

Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies



Newsletter, Summer 2013

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Farewell Message: Dr. Aviva Freedman

It is my great pleasure to announce formally that Dr. Deidre Butler has taken on the role of Director of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, as of July 1, 2013.

For those of you who do not yet know her, Deidre Butler is a tenured faculty member, teaching Jewish Studies in the Religion Program of the College of Humanities, serving as Coordinator of the MA in Religion and Public Life, and researching in the area of Jewish feminist thought and modern Jewish philosophy with emphases on gender, ethics and responses to the Shoah. She has also served as Associate Director of the ZC for the last seven years, and in the past year, she was Chair of the conference entitled, "If Not Now, When?" Responsibility and Memory after the Holocaust" in honour of Canada assuming the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Deidre has thrown herself into all these roles with characteristic enthusiasm and energy. She has taught a range of Jewish Studies courses in a way that has garnered her awards both for her quality of teaching as well as for her innovations in pedagogy and curriculum design. In her work for

the ZC, she has shown the same energy and imagination – as exemplified most publicly in the extraordinary success this past April of the conference, "If Not Now, When?" (see article below).

Deidre will be assisted by Dr. Shawna Dolansky, who will take on the position of Assistant Director. Shawna was Acting Assistant Director for the past year. She took on a complex range of responsibilities, made more demanding this past year by our good fortune in being able to host, for two months, the Schusterman Program Artists in Residence at Carleton – Michael and Shimrit Greilsammer. If we all enjoyed the Greilsamers' visits, through their extensive activities and performances on campus and in the community, it is due to Shawna's efforts. She also ably seconded Deidre Butler as Co-Chair of the April conference.

The other members of the Management team will include Dr. James Casteel, who will serve as Advisor on Research and Graduate Students, and Dr. Josee Posen, Director of the Developing Future Leaders Program (see my discussion below and article page 6).

Gratitude

At this point, it is appropriate to express gratitude to some of those who



have contributed to the Zelikovitz Centre's very existence and successes over the past number of years. We would like to thank the following:

Max Zelikovitz, o'h," whose generosity gave us the impetus for the growth of the Centre beyond its early far more limited operations as an Organized Research Unit;

Rabbi (Dr.) Bulka and Norman Zagerman who approached Max Zelikovitz and persuaded him to fund us so handsomely;

and currently Hershell Ezrin, who has been advising and guiding the ZC so ably, most recently by godfathering our relationships with public servants and community leaders and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, as well as providing advice and counsel at every juncture of the *(continued next page)*

planning of the Holocaust conference.

There are two people to whom the ZC owes a very great debt of gratitude. Dr. James Casteel worked with the ZC as an Assistant Director almost since its inception until the summer of 2012 (when he took leave). James provided us with an administrative grounding as well as entrée to a network of researchers and scholars – and did so always with an air of calm competence that hid beneath the surface the astonishing amount of work and effort entailed by his various responsibilities. It is to James too, that we owe thanks for shepherding the ZC through the processes entailed in becoming a Carleton University Research Centre. Fortunately for the ZC, James will continue to make his knowledge and experience available to the ZC in his role as Advisor on Research and Graduate Students on the Board of Management. Dr. Josee Posen is someone who has not received the appropriate attention on our pages. She has been, for the past three years, the Director of the Developing future Leaders program. As soon as the broad outlines of the program were agreed to by our donor, Josee guided the development of the whole – from a sketchy idea to the full-fledged successful internship program. She brought to bear her considerable experience with universities and with community agencies as well as a set of formidable abilities as a manager and mentor. She has managed to nurture and oversee a program that is currently unique in Canada, and quite possibly in North America.

The ZC – 2006 – 2013: A Personal Note

Over the past seven years, since its formal establishment with funding from the Zelikovitz family, the ZC has gone from strength to strength. Its growth over its beginnings can be exemplified, in this past year, by its programming. In addition to sponsoring courses and putting on research and scholarly presentations as we have in the past, this past year saw the extended visit by our first Artists-in-Residence (the Greilsammers); the successful completion of the third year of our flagship community-university collaborative initiative (the Developing Future Leaders internship program); and the outstanding success of our conference on Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust, which featured public servants and international dignitaries, along with the ZC's own researchers.

Our success had already been marked by the change in status of the Zelikovitz Centre: at the beginning of the 2012/13 academic year, the ZC became a Carleton University Research Centre. The change came about as a result of the university's acknowledgement of the cross-disciplinary range, as well as the depth and quality, of the research and scholarship undertaken by the ZC's Associated Researchers.

This brings me to a more personal matter. My role as Director of the Zelikovitz Centre has given me the privilege of having access to work in the area of Jewish Studies undertaken by outstanding researchers and scholars here at Carleton. I would like to thank them all for providing me with this window onto their research and scholarship. Through attending their research presentations, hearing about their work, and reading their publications my own life has been immeasurably enriched.

Thanks to you all.



Dr. Deidre Butler, Assistant Professor,
Religion~Jewish Studies (College of Humanities)
Director, Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies



Dr. Shawna Dolansky, Adjunct Professor
Religion~Jewish Studies (College of Humanities)
Assistant Director, Max & Tessie Zelikovitz Centre
for Jewish Studies

Rabbi Bulka Named a Member of The Order of Canada

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Reuven Bulka on being named a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his many contributions to the community and to Canada.

To the ZC as well, his contribution has been immense. Along with Norman Zagerman, he approached Max Zelikovitz and persuaded him of the value of a Centre for Jewish Studies to Carleton. Hence the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies.

Since its establishment, Rabbi Bulka has continued his involvement, finding time in his very tight schedule to teach a series of course in Biblical texts and Jewish ethics for Religion and sponsored by the ZC – collecting many grateful student groupies along the way.

Because of his scholarly background, he has also been associated with us as a Research Associate. In addition to his rabbinical degree, Rabbi Bulka has a PhD in Psychology, with a dissertation focussing on Viktor Frankl and logotherapy. He is author or editor of more than 30 books and has contributed over 100 scholarly and popular articles. He was also founder and, for a long time, editor (for 27 years) of the Journal of



Photo Courtesy Michelle Valberg

Psychology and Judaism.

However important all this may be to us, these facts were likely not considered by the Order of Canada nominating committee. The official statement provides the following rationale: “For his dedicated service to the community, notably in promoting interfaith dialogue, health and humanitarian causes.”

He has indeed worked consistently and tirelessly for interfaith co-operation and communication. With respect to his volunteer activities in health and humanitarian causes, he has spent countless hours in committee work – for example, for the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, the Kidney Foundation, Canadian Blood Services, United Way-Centraide. He also served as Chair of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre Courage Campaign. Particularly notable are the initiatives he spearheaded in the area of organ and transplant donation.

Rabbi Bulka also served as Chaplain of the Dominion Command of the Royal

Canadian Legion and has garnered enormous respect and admiration from members of our armed services for his annual addresses at Parliament Hill on November 11.

Clearly, while the Zelikovitz Centre and Carleton University owe much to Rabbi Bulka, so do the broader local and national communities. We are all very proud to be associated with him.

JEWISH STUDIES COURSES 2013-2014

Fall 2013

RELI 2110	Judaism (0.5 credit), Dr. Deidre Butler
RELI 3120	Rabbinic Texts (0.5), Dr. Shawna Dolansky
RELI 3141	Jewish Life in Modern Germany (0.5), Dr. James Casteel

Winter 2014

RELI 2121	Hebrew Bible (0.5), Dr. Shawna Dolansky
RELI 2840	Topics in Religion - Apocalypticism & Film (0.5), Dr. Shawna Dolansky
RELI 3842	Topics in Judaism: Investigating Jewish Ritual in Ottawa (0.5), Dr. Deidre Butler
RELI 4850	(Re)constructing Religion: Integrating Archaeology and Text in Studying Biblical Israel (0.5), Dr. Shawna Dolansky

If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust



Holocaust Conference organizing team poses with artist Yuri Dojc in front of his Last Folio Exhibit as day two of the Conference winds down.

*From left to right:
Sally Babson, Senior Events Advisor, Carleton University;
Yuri Dojc, Photographer;
Shawna Dolansky, Conference Co-Chair;
Deidre Butler, Conference Chair;
Lauren Tansley, Conference Coordinator*

On April 24 and 25th 2013, the Zelikovitz Centre hosted “If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust,” a public conference in recognition of Canada’s assumption of the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA - formerly the ITF). This conference was a sold-out success. We brought together senior scholars, Holocaust survivors, parliamentarians, and other public figures and community leaders to remember and reflect critically on the painful lessons of the Shoah.

The uniqueness of combining political leadership, scholarly research, Holocaust survivors, and Jewish community in an academic setting allowed for the creation of new conversations, new networks, and new opportunities. Members of both the academic community and the Jewish community had opportunities for conversation about research, to hear survivor testimonies, and to listen to politicians and leaders of national

and international organizations discuss the impact of the Holocaust on public policy and the importance of Holocaust education in combating larger issues of social injustice and oppression. Politicians in turn fielded questions and conversed with members of the academic and larger communities.

Presentations by Zelikovitz Centre research affiliates at the Conference showcased work being conducted at Carleton in History, Communication, Psychology, Religion, Law, and Neuroscience, as well as presentations from faculty at the University of Ottawa and St. Paul University. Concurrent graduate student sessions featured impressive new research on the Shoah by up-and-coming scholars.

The Conference also featured three separate art exhibits that sought to demonstrate the impact of the Holocaust and educate about genocide and persecution beyond the Holocaust itself. The photography exhibit of Dr. John Kelly, assistant professor in the School of Journalism

and co-director of the Centre for Indigenous Research, Culture, Language, and Education (CIRCLE) at Carleton drew attention to Aboriginal values and culture before, during, and after contact with Europeans. In connecting this art with the theme of Holocaust education, we broadened the scope of Holocaust remembrance and impact to a conversation about genocide and hatred.

The Ottawa Jewish Archives were very pleased to loan us several pieces to comprise an exhibit featuring the impact of the Holocaust on the Ottawa Jewish community of the mid-twentieth century. A final exhibit featured the post-Holocaust art of Yuri Dojc from his photography project entitled *Last Folio*. Dojc portrays an abandoned Jewish town from his native Slovakia, in the form of the dusty, rotting books which remain as silent testimony to the existence of a once vibrant
(continued next page)

community of Jews.

It was our hope that this conference would generate further public discourse on the importance of Holocaust education and the preservation of Holocaust memory as part of the IHRA's mandate of remembrance, education, and research. By amplifying the voices of survivors, presenting the newest and most carefully researched work of leading Holocaust scholars, bringing government representatives and public figures into the conversation, and podcasting presentations and lectures beyond the 200 registered delegates who attended the conference, we succeeded in doing so - far beyond our initial hopes and projections.

Citizenship & Immigration Minister Speaks at Conference



The following is an excerpt from the Hon. Jason Kenney's address. For the complete speech and other conference highlights and photos, please visit our website at www.carleton.ca/jewishstudies.

Now, as we move towards the twilight years of the first-hand witnesses of the great evil of the *Shoah*, as the torch is being passed on, it is essential that we – I say “we” as Canadians, as individuals, as society, as educators, but also, and perhaps more importantly, as gentiles – double our efforts to record, transmit and amplify the voices of those who survived.

That is the theme of the conference: “Responsibility and Memory after the Holocaust.” As Prime Minister Harper said, “It is important that we take this opportunity to remember the suffering endured by the victims of the Holocaust and their families. It helps keep strong the conviction in our hearts to do everything we can, through our actions and our words, to stand firm against the forces of intolerance and remain vigilant against genocide. Only through these continued efforts can we ensure that such atrocities never happen again.”

I am often reminded of the beautiful words – the moving words – of Elie Wiesel, who said that: “For us, forgetting was never an option. Remembering is a noble and necessary act. The call of memory, the call to memory, reaches us from the very dawn of history. No commandment figures so frequently, so insistently, in the Bible. It is incumbent upon us to remember the good that we have received, and the evil that we have suffered.”

He went on to write that: “An immoral society betrays humanity because it betrays the basis for humanity, which is memory. An immoral society deals with memory as some politicians deal with politics. A moral society is committed to memory. I believe in memory.” We all believe in memory. That is what gathers us here today. Canada aspires to be a moral society.

With Thanks to our Conference Partners and Sponsors:

At Carleton University:

Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic);
Office of the Vice-President (Research & International);
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences;
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies;
Instructional and Media Services; Graphic Services

And Beyond:



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New Summer Travel Course May 2014 - “God in Israel: Historical Encounters”

Professors Deidre Butler and Shawna Dolansky are planning to bring between 18 and 22 undergraduate students to Israel from May 4 through May 27, 2013! Students at 3rd year level from all religious backgrounds and in any program with a minimum 1.0 (2 courses) credits in Jewish Studies are welcome and encouraged to apply. Course credit (0.5) will be granted by the Religion program in the College of Humanities.

Our purpose is to introduce students to the Israel behind the headlines – by bringing Jews and non-Jews together in a positive encounter in Israel, we hope to help them understand their historical relationship with each other; to appreciate the variety of peoples who live in Israel, the complexity of the country and the ways in which the present and past are intertwined; and to experience the rich cultural diversity of the modern state.

This course will provide a chronological and geographical survey of Jewish experiences of God as they transform over time, and as they manifest in Jewish thought, belief, and practice from the biblical to the modern period. Close attention will be paid to shifting historical and cultural influences in Israel, from the biblical period through the rabbinic, medieval, and modern periods and will culminate with a discussion of the multicultural mosaic of the state of Israel in the 21st century.

Geography will play a crucial role in grounding topical exploration in places where those topics come alive; e.g. biblical Israel at the Temple Mount, “Abraham’s Tent,” and archaeological sites; origins of Christianity out of Judaism in the Galilee, and at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Second Temple Judaism at Qumran and Masada; Rabbinic Judaism in ancient synagogues and in a special exhibit at the Israel Museum; the Crusades at the Belvoir Fortress; Jewish mysticism in 17th century Safed; the Holocaust at Yad Vashem; modern Israel at the Knesset, a kibbutz, the Baha’i Temple in Haifa, and the beaches of Tel Aviv.

Applications will be accepted starting in September 2013 – for information and updates, please visit

carleton.ca/jewishstudies.com.



Update: ZC’s Developing Future Leaders Program

The Developing Future Leaders (DFL) Program is now launching its fourth year. The program funds internships for undergraduate and graduate students to develop leadership skills through work placements in partner agencies in the Jewish Community. Originally the brainchild of the program’s anonymous donor and Aviva Freedman, the program continues to be privately funded through the Zelikovitz Centre. This year approximately 17 interns will be able to choose from work assignments in over 20 agencies.

As the program has become solidly established, and agencies more accustomed to working with the resource that interns represent, the nature of the work assignments has become more interesting and challenging. Some interns have worked directly with client populations by assisting in program delivery, for example at Tamir, Ten Yad and JET. Others are more involved in governance and policy issues. Often this takes the form of research to support specific initiatives, at, for example, agencies as diverse as The Ottawa Jewish Historical Society, Temple Israel, and the Canadian Institute of Jewish Affairs (CIJA). Many assignments involve interns directly in aspects of agency and program management. Frequently this includes event organization, communication and publicity. For example, interns working at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, and Machzikei Hadas Synagogue have all been deeply involved in the production of community events.

The DFL internships include compulsory training programs for all interns. These programs, at the junior and senior levels, focus on basic professional comportment, presentation and analytical skills, and an understanding of the principles of Jewish leadership. In the 2013-14 academic year, emphasis is also being placed on fundraising, from both private and public sources, to ensure that the DFL program continues beyond its current 5 year mandate.

About the Centre:

The Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre at Carleton University is Canada's "capital" research institute for Jewish Studies. With access to Ottawa at our front step, the Centre connects with Parliamentarians, public servants, diplomats, NGO's, international organizations and the national media, as well as other academics and the broader community, on the basis of the innovative and cutting-edge research conducted by more than two dozen Zelikovitz researchers.

ZC researchers promote scholarly inquiry into all aspects of the Jewish experience from ancient times to the present and serves as a meeting point for scholars and the wider community, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The Centre encourages the growth of course offerings in Jewish Studies which deal with historical, religious, social, cultural, and political aspects of Jewish life from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Dr. Deidre Butler, Director

Dr. Shawna Dolansky, Assistant Director

Jordan Stenzler, Assistant Administrator

Dr. James Casteel, Advisor on Research and Graduate Students

Dr. Josee Posen, Director, Developing Future Leaders Program



Highlights from the April 24th-25th Holocaust Conference –

Top Left: Dr. John Osborne & Dr. Truda Rosenberg

Above: Dr. Michael Wohl, Dr. Michael Dorland, & Dr. Jennifer Evans

Bottom Left: Dr. Anna Sheftel, Dr. Deidre Butler, Rose & David Shentow