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum, with the cosponsorship of the Center for Jewish Studies, will exhibit the prints in Spring 2016 in conjunction with rare books, manuscripts, and documents from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

To date, this unique portfolio has been acquired by several 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 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.

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

JEWISH LECTURE SERIES

The Polish Underground & the Jews, 1939–1945

Professor Joshua Zimmerman

**Thursday, May 12, 7:15 pm
Rosenthal Library, Room 230**

Free and open to the public



Dr. Joshua Zimmerman is a Professor of History, Eli and Diana Zborowski Chair in Holocaust Studies and East

European Jewish History at Yeshiva University. His teaching and research interests include East European Jewish history, Modern Europe and Russia/Eastern Europe, and nationalism. He was awarded a research fellowship at the Miles Lerman Center for the Study of Jewish Resistance at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC in 2011–12, and has been a Skirball Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and a Fulbright Scholar at Warsaw University. He received his PhD in comparative history from Brandeis University.

Professor Zimmerman is the author of a number of books, including *Poles, Jews and the Politics of Nationality: The Bund and the Polish Socialist Party in Late Tsarist Russia, 1892–1914* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2004), and editor of two volumes: *Jews in Italy under Fascist and Nazi Rule, 1922–1945* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and *Contested Memories: Poles and Jews During the Holocaust and its Aftermath* (Rutgers University Press, 2003). In his latest book, *The Polish Underground and the Jews, 1939–1945* (Cambridge University Press, June 2015), he rethinks and examines Polish-Jewish relations during World War II.

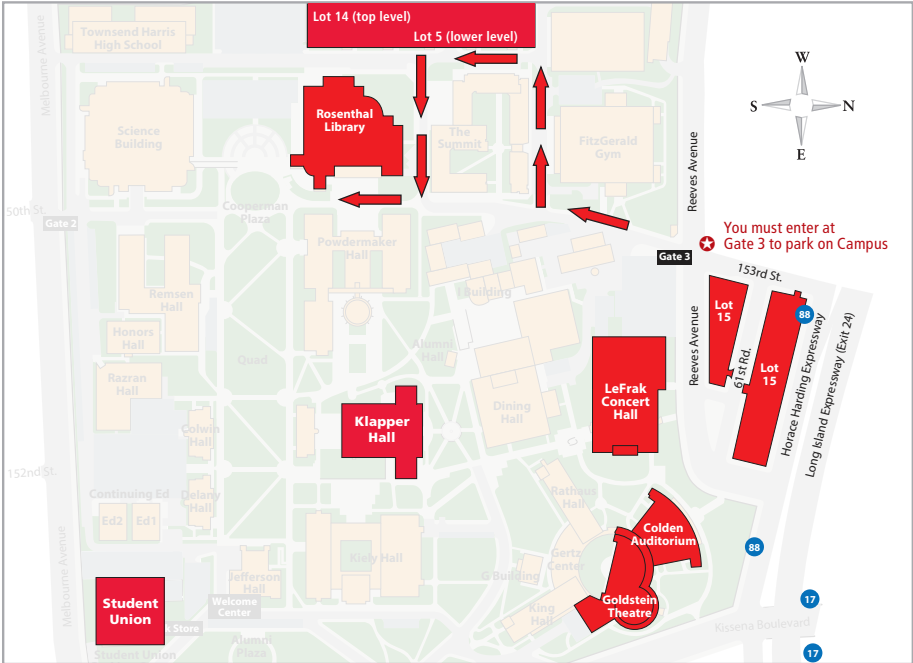
Dr. Zimmerman's lecture will include a PowerPoint presentation.

The annual *Yom HaShoah* Lecture, this program is endowed by Marvin and Celina Zborowski.

See parking information for Rosenthal 230 on page 10.

Getting to Queens College

Free parking available on campus for events in LeFrak Concert Hall, Goldstein Theatre, or Rosenthal Library, Room 230



BY CAR

From Long Island and Points East

Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 23 (Main Street). Make a left at the light and an immediate left at the next traffic light (Horace Harding Expressway/LIE service road eastbound). Continue on the service road to Reeves Ave. and turn right.

From Manhattan and Points West

Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 24 (Kissena Boulevard) and make the first right turn onto Reeves Ave.

Parking for Rosenthal Library, Room 230: Lot 14 or 5

After turning right onto Reeves Ave., go to Gate 3 to enter the campus. (Cars **must** enter through Gate 3.) Park in Lot 14 (see area on map above Rosenthal Library) or Lot 5 (beneath Lot 14). Then walk across to the Library. Follow the arrows on the map to the

side of the building, and enter the doorway with the handicap sign. Entrance to Room 230 is on the left.

Parking for LeFrak Concert Hall or Goldstein Theatre: Lot 15

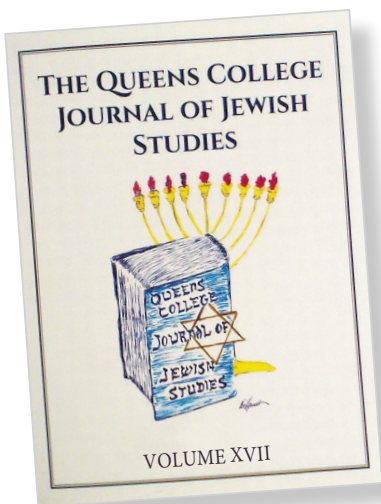
After turning right onto Reeves Ave., make another right onto 61st Road to Lot #15. Goldstein Theatre patrons should walk to the corner of the LIE and Kissena Boulevard and turn right for the entrance to Goldstein.

Elevator Access for LeFrak Concert Hall

(no hills or steps to climb): Cross Reeves Ave. and walk through the opening in the big iron fence to the rear entrance of the LeFrak Concert Hall building (see map above). The pathway through the opening in the fence leads directly into the building. Proceed down the entrance hallway until you see the elevator on your left. An attendant will take you up in the elevator to the Concert Hall level.

NINE GOOD REASONS

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



- 1 **A Distinguished and Growing Faculty**, six of whom have won the college's coveted Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- 2 **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.
- 3 **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.
- 4 **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.
- 5 **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."
- 6 **Breakthrough Courses in Bukharian History and Culture** that have been heralded as some of the first such courses offered in the nation.
- 7 **Asking Difficult Questions and Providing Balanced Answers** to the most pressing issues facing the Jewish people today.
- 8 **New Community Initiative** dramatically expands our outreach program off campus which includes compelling interfaith dialogues and discussions, powerful film series and performances.
- 9 **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.

QUEENS | Center for Jewish Studies
COLLEGE

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Queens, New York 11367-1597

DATED MATERIAL