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UNIVERSITY

**Max and Tessie Zelikovitz
Centre for Jewish Studies**

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Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies Newsletter

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Director's Message

The past academic year, the third year of the Zelikovitz Centre's operation, has been an exciting year for the Centre. This year's public lecture series was very well attended. Among the highlights of this year, the Zelikovitz Centre was very pleased to collaborate with the University of Ottawa, as well as number of Carleton academic units to bring Professor Jan Gross from Princeton University to speak at Carleton. Professor Gross gave an insightful talk to a standing room only audience on the topic of the "Unwelcoming of the Jewish Survivors after the War: Anti-Semitism After the Holocaust."

Other highlights included visits from international scholars such as Rabbi Chaim Tabasky of Bar-Ilan University, who graced the Centre once again with his presence, erudition and wisdom and offered a number of events on campus and in the community. The Centre also welcomed Andreas Pretzel from the Centre for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Technical University in Berlin to speak on the commemoration of the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany. Closer to home, Jeremy Stolow from Concordia University gave a fascinating discussion of the role of texts as cultural artifacts in contemporary Orthodox Judaism.

In addition to our regular lecture program, we have expanded our programming and activities into new arenas including the hosting of an Israeli Mini-Film Festival on campus and a Chanukah party for Carleton students, faculty and staff.

The Centre has also become involved in an important project working together with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to film a Holocaust documentary that captures the interactions between survivors and students in the classroom, a project that has been the subject of recent articles in the *Canadian Jewish News*, *The Jewish Tribune*, the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* and *Education Forum Magazine*.

The Zelikovitz Centre has continued to foster the expansion of course offerings in Jewish Studies at Carleton. The Centre has maintained its support for Hebrew language courses offered through the Religion program in the College of the Humanities and the School of Linguistics and Language Studies, both in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The summer intensive course in Hebrew is now in its third year and has been very popular among students in Jewish Studies.

These are exciting times for Jewish Studies at Carleton. The interest from students of diverse background in topics concerning Jewish history, society, culture and religious practice continues to grow. We hope to continue to expand our offerings in the coming years.



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-Aviva Freedman

Zelikovitz Centre and Jewish Federation of Ottawa Collaborate on Educational Film Documenting Survivor-Student Interaction

Carleton University and the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies are working on a special film project aimed at preserving the stories of Holocaust survivors for educational use in schools and universities. Filming will be taking place at schools across Canada, to provide a diverse picture of survivors' stories and the reactions of the students who hear them.

What distinguishes this film project from other projects that have preserved survivor testimonies is that in addition to focusing on the experiences of survivors themselves, the film also draws attention to survivors' role as educators in their interactions with students. For years, Holocaust survivors have played an important part in Canadian public education through their classroom visits. They have taught young Canadians about the dangers of racial prejudice and anti-Semitism as well as the importance of the values of tolerance and the recognition of

diversity in a multicultural and multi-religious society. The film aims to document the contributions that survivors have made to Holocaust education and the significant impact that their presentations have had on students and teachers.

Mr. Les Breiner, active member of the Holocaust Education Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, originated the idea of making the film. He perceived the urgency of capturing the stories of Canadian survivors on film and in particular of their remarkable contribution to Holocaust education and combatting prejudice through their volunteer work across Canada. Mr. Breiner gathered support from the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University and from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa for the project.

Award-winning filmmaker Francine Zuckerman has been chosen to direct the film. Once filming has been completed, educational modules

will be created that use survivor narratives, as well as footage from the interaction in the classroom, to educate students about the diverse experiences of Jews during the Holocaust.

Carleton University faculty with an expertise in Holocaust Studies will oversee the development of academic supporting materials and teaching aids.

Currently, the film is in its fundraising stage to secure all of the resources needed to proceed with filming. Time is of the essence, as it is vital for the Centre to film as many survivors as possible.

For more information and to view a promotional trailer for the film, please go to

<http://www2.carleton.ca/jewishstudies/living-history-project/>

or contact the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at (613) 520-2600, ext. 1320.

Student Profile: Raphael Szajnfarber



In winter 2009, Carleton University student Raphael Szajnfarber completed his Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton's Arthur Kroeger College. During his time at Carleton, Raphael

not only excelled academically, but he was also an active contributor to the Carleton student community. In addition to being a Chancellor's scholar, Raphael served as SHOUT (Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance) Carleton President in his third year, as well as Hillel Ottawa President in his final year of studies.

In his third year of studies, Raphael's interest in Jewish Studies, more particularly Jewish philosophy, was sparked by some of his courses

with Rabbi Bulka. He was intrigued by Rabbi Bulka's ability to simplify complex subject matter. Raphael also attended several thought-provoking lectures put on by the Zelikovitz Centre.

Raphael is grateful for his experiences at Carleton and his exposure to Jewish Studies. This fall Raphael will be pursuing a law degree at McGill University in Montreal. We wish him the best of luck with his future endeavours.

Research Highlights: New Books in Jewish Studies

Michael Dorland, Professor in the School of Journalism and Communication and member of the Zelikovitz Centre's research group, has a new book, *Cadaverland: Inventing a Pathology of Catastrophe for Holocaust Survival. The Limits of Medical Knowledge and Historical Memory in France*, which was released from Brandeis University Press in October 2009.

Dorland's remarkable study explores sixty years of medical attempts in the fields of neuropsychiatry and psychoanalysis to describe the effects of concentration camp incarceration on Holocaust survivors. Dorland focuses primarily on the French case, because it was in France that the first research began right after World War II on the effects of camp deportations. The medical discourses that emerged in France had a broader resonance and shaped the

understanding of Holocaust survival and trauma throughout the western world.

Sander L. Gilman, Director of the Graduate Program in Psychoanalytic Studies at Emory University, writes of Dorland's book:

"... Cadaverland is the most important historical study dealing with the medical ramifications of the Holocaust. Focusing on the psychiatric and psychological literature dealing with the impact of the Shoah for the survivors and for their families, Dorland sketches the difficult, contradictory, often self-destructive struggle of psychological medicine with the horrors of the Shoah. Brilliantly written and ranging well beyond the confines of post-war France, this is a book that health care practitioners as well as all those dealing with trauma and its historical aftermath MUST read."

Jacob Kovalio, Professor in the Department of History and member of the Zelikovitz Centre research group, has turned his attention in recent years to two particular forms of anti-Semitism: anti-Semitism in societies where Jewish communities have never been sizable and anti-"Zionist" anti-Semitism. His book, *The Russian Protocols of Zion in Japan: Yudayaka/Jewish Peril Propaganda and Debates in the 1920s*, published in May 2009 by the Peter Lang Publishing Group, analyzes the spread of the infamous anti-Semitic forgery *The Protocols of Elders of Zion* to Japan in the 1920s. His study is significant since it documents the rapid rise of anti-Semitism in a society in which historically the presence of Jews had been minimal. Professor Kovalio presented his research to the Canadian Society of Jewish Studies at the 2009 Congress at Carleton last May.

Renowned Holocaust Historian Jan Gross Speaks at Carleton

On Thursday, February 26, 2009, Dr. Jan Gross, one of the foremost experts on Polish society during World War II and the Holocaust, presented a public lecture at Carleton University to a standing-room only audience. The lecture, entitled "Anti-Semitism After the Holocaust—the Unwelcoming of the Jewish Survivors After the War" drew on material from his most recent book, *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz* (2006).

Dr. Gross grew up in Poland and studied at Warsaw University until he immigrated to the United States in 1969. After earning his PhD in Sociology in 1975 from Yale University, Dr. Gross taught for many years at New York University before taking his current position as Norman B. Tomlinson '16 and '48 Professor of War and Society and Professor of History at Princeton University.

His first two books, *Polish Society under German Occupation* (1979) and *Revolution from Abroad: The Soviet Conquest of Poland's Western Ukraine and Western Belorussia* (1988) established his reputation as a leading scholar in the study of the impact of two very different totalitarian occupation regimes – Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union – on Polish society during World War II.

Subsequently, Dr. Gross won international acclaim for his book, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (2001). A finalist for the National Book Award, this powerful work documents how, over the course of one day, most of the Jewish inhabitants of the town of Jedwabne were murdered by their neighbors. *Neighbors* sparked an important debate about Polish-Jewish relations during World War II and has become a standard work in the field of Holocaust Studies

Focus on Students: Reflections on the Impact of Carleton's Jewish Studies Courses

In the 2008-2009 academic year, Carleton students could choose from a number of course offerings in Jewish Studies. Most courses were offered in the Religion program in the College of the Humanities, which currently houses an undergraduate Minor in Jewish Studies. In addition, other departments, such as History, Political Science, and English have increased their offerings in the field of Jewish Studies in recent years. These courses attract students of diverse backgrounds, Jewish and non-Jewish, who are interested in learning more about different aspects of the Jewish experience and Judaism, both historically and in the contemporary moment.

Among the courses that students could choose from in 2008-2009 were Introduction to Judaism, German Jewish Encounters with Modernity, Hebrew Bible, Classical Jewish Texts, Responses to the Holocaust, History of the Holocaust, and a number of Hebrew language courses – including a summer intensive course, now in its third year.

Students have been particularly enthusiastic about the revival of Hebrew language courses at Carleton offered through Religion and the School of Linguistics and Language Studies, with the support of the Zelikovitz Centre.

Mina Cohn has been teaching Hebrew at a variety of levels at Carleton over the last few years and she has had quite an impact on her students.

Undergraduate student, Hani Sawan, found her experience in Professor Cohn's class to be very enriching:

"In my first year at Carleton University I expected to learn a new and better way of understanding the world we live in. I thought I would learn how to build a better tomorrow by taking psychology and math courses. But, by far, taking Hebrew at Carleton University has been the most inspirational. I came out of my first year adept at the language and knowledgeable of the history and culture of the Jewish people. The Hebrew course at Carleton is a language, history and philosophy course all in one. I am very thankful for this course and I am the better for it."

Another faculty member who has had an immense impact on students is Rabbi Reuven Bulka. Rabbi Bulka, who has served as Rabbi of Congregation Machzikei Hadas since 1967 and is the immediate past president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, has been teaching courses on the Hebrew Bible and Classical Jewish Texts in the Religion program at Carleton for the last few years.

Stephanie Tomlinson, a Jewish Studies minor, found her experience in Rabbi Bulka's classes to be very valuable:

"I always look forward to attending his lectures and feel a strong sense of achievement when his courses come

to a close. The Jewish studies courses at Carleton have helped to answer many questions I had about the faith, opened my eyes to information I did not know anything about and have provided me with the wisdom needed in order to complete my minor with confidence and success."

Similarly, Suzanne Le, a Religion Major at Carleton, stated that she was "privileged" to have had the opportunity to take two classes with Rabbi Bulka and was impressed by his openness and by the extent of class participation that he elicited from students. When asked about her experience taking courses in Jewish Studies, she commented that:

"Personally, having grown up in a Christian environment, the Jewish Studies courses offered at Carleton enabled me to understand how the same piece of sacred text could be understood in a very different way. The courses were enlightening. Moreover, living in the multicultural society that we do, I believe these courses are an important asset to the educational experience."

In the coming years, Carleton faculty representing a variety of disciplines will continue to diversify the course offerings in Jewish Studies at the university. The Zelikovitz Centre will play an active role in supporting and encouraging their efforts.

The Year in Review: 2008-2009 Events

The Israel Mini-Film Festival

The Zelikovitz Centre hosted an Israeli Mini-Film Festival co-sponsored by Hillel Ottawa and the Israel Awareness Committee on October 30, November 4, and November 6, 2008. The Films came from the Ma'ale School of Television, Film and the Arts in Jerusalem and were shown in Hebrew with English subtitles. Each night of the festival focused on a different theme: gender, identity, and the Holocaust.

Reading by Dr. Truda Rosenberg: Special Event for Holocaust Education Week

On November 6, 2008, Dr. Truda Rosenberg, an Ottawa-area psychologist, read selections from her memoirs dealing with her experiences during the Shoah to a standing-room only audience of Carleton students. Her presentation was part of a series of events for Holocaust Education Week, organized in corporation with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. Dr. Rosenberg wrote her memoirs during a year spent as a fellow at Carleton's College of the Humanities and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Dr. Rosenberg's presentation made a strong impression on the students who attended.

A Week of Jewish Learning with Rabbi Chaim Tabasky, Bar-Ilan University

On November 13-18, 2008, Rabbi Chaim Tabasky, Professor at the Machon HaGavoa L'Torah of Bar-Ilan University presented a series of lectures on topics of Torah and Talmud Study. The Zelikovitz Centre co-sponsored the events with the

Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, and Congregation Beit Tikvah.

Andreas Pretzel Lecture – Remembering the Persecution of Homosexuals in Germany

On November 25, 2008, Andreas Pretzel, a scholar from the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technical University in Berlin, Germany, presented a talk on the memory of the persecution of homosexuals under the Nazi regime. The experience of homosexuals in Nazi Germany was a topic that was ignored by historians for decades after the war and only really began to be studied in earnest in the 1980s and 1990s. His talk examined the different ways in which the persecution of homosexuals has been commemorated in Germany from smaller public initiatives to the recent unveiling of a national monument in Berlin. The talk was sponsored by the Zelikovitz Center for Jewish Studies, Sexuality Studies at Carleton University, the Center for Public History, the Department of History at Carleton University, SHOUT Ottawa, Hillel Ottawa, the Holocaust Awareness Committee, and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Zelikovitz Centre Chanukah/Festival of Lights Event

On December 1, 2008, the Zelikovitz Centre hosted a Chanukah party for the entire Carleton University community – students, faculty and staff. The event featured an explanation of the meaning of Chanukah by Rabbi Reuven Bulka, and a warm welcome from Carleton President Roseann O'Reilly Runte.

Match and Marry Film Screening

On December 1, 2008, the Zelikovitz Centre and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre hosted the Ottawa premiere of the documentary, *Match & Marry*, directed by Suzannah Warlick. This entertaining film offered the audience a fresh look into the traditions of matchmaking among orthodox Jews in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Jeremy Stolow – Holy Pleather: Material Culture, Agency and Authority in a Jewish Orthodox Press

Jeremy Stolow, Professor in Communications Studies at Concordia University, presented a lecture at Carleton University on February 3, 2009. This lecture, sponsored by the Zelikovitz Centre and the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton, featured Stolow's research on ArtScroll – a major contemporary Orthodox Jewish publishing house based in Brooklyn, New York. Stolow examined the "material agency" of key ArtScroll publications, such as prayer books, Bibles, and cookbooks, showing how these artefacts play an active role within various arenas of Jewish social life, from public prayer to domestic display to kitchen labour.

Dr. Jan T. Gross Lecture: Anti-Semitism After the Holocaust

On February 26, 2009, Dr. Jan T. Gross, Norman B. Tomlinson '16 and '48 Professor of War and Society and Professor of History at Princeton University, presented to an audience of over 100 people at Carleton University on the topic of Anti-Semitism in Poland leading up to the Holocaust. See article on page 4 of this issue for more details.

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About the Centre

The Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies promotes 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. Situated in the nation's capital, the Centre will expand Carleton's presence in Jewish Studies both nationally and internationally by fostering research collaboration and by sponsoring visiting scholars and researchers in the field. The Centre will reach out to the broader community through public lectures and educational programs which encourage intercultural and interfaith dialogue. By promoting academic inquiry into the diversity of the Jewish experience, one that has been enriched by encounters with different societies and cultures around the world, the Zelikovitz Centre will also play an important role in Carleton's interdisciplinary research focus on global identities and globalization.

Carleton University has more than twenty-five faculty members conducting innovative research in the field of Jewish Studies. Their research projects cover a wide range of topics, including Jewish history (ancient to modern), literature, and philosophy, Jewish identity, gender and Judaism, anti-Semitism, diasporic experiences, and classical Jewish texts.

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