

Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies



Newsletter, Spring 2013

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Message From The Director: Dr. Aviva Freedman

This has been a good year. By rights, we should have been taking a “sabbatical” (or shmitta) year by now – given our establishment in 2006. Instead we seem to have notched up a gear.

Year's Activities: This year, the Office of the Vice President Research and International promoted the Centre to University Research Centre status, recognizing both the depth and the breadth of our research. We have always prided ourselves on the interdisciplinary thrust of the Centre, but now our assembled researchers represent four different Faculties as well as many different disciplines.

The program this year reflected these dimensions. First, there were presentations growing out of the discipline of Jewish Studies -- e.g. Jonathan Malino on “Interpretation, Modernity, and the Philosophy of Judaism”; Kim Stratton on “Exodus and Identity in Early Judaism”; Ira Wagman on “The Jewish Theological Seminary and Postwar Research in Communication”; David Biale, “Blood and Belief: the Circulation of a Symbol between Jews and Christians;” and Sharonna Pearl, “The Digital Divide: Inside and Outside Chabad’s Use of Media.”

Second, there was the kind of activity that reflected our broader multi-disciplinary interests. Michael Greilsammer was here as an Artist-in-Residence to talk about the music scene in Israel and to demonstrate his own place, along with his wife’s, within that very rich cultural landscape. The Zelikovitz Centre enabled the Greilsammers to share their music, and a little bit of Israel, with many different segments of the Ottawa community through a wide variety of concerts and presentations. Additionally, as part of our co-sponsorship of the Ottawa Israeli Film Festival this year, and in partnership with Temple Israel, we brought Amy Kronish to speak about “Israeli Cinema: the Women of Israel.” Along with the Religion Department, we also invited Steven Fine to talk about “The Golden Menorah and the Arch of Titus: Public Architecture and Religion from Imperial Rome to Modern Israel.” We rounded out the winter semester with a presentation aimed at the Religion Department’s M.A. Program on Religion and Public Life, but open to the public, by Adele Reinhartz entitled “Holy Words in Hollywood: The Bible, Film, and American Identity.”



Conference: Our year is ending with a program that reflects both the increased prominence of our Centre as well as the kind of dissemination of our research that picks up on Carleton’s situation in the capital. Since its inception, many of the researchers associated with the Centre have focused, from multidisciplinary perspectives, on the Holocaust – its history, the art that grew out of it and the art that reflects on it, the psychological realities of those who had to confront that experience, the moral and social questions posed by its having happened – in the 20th century, in a western highly cultured civilization.

At the same time, government and international organizations have wrestled with these realities in their own ways. This year, Canada took on the Chair for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and in collaboration with the

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IHRA, the Zelikovitz Centre is putting on a conference entitled, “If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory after the Holocaust.”

The conference brings researchers together with politicians, survivors, and members of international organizations to discuss issues emanating from diverse attempts to understand the Holocaust and to take action to respond. The conference will showcase work by nine Zelikovitz Centre researchers and will allow for the simultaneous presentation of work-in-progress by the same number of graduate students.

At moments like these, we can begin to see the ways in which research on our campus connects with work in the “capital” community, and how such connections work to inspire an emerging generation of young scholars.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust @ River Building, Carleton University

Thursday, April 25, 2013

If Not Now, When? Responsibility and Memory After the Holocaust @ Res Commons, Carleton University

The pictures below capture Michael and Shimrit Greilsammer, ambassadors of Israeli culture, sharing their unique musical mosaic all over Ottawa in January and February 2013, courtesy of the Schusterman Foundation and the Zelikovitz Centre: see story p. 6.



Religion and Public Life Grad Student Profiles: Melanie Guertin and Elizabeth Ennis-Dawson

Melanie and Elizabeth are in their second trimester of the Religion and Public Life MA Program. Both students have decided to focus their research topics in Jewish Studies.

Developing Future Leaders

Finding ways of engaging young adults in their community is a significant concern not just for the Jewish community, but for the wider Ottawa and Canadian communities as well. The Zelikovitz Centre has developed an innovative program to encourage young people to become more involved in their communities, and develop valuable leadership skills at the same time.

Now in its third year, the Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program was created to encourage university age people to become professional and lay leaders in the Ottawa Jewish community.

The students must at least be in their second year, and should demonstrate an understanding of, and interest in, the Jewish community. There is also a special internship available for a suitable student in the Master's program in Religious Studies.

The students are matched with different Jewish institutions and required to perform a total of 80 hours of work in their assigned organization, as well as 20 hours of training, for which they are paid a stipend of \$2,500-\$3000. The program generally accepts 10 students for a first internship and 5 for a second. More than 3 dozen students are now "graduates" of the program.

While there were approximately 10 partner agencies in the first year of the program, there are now close to 20 willing to be matched with interns. Not all agencies will receive an intern each year – it depends upon the skills and interests of the students in the program. An important element to the success of the program is educating the agencies themselves on the benefits of accepting an intern into their workplace.

Applications can be submitted through <http://www1.carleton.ca/jewishstudies/developing-future-leaders-program/>.

Interview with Melanie Guertin:

What made you decide to choose this MA program?

After completing my undergraduate degree at Carleton in Religion, with a double minor in Jewish Studies and Psychology, I was certain that I was interested in pursuing an MA in the field. After researching a variety of schools, I decided that the Religion and Public Life program at Carleton University was the best choice. Not only did the program offer the option of completion in a three semester term, but it also offered a wide range of areas to study. Since this program is not simply a Religion MA, but rather a Religion and Public Life MA, the range of topics becomes much broader. Also, the program allows for students interested in both domestic and international issues to study how shifts in religion and social change function together and as separate entities. This program also encourages students to critically assess how these changes generate other shifts, such as political and cultural, as well as how other institutions impact religion.



What are the details of your MA research project?

For my major research paper, I am writing about the importance of orality for Holocaust preservation. I am arguing that oral history, in addition to written history, is necessary in preserving Holocaust memory. I do not intend on discrediting literacy in regards to Holocaust memorial, but rather I will argue that oral testimonies have a much larger impact within the public sphere, and are especially relevant because of the decline in the number of Holocaust survivors. In particular, I am interested in examining how the Jewish community has dealt with the Holocaust and what impact the Holocaust has had on the community as a whole. I intend to research a variety of reactions to the Holocaust, including the social, political, cultural, legal and scholarly views. Currently, I am conducting interviews with survivors in order to strengthen the content of my paper.

Why did you decide to focus on Jewish Studies?

During my undergraduate career, while completing a minor in Jewish Studies, I was introduced to an exceptional group of Professors including Dr. Deidre Butler, Dr. Shawna Dolansky and Rabbi Reuven Bulka. Their exceptional teaching style and passion for the subject matter encouraged my interest in Jewish Studies. Moreover, Jewish Studies offers many interesting and diverse areas of study ranging from Hebrew Bible, Jewish Ethics, Judaism & Sexuality and Judaism & Public life.

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What have you gained from this MA Program so far?

So far, this program has allowed me to gain better networking, interviewing and presentation skills, plus I have become more confident speaking publically. I have also been able to improve my critical analysis skills and work collaboratively with other professors and students. Most importantly, I have had the opportunity to meet and interview many Holocaust survivors, which is something I value sincerely.

Elizabeth Ennis-Dawson:

What made you decide to choose this MA Program?

I had been looking to go back to school for awhile, but I was unable to find a program that truly suited me. When I found MA in Religion and Public Life, it seemed perfect. I have a BA in Religion and Culture, and was hoping to pursue a degree that might allow me to get into public policy. Religion and Public Life seemed like a great fit.



What are the details of your MA research project?

My research is focused on religious accommodation in Canadian prisons, by way of a case study on Jewish inmates. Using archival research regarding prison policies on religious accommodation, as well as Jewish authoritative statements about ritual observance, I will form an understanding of the policies that are in place to meet the religious needs of Jewish prisoners. By interviewing rabbis and members of Jewish organizations, as well as former inmates, I will investigate the actual practices of religious accommodation in an attempt to bridge the gap between what is legislated and what actually occurs behind bars.

Why did you decide to focus on Jewish Studies?

I have been interested in Judaism for about as long as I can remember. Growing up, many of my closest friends were Jewish, so I was able to attend b'nai mitzvot, Chanukah parties, and seders. I attended my first Jewish wedding ceremony when I was about eight years old. I remember being so spellbound by the whole experience that I wrote up a list of questions which I subsequently gave to the bride's family. I have always been drawn to the culture and tradition.

What have you gained from this MA Program so far?

I think that the courses in the program have helped me think more critically. The Professors are very helpful, and challenge us to add value to the dialogue on Religion and Public Life. Also, my classmates are fantastic - being part of such a supportive and dynamic environment makes the experience even better!

Israel Course Planned for Summer 2014!

Mark your calendars - Professors Deidre Butler and Shawna Dolansky are planning to take 18-22 students on an unforgettable trip to Israel for course credit in May 2014.

This course is intended to 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. 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 – for example, biblical Israel at the Temple Mount, “Abraham’s Tent,” and an archaeological dig; 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; and modern Israel at the Knesset, a kibbutz, the Baha’i Temple in Haifa, and the beaches of Tel Aviv.

“God in Israel: Historical Encounters” will be worth 0.5 credits as a 3000 level Religion course, counting toward the minor in Jewish Studies. All students from all majors and all religious backgrounds will be eligible to apply to register for the course. No Hebrew language knowledge required; the only prerequisite is 1.0 credits in Jewish Studies prior to taking the course.





Carleton University's Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies is very pleased to be hosting "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 (formerly the ITF), to be held at the University on April 24 and 25, 2013.

The quote, "If not now, when?" comes from the single most recognizable saying from the Jewish tradition about responsibility to self and other. It will be a key refrain throughout the conference, speaking to this sense of responsibility and memory of the Holocaust as not only a question for the Jewish people, but for the whole world. "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" - Rabbi Hillel, "Ethics of the Fathers" (Pirkei Avot).

The purpose of this conference is to bring together jurists, Canadian parliamentarians, senior Holocaust studies scholars, survivors and other public figures around the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's mandate of remembrance, education and research. It is our hope that this conference will generate further public discourse on the importance of Holocaust education and the preservation of Holocaust memory.

The Honourable Irwin Cotler will be giving a key note address on April 24th. Other notable speakers include Dr. Mario Silva, Chair of the IHRA, as well as Minister Jason Kenney, and Dr. Irving Abella. Survivors will speak about their experiences and give their perspectives on Holocaust remembrance, and the Azrieli Foundation will supplement this testimony with films from their own educational series. We will also feature art exhibits, a panel of MPs on the topic of religion in public life and anti-discrimination legislation, and presentations of research by professors both from within Carleton, as well as visitors from other North American universities.

The conference will highlight interdisciplinary approaches to Holocaust studies, a key strength of the Zelikovitz Centre. Researchers affiliated with the Zelikovitz Centre who will be presenting their work include Hymie Anisman, who will be presenting his research on trauma; Jean-Jacques Van Vlessalaer, on culture, creativity, and courage in the concentration camps; Jennifer Evans, and Christiane Wilke, who will be sharing their work on memorializing the Holocaust; Michael Dorland on his 2009 book *Cadaverland*; Michael Wohl on multi-generational legacies of victimization; Rebecca Margolis on transmitting Yiddish culture after the Holocaust; Anna Sheftel on Holocaust survivor education; and Conference Chair Deidre Butler will discuss integrating the Holocaust into Jewish feminist thought. Professor Debra Kaufman from Northeastern University will present her sociological research on the effects of the Holocaust on Jewish identity. There will also be panels of graduate students from Carleton and other universities, in which students will present research related to Jewish culture and identity after the Holocaust, as well as the Holocaust – and Holocaust denial – in cyberspace and digital media.

A special exhibit of photographer Yuri Dojc's project "Last Folio" will be on display throughout the conference. Last Folio documents a personal journey for Dojc which combines portraits of Slovakia's last living Holocaust survivors, abandoned synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, and other fragments of the country's Jewish past. A centrepiece of the project is a series of still life portraits of books, left behind on schoolchildren's shelves, in homes, and in synagogues by those taken to the concentration camps. For Dojc, because of the place that books play in the Jewish tradition, the books represent a monument to those who have none. As such, this exhibit will serve as a visual representation of the conference's main themes of memory and responsibility.

AN ISRAELI MOSAIC – IN MUSIC



The Ottawa Citizen dubbed him a “Jewish Reggae Violinist” (this was the title of an article January 9th, 2013 – punctuated by a question mark) and from our experience with the Greilsammers, this is an excellent description. The only thing it leaves out is Michael Greilsammer’s partnership with his wife Shimrit; in music, inspiration, and raising their two little boys Lavi and Eyal. As Shimrit describes it: “we do the dishes and we make up the songs.”

The Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University were proud to host Michael and Shimrit as visiting artists this past January and February. Born and raised in Jerusalem, the child of immigrants from France, and pronounced a violin prodigy at the age of five, Michael is an international star. His music blends Irish and Arabic

influences with reggae and rock, all accented by his breathtaking artistry on the violin. Michael’s first album, “Mitorer/Je me reveille” (“Waking Up”), was released by a major French label, and his second album, “B Paris,” is a collaboration with his wife, Shimrit, a vocalist with angelic harmonies. Greilsammer has been a supporting act for international artists including Macy Gray and Ziggy Marley. He has toured extensively in France, as well as in the Barbados, the UK, and most recently in India.

The Greilsammers came to Ottawa courtesy of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation, in collaboration with the Zelikovitz Centre. The Schusterman Visiting Artists Program is one of the largest organized residency programs of Israeli artists in North America. It awards Israeli artists—including filmmakers, choreographers, musicians, writers and visual artists—long-term residencies at North American universities, museums, Jewish community centers and other cultural organizations, with a focus on fostering interaction between the artists and the communities in which they are based.

“The Schusterman Visiting Artists Program allows members of the host community and the visiting artists to connect in a variety of settings—from formal to informal, Jewish to non-Jewish—over a significant period of time, rather than the more traditional one-off experience,” says Marge Goldwater, the program’s director. “As we look back on the first four years, we see that the success of the residencies has prompted host institutions to find

ways to bring Israeli cultural leaders to their communities after the Schusterman artist has left.”

As cultural ambassadors, Michael and Shimrit were a smashing success, charming audiences all over town, and bringing a message of a young, vibrant, cosmopolitan and international culture in Israel that transcends politics and political divisions.

And what did Michael Greilsammer think of Ottawa?

“This residency has been very special for us, as people are so warm and have reacted to our presence and music in such a way that we feel at home. We have strong feelings for Ottawa and Canada. This has been the most special place we’ve been to so far.”

And as for the snow – “the snow is so beautiful. I am inspired by nature and there is something about snow which is overwhelming for me.”

(Michael’s facebook page features a short video of him outside in a t-shirt, scarf, and tuque, diving face first into the snow, with Shimrit laughing in the background.)

The Zelikovitz Centre booked a busy schedule of events for Michael and Shimrit around the city. Their performance venues ranged from the Kailash Mital Theatre at Carleton University, to the Soloway JCC and many other Jewish community institutions, and also included public high schools across Ottawa, cafes and other public venues.

For more information on the Greilsammers, visit www.michaelgreilsammer.com

Steven Fine and the Golden Menorah

By Katie Menendez

On February 7, about seventy-five people gathered to hear Dr. Steven Fine from Yeshiva University give a public lecture about the Arch of Titus, particularly the panel that depicts the treasures from the Jerusalem Temple taken as part of the Jewish War from 66-73CE. Although not a Jewish Studies student myself, I am interested in ancient and medieval history, and so a talk entitled *The Golden Menorah of the Arch of Titus: Public Architecture and Religion from Imperial Rome to Modern Israel* seemed like an excellent chance to hear about the many different meanings a specific monument has carried over such a long period of time. I was certainly not disappointed. Not only did Dr. Fine have a vast knowledge of everything from ancient artistic techniques, to modern reconstruction technology, to why the menorah was adopted as a symbol of Israel, but he was almost bouncing as he shared his enthusiasm for all of these subjects with us. It is rare to meet such an eminent scholar who seems so happy to speak with students, professors, and members of the community.

The talk was divided into two major themes. The first was the recent international project to study the Arch of Titus in its entirety, and particularly to try to discover what its original colours were. Modern viewers tend to imagine Roman art as white, and so it is always a shock to see reconstructions full of bright colours, including gold in the case of the Menorah on the Arch of Titus. Dr. Fine gave a vivid description of what it is like to be so close to such a monument, and of the complex technology that a project like this requires. The second theme was how the Arch of Titus and particularly the Menorah on its panel, have been perceived. This included everything from Jews visiting Rome to see the treasures taken from the Temple, to the Arch's reconstruction by Renaissance Popes who hoped to link themselves to Rome's past glory. I may be showing my historian's bias to say that this was my favourite part of the talk, but there was so much interesting information that it would have appealed to almost anyone.

WOMEN IN ISRAELI FILM: AN EVENING WITH AMY KRONISH

By Shawna Dolansky



For many of us raised in North America to feel affinity with Israel and to take pride in the modern state as our ancient homeland, having a sense of the real living, breathing country beyond the typical media coverage can be challenging. When all we read and see about Israel relates to war and politics, it's easy to forget the deeper emotional, cultural, and human side of things. Fortunately for those of us who can't travel there regularly, Israel's film industry is flourishing, and world-class comedies, tragedies, dramas, and documentaries export Israeli culture in all of its colour and candour.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Israeli Film Festival in Ottawa, a proud tradition presented by the Canadian Film Institute and the Israeli Cultural Forum, which includes a variety of local organizations: the SJCC, the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, the Embassy of Israel, the Canada Israel Cultural Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Canadian friends of Hebrew University, and this year, for the first time, the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University.

In anticipation of the Spring festival, the Zelikovitz Centre, in conjunction with Temple Israel and the SJCC, hosted Israeli film critic Amy Kronish for a free public lecture which was held on March 7, 2013, at Carleton University.

Ms. Kronish currently works as a consultant in the field of Jewish and Israeli film and curates film programs. Previously, she directed coexistence programs at the Jerusalem International YMCA and served for 15 years as the Curator of Jewish and Israeli Film at the Jerusalem Cinematheque. She lectures and writes widely on film and is the author of two books on Israeli film – *World Cinema: Israel* (1996) and *Israeli Film – A Reference Guide* (2003). Born and bred in the United States, she has an M.A. in Communications from N.Y.U. (1973), and has lived in Jerusalem since 1979.

In honour of International Women's Day, Ms. Kronish's March 7th lecture focused on "The Women of Israel." Israeli films have increasingly been producing more complex narratives about women and women's issues, portraying unique stories and issues that are central to the lives of both Jewish and Palestinian Israeli women. In her discussion, Ms. Kronish screened and analysed film clips on this interesting and timely issue.

The Film Festival itself will take place June 6, 9, 13 and 16, with all films to be shown at the auditorium, 395 Wellington Street. Stay tuned to www.israelifilmfestival.ca for film titles and showtimes.

About the Centre:

Carleton University's 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.

People:

Dr. Aviva Freedman, Director

Dr. Deidre Butler, Associate Director

Dr. Shawna Dolansky, Assistant Director

Jordan Stenzler, Assistant Administrator

David Tanhelson, Financial Administrator

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2013 SUMMER JEWISH STUDIES COURSES

**RELI
1011 A** Introductory Hebrew I
with *Mina Cohn*
May 06, 2013 to Aug 15, 2013
Days: Tue Thu
Time: 13:05 – 15:55

**RELI
1710 A** Judaism, Christianity, Islam
with *Dr. Zeba Crook*
May 06, 2013 to Jun 18, 2013
Days: Tue Thu
Time: 18:05 – 20:55

**RELI
2121 A** Hebrew Bible
with *Dr. Shawna Dolansky*
May 06, 2013 to Jun 18, 2013
Days: Mon Wed
Time: 11:35 – 14:25

**Non-
Credit
Hebrew
Course** Experience Israeli Culture and
the Hebrew Language
with *Dr. Shawna Dolansky*
May 07, 2013 to Jun 18, 2013
Days: Tues
Time: 12:00-13:30



Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies

With access to Ottawa at our front step, the Zelikovitz 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 affiliated researchers.