

Jewish Studies Program

University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan, 526 University Hall
Chicago, IL 60607

Letter from the Director



New publication from Dagmar C.G. Lorenz and Helga Kraft

Letter from the Associate Director

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Students:

I am pleased to start the 2007 Fall Semester Jewish Studies Newsletter by extending my heartfelt congratulations to Barry Chiswick, who received the 2007 Marshall Sklare Award for significant contributions to the social scientific study of Jewry and Sam Fleischacker, who was recognized by The Chicago Jewish News as one of the Jewish Chicagoans of the Year for his work with the Jewish-Muslim Initiative. On the other hand, I regret having to announce the retirement of our beloved scholar and teacher, Michael Lieb, whom the faculty honored for his contributions to the Jewish Studies Program on August 29, 2007.

This semester the UIC Jewish Studies Program offers in addition to its core courses classes and a lecture program emphasizing aspects of Jewish life world-wide with a focus on the European and American context, past and present in [JST 117: Understanding the Holocaust](#), [JST 122: Minority Perspectives in the Germanic Context](#), [JST 125 Diaspora, Exile, Genocide: Aspects of the European Jewish Experience in Literature and Film](#), and [JST 494: German-Jewish Women from Pre-modern Times to Modernity \(17th -20th centuries\)](#). [Our Fall symposium](#) *Becoming Urban. Migration, the Emergence of the Jewish Bourgeoisie, and the Role of Women in 19th Century Central European Jewry* (Sept. 25, 2007) featured the internationally renowned scholar of German Judaica, Monika Richarz (Berlin), who is currently the Distinguished Max Kade Visiting Professor in Germanic Studies at UIC. Our distinguished speakers included Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth), Alan Levenson (Cleveland), Hillary Herzog (Kentucky), and Richard Levy (UIC). Migration and cultural transitions are also foregrounded in our Fall lectures by Neil Jacobs (Ohio State), *Talking your way to Whiteness: Jews, Ethnicity, and Language*, and Tobias Brinkmann (Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton, UK), *Germans versus Russians? Reassessing Jewish Americanization projects in the Chicago "Ghetto" 1880-1914*. These events along with the JST Brown Bag Lunches featuring a lecture by Isaac Hoffman on Israeli film and Edna Erez' discussion of Palestinian women and terrorism situate Jewish culture and society into the larger global context as do films screened in conjunction with JST 125. They examine the Ashkenazic experience at different places and periods; Joan Micklin Silver's *Hester Street*, Peter Lilienthal and Jurek Becker's *David*, and Liev Schreiber's *Everything is Illuminated*. In Spring Semester 2008, in the context of the visit of Shlomo Shoham (Tel Aviv University), one of the world's leading criminologists, JST will offer programs on Israeli society. (continued on page 5...)



Nancy Gebhardt on Brandeis University's 2007 SIIS tour of Israel

Dear Friends and Colleagues

In our last Newsletter, published in May of this year, we covered program events through the beginning of March, 2007. In this one we want to update you on all the things that have taken place since then. They are so plentiful that it will be difficult to fit them all in. As you look over the next few pages, I hope that you'll get a feeling for the incredible diversity that our invited guests from all over the country, from Georgetown University, (Jeffrey Peck), to Dartmouth, (Susannah Heschel), and all over the world, Tobias Brinkman (UK), and Monika Richarz (Berlin), have brought to our campus and our program. I'm excited to welcome our new faculty members, Edna Erez, of Criminal Justice, and Moshe Semyonov, of Sociology who have recently joined the program, ever widening horizons for JST students at UIC. My greatest opportunity of the past year was the Brandeis University Summer Institute for Israel Studies, which I attended on the Brandeis campus and in Israel. The entire three and a half weeks of study and travel was funded by Brandeis and a number of contributors like the American Jewish Committee of the Dorothy and Julius Koppelman Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. I was honored to be among the nineteen scholars from around the world chosen to take part in this year's institute which consisted of two weeks of seminars, mornings, afternoons, and evenings (continued on page 5...)

The Jewish Studies Program wishes to thank Joseph and Marica Liss for their generous contribution to the Jewish Muslim Initiative! Your support makes a difference!!

Jewish Studies Events

Spring 2007



Jeffrey Peck



Hasia Diner

The JST major event of the Spring, 2007 semester welcomed new and old friends. The symposium explored the new Jewish communities in Europe. Jeffrey Peck, Georgetown University, an expert in contemporary European Jewish culture, discussed his recent study *Being Jewish in the New Germany*. Matti Bunzl, of the University of Illinois at Urbana, discussed Jewish life in Vienna from the early 20th century to present in *Symptoms of Modernity*. Hasia Diner, a UIC alumna, is now on the faculty of New York University. She authored numerous American-Jewish history books and is a specialist in immigration and ethnic history, American Jewish history and the history of American women. Barry Chiswick of UIC is internationally known for his research in Labor Economics, Human Resources, the Economics of Immigration, the Economics of Minorities, and Income Distribution. He edited *The Economics of Immigrant Skill and Adjustment*. The co-sponsors for this event were the Department of Germanic Studies, the History Department, the Sociology Department, and International Affairs at UIC.

Survival, (IM)Migration,
Identity: Symposium

About Face

For Holocaust Memorial Day, 2007, the Jewish Studies Program collaborated with Levine Hillel Center to bring the film *About Face* and its maker, Steve Karras to our campus.

At right are: (l-r) Steve Karras, Marla Baker, Bernard Baum, Carmel Chiswick, Dagmar C.G. Lorenz, and Elizabeth Loenz, attending screening of *About*

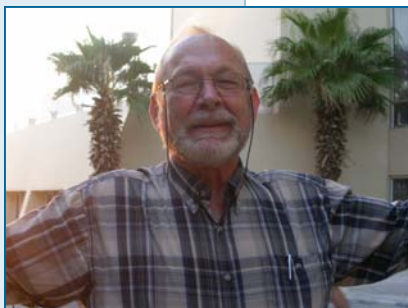


About Face, a documentary on the untold story of the Jewish refugee soldiers of World War II, was shown at UIC. The film is a feature-length documentary that tells the remarkable story of thousands of young Jewish immigrants who fled Germany and Austria in the early days of the Hitler regime only to perform an "about face" by joining the allied armed services to fight their way back to Europe and North Africa. There they would confront their enemies, fighting alongside American GI's and British Tommies in WWII. After the screening, there was a panel discussion. Steve Karras, the director, co-writer and producer of the film, attended the event and introduced the film. He has done extensive research of Jewish WWII veterans which inspired him to do this documentary. Bernard Baum, professor emeritus of Health Policy and Administration at the UIC School of Public Health, and an exile from Nazi Germany was also present at the panel discussion. Baum is featured in the film as one of the refugees turned-soldier. Another prominent interviewee in the film was Henry Kissinger.



Bernard Baum

SPRING 2008 — JST set to welcome First Israel Studies Scholar!



Professor Shlomo Shoham will join the Jewish Studies Program in January of 2008 as the Visiting Israel Scholar for the spring semester. Winner of the Israel Emmet Prize in 2007, Professor Shoham, a Criminology specialist, will teach JST 394, Cultural Conflict, Crime and Deviance in Israel, which will be cross-listed with Criminal Justice 491. The Visiting Israel Scholar Program is supported by the Jewish Federation and was made possible by the efforts of Sam Fleischacker and Robert Johnston.

Jewish Studies Events

Fall 2007

Michael Lieb, Former JST Program Director Retires

JST said a fond farewell at a reception honoring Michael Lieb recognizing his contributions to UIC and the Program on Thursday, August 29th. The reception was attended by many of Michael's colleagues as well as the new Dean of LAS, Dwight McBride. Chancellor Sylvia Manning gave a short talk honoring Lieb as well. Nancy Gebhardt spoke with Michael about his fascinating career. The article resulting from the interview was published in the LAS newsletter, *Atlas*, fall edition. The Institute for the Humanities also honored Lieb with "A Conference in Honor of Michael Lieb" on Friday, November 9 which was attended by many renowned scholars from around the country including the former Dean of LAS, Stanley Fish.



Above—Michael and his wife Rosalyn.



Above—Chancellor Manning and Rosalyn Lieb enjoy the reception.



Above left—Elisabeth Loentz, Robert Johnston and Max Kade Visiting Professor, Monika Richarz



Above right—Rachael Havrelock, Susannah Heschel, and Sally Sedgewick

Our Fall Symposium, "Becoming Urban," welcomed several guest speakers, Susannah Heschel from Dartmouth College, Alan Levenson from Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies and Hillary Herzog from the University of Kentucky. Monika Richarz, this year's Max Kade Professor at UIC and UIC's Richard S. Levy also presented papers. There was a panel discussion with Elizabeth Loentz, Robert Johnston, Rachel Havrelock, Sally Sedgewick and Dagmar C. G. Lorenz. The panels were all well-attended and the participants all enjoyed the dinner that Marla Baker and the Levine Hillel Center sponsored in their Succah.

Becoming Urban:
Migration, the Emergence of the Jewish Bourgeoisie, and the Role of Women in 19th Century Central European Jewry
— Fall 2007 Symposium

Guest Speakers and Faculty Talks

Neil Jacobs, Ohio State University, presented "Talking your way to Whiteness: Jews, Ethnicity, and Language," Monday, October 15.

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Lore Segal spoke at a luncheon at Hillel and read from her new book, *Shakespeare's Kitchen*, at Barbara's Books on Halsted and Taylor, Monday, November 5.

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Tobias Brinkman, University of Southampton, UK presented a talk titled "Germans versus Russians?: Reassessing Jewish Americanization projects in the Chicago 'Ghetto' 1880-1914", Wednesday, November 14.

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Edna Erez, JST and the Department of Criminal Justice presented a paper titled "Palestinian Women and Terrorism. Women's Liberation or Oppression? Freedom Fighters, Martyrs, or Murderers?" at a Brown Bag Lunch, Tuesday, October 26.

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Isaac Hoffman, JST gave a lecture and screened the film "Beaufort" on Monday, November 12th at the Levine Hillel Center. The film will be Israel's submission to the Academy Awards in 2008.



Above—Dagmar C.G. Lorenz, Neil Jacobs, and Monika Richarz enjoy lunch after his talk.

Program News Page

Publications, Honors, and People

The Chicago Jewish News named Sam Fleischacker one of the Chicagoans of the Year, 2007. In an article titled "Beyond the Ivory Tower" the paper interviewed Sam about the Jewish-Muslim Initiative at UIC. It also mentions that he "was instrumental in revitalizing the Chicago chapter of Peace Now and in forming the Shira Hadashah Minyan of Evanston..."



Sam Fleischacker

A book review by Robert Johnston was featured in the *Chicago Tribune* "Books" section in June. Johnston reviewed "Sick" *The Untold Story of American's Health Care Crisis — and the People Who Pay the Price* by Jonathan Cohn.



Barry Chiswick will be delivering the Marshall Sklare Lecture and receiving the Marshall Sklare Award from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Toronto in December 2007. The title of his talk is "The Rise and Fall of the Jewish PhD". The UIC Jewish Studies co-sponsored a reception in his honor.



Carmel Chiswick's latest work, *Jewish Society and Culture: An Economic Perspective* (with Tikva Lecker and Nava Kahana) was published by the Bar Ilan University Press., in 2007. Carmel also published articles in *Jewish Society and Culture: An Economic Perspective* and, together with Barry, in *The Encyclopedia of American Jewish History, New Jewish Time - Jewish Culture in a Secular Age - an Encyclopedic View*.



Dagmar C. G. Lorenz's co-edited anthology on the German-Jewish actress, dramatist and biographer Elsa Porges-Bernstein *From Fin-de-Siecle to Theresienstadt* was published with Lang/New York in 2007. She also published the articles "Viennese Memories of History and Horrors," *Studies in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature* 31/1 (2007) and "Transformationen der Avantgarde: Veza Canetti, Elfriede Jelinek und Ruth Beckermann." *Jahrbuch der Theodor-Kramer-Gesellschaft* 9 (Klagenfurth, Austria).



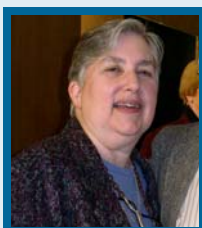
Edna Erez' article titled "Gender, Palestinian Women and Terrorism: Women's Liberation or Oppression?" co-authored by Anat Berko, appeared in the journal *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. Edna rez and William F. McDonald also published "Immigrants as Victims: A Framework," in the *International Review of Victimology*.



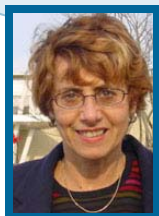
Nancy Gebhardt's interview with Michael Lieb appears in the fall edition of LAS's *Atlas* newsletter. Liat Shetret, UIC graduate and former JST student is featured on the cover of the same publication.



Robert Johnston



Carmel Chiswick



Edna Erez

New Jewish Studies Program Student Aides for 2007 2008

We asked our new student aides to write a few words to introduce themselves to you and here is what they said. I hope that you'll all get a chance to meet them when you come to the Jewish Studies offices.



Lea Palmeno is a freshman at UIC who is considering elementary education as her major. Lea loves UIC and loves working in Jewish Studies. In her free time, Lea enjoys traipsing through Chicago, dancing in fields and being an active member of Campus Antiwar Network.



Nick Stephens, an art history major in his first year at UIC. In his free (and not so free) time, he loves writing aimless prose, taking photos of friends, reading Sylvia Plath, los mercados de México, free-style dancing, vegetarianism, sleeping in LATE, American literature, carbohydrates, existentialism, massive amounts of coffee, and non-traditional pets/people/whatever. He is an active member of the Campus Antiwar Network .



Haley O'Leary is the Jewish Studies Department's new Web Maintainer. She is in her second year at UIC, studying Computer Science in the College of Engineering, and enjoys doing visual art in her spare time. She also loves attending concerts playing video games, and travelling.

(continued from "Letter from the Director" p.1)

On a personal note I would like to share some impressions from my recent trip to Poland, which again made me aware of the importance of remembering the past, which is present everywhere in South Eastern Poland. The obvious social and economic problems notwithstanding, the cities and rural areas showed amazing signs of progress--Bolesławiec, Wrocław, Wałbrzych, Walim (the remote site location of Hitler's last major project, *Project Riese* <http://www.warsawvoice.pl/view/2878/>), Katowice, Gliwice, and the bustling city of Kraków, home of the Schindler factory in Podgorze, the former Nazi ghetto adjacent to the historical Jewish neighborhood of Kazimierz. All these have become tourist attractions as was earlier the case with Oświęcim, Auschwitz, which in 1995 hosted a world congress of Cities of Peace. New stories, interpretations, and projects are being added to the narratives of this region's Jewish neighborhoods. Some are restored but empty or occupied by non-Jews. Nothing seemed to mark the conflict of past and present more clearly than the statuettes of orthodox Jews sold in tourist stores, wooden figurines of men dressed in black, some marked by a Jewish star, some carrying miniature suitcases and real-size coins, or the large-scale painting in a ceramic store in Bolesławiec showing a Jewish man reminiscent of *Tevye der Milkhiker* bent over a book covered with coins. Who, I wonder, buys this "art"? On the other hand, the monumental paintings of Maestro Leszek Michal Zegalski (*1959), exhibited this summer at Zamek Ksiaz (Castle Fürstenstein, Walbrzych) confront the viewers in an uncompromising manner with right-wing extremism, militarism and anti-Semitism, which continue to inform the imaginary and reveal the cultural rift between the intellectual sphere and popular arts and crafts in Poland.

- Dagmar C.G. Lorenz



Painting by Maestro Leszek Michal Zegalski critical of the contemporary mentality



Above: Anti-Semitic figurines and painting of Jewish men in a ceramic store in Bolesławiec (Photo: H. Kraft)

(letter from the Associate Director continued from Page 1)

seven days a week, only breaking from sundown on Fridays to sundown on Saturdays for Shabot. The faculty consisted of highly respected Israeli and American academicians like Elie Rekhess of Tel Aviv University, Gabi Sheffer of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Kenneth Stein of Emory University and Ilan Toren, of Brandeis University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The objective of this now yearly program is to aid Jewish studies programs at universities around the world to widen their curricula to include introductory Israel studies programs. With this intent the various scholars gave lectures and provided bibliographies for participants to use in developing syllabi in their own particular field, be it political science, history, film, or in my case, literature. The experience was phenomenal; with the atmosphere of a retreat, the nineteen of us, along with our group leaders and program directors, ate, drank, and even dreamed Zionism and Israeli history, politics, and culture for two solid weeks. We were provided with a most intensive learning and training experience to the benefit of those whom we will teach in the future. And then we were treated to eight incredible days in Israel, where I encountered more of the reality of what Israel is and how it came to be, than I did in all of the seven years that I lived there. On the trip we visited working archeological sites like the Herodion and the City of David at the site of the Gihon Springs. We were treated to lunch in a vineyard in the Gush Etzion settlements where we heard and spoke with Mayor Shaul Goldstein, whose warm and earnest words could sway the most dovish of hearts. We toured the Knesset and the Supreme Court and met with Israel Supreme Court Justice Itzhak Zamir. We had lunch with the wildly popular Israeli author, Etgar Keret and were truly treated like a delegation of diplomats throughout the trip. The one and only complaint of every participant was that there were not enough hours in the day to take in all of the places, faces, and experiences to which we were granted access. I know that I'll never have another experience like it and am grateful to both Brandeis and UIC for making it possible for me to attend. I am extremely excited to be offering my first course of Israel Studies 103 in the coming Fall, 2008 semester. The Levine Hillel Center has asked me to speak at a women's luncheon in March, (tentatively scheduled for March 5), on Israeli women in the collective, based on background research from this trip as well as my own experiences living in kibbutzim. I hope to see many friends of the Jewish Studies Program there!. I've included a few photos here from the Institute and trip that I hope you'll enjoy. I hope to see you at our spring events!

-Nancy Gebhardt

Below: Photos from Nancy Gebhardt's SIIS tour of Israel in July of 2007



Prof. Ehud Netzer, archeologist who conducted the Herodion dig, gives the group insider info on the site.



The mayor of Gush Etzion, Shaul Goldstein shares the bounty of the village and its vineyards along with his views on peace and settlements.

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Jewish Studies Program, M/C162
601 S Morgan, 526 University Hall
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Thank you for helping to make the UIC Jewish Studies Program a Success!



Nancy Gebhardt's Jewish Studies 101 Class celebrates a mini-Seder in April of 2007.