



THE SUE AND LEONARD MILLER  
CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY JUDAIC STUDIES



THE GEORGE FELDENKREIS  
PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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## THE SUE AND LEONARD MILLER CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY JUDAIC STUDIES

The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies was established in late 1998 as an independent academic research center at the University of Miami. It provides a framework for an objective, in-depth exploration of the issues, trends, and processes that have affected the Jewish people over the last 100 years. The Center is engaged in research, publications, and outreach activities—such as lectures, conferences, and symposia—to which the university community and the general public are invited. The Center serves as a resource dedicated to the academic pursuit of studying all aspects of Jewish society and culture in an effort to foster a better understanding of the contemporary Jewish experience through research into the challenges facing the Jewish people as it moves forward in the 21st century. By concentrating on the 20th and 21st centuries, the Center examines an important historical period that includes the birth of Zionism, the horrors of the Shoah, the creation of the State of Israel, and the successful growth of the Jewish communities in North and South America. The Center works in close cooperation with the university’s George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies and with other relevant Jewish cultural organizations in South Florida.

## THE GEORGE FELDENKREIS PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES

The George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies is an interdisciplinary, undergraduate, degree-granting program that operates within the University of Miami’s College of Arts and Sciences. The program was established in 1972 and offered its first BA in 1976. Thanks to a generous gift, the program was named for Mr. George Feldenkreis in the Spring of 2005. Offering both a major and a minor, the Program lists numerous courses on its own or in cooperation with other departments and programs in all aspects of Jewish civilization, from its origins in Biblical times to its diverse expressions in the twenty-first century. Nearly twenty full-time faculty from all parts of the university, along with several visiting scholars, participate in the Program by teaching, engaging in research, and otherwise collaborating in the study of Jewish culture, society, politics, and religion.

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## FROM THE DIRECTORS OF

## THE SUE AND LEONARD MILLER CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY JUDAIC STUDIES

## AND THE GEORGE FELDENKREIS PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES

The second edition of our newsletter comes at an exciting time of growth and transition for Judaic Studies at the University of Miami.

### **The Judaic Studies Program**

The George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies has been the recipient of two grants in the past year, considerable evidence of our past success and promise of growth in the future.

The Center for Cultural Judaism awarded our program a \$50,000 grant, renewable for a further two years, to develop new courses in the study of Judaism as culture.

Even more recently, we have received a magnificent gift from a local benefactor and UM Trustee, Mr. George Feldenkreis, for whom the program is now to be named. The gift is directed to general support and enrichment of undergraduate instruction in all its facets. With the support of patrons like Mr. Feldenkreis, the sky is truly the limit for Judaic Studies at UM.

### **New Postdoctoral Associates**

Dr. Daniel Greene, who recently earned his Ph. D. in Jewish American History from the University of Chicago, joined our program as the Posen Post-Doctoral Fellow. Dr. Greene is offering a wonderful array of new courses, ranging from “Judaism and Modernity: Pluralities of Jewish Culture since the Enlightenment” to “Secular Jewish Identity in the Modern World” and “The ‘Vanishing’ American Jew?”

We have also welcomed Dr. Kaylin Goldstein, who recently completed her Ph. D. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago. Dr. Goldstein joins our program as an Interdisciplinary Studies Post-Doctoral Fellow; her fascinating research focuses on museums and their roles in the formation of Israeli and Palestinian national identities. In the Fall, Dr. Goldstein offered a new course on “Zionism and Post-Zionism.” This semester, her courses are on “Israeli Society” and “Museums, Monuments, and Memory.”

### **ICHEIC Service-Learning Program**

We are especially excited by—and proud of—a service-learning program we have recently initiated in collaboration with the Jewish Community Services of South Florida, funded by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) in association with Hillel International and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The program combines classroom study of the Holocaust in regularly-offered courses, weekly direct contact with local survivors of the Holocaust, and academic enrichment to complement the volunteer experience. The program had its public launch at the University of Miami on January 31, 2005.

Many of the students who were part of the first cohort of this service-learning program last Spring learned of this opportunity because they were enrolled in a course on “The Holocaust in Historical Perspective,” taught by the George Feldenkreis Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Professor Yaffa Eliach, who is internationally known for her important work on Jewish life in Europe prior to the Shoah. Professor Eliach shared her enormous knowledge and passion for her research with students not only in the formal setting of the classroom, but also in public lectures and informal discussions. She encouraged students to participate in her extensive oral history project and we are delighted that so much of the material our undergraduates collected have now become a permanent part of the archives Professor Eliach is assembling for her Shtetl projects in the United States and Israel.

With all of these exciting developments, word is getting out to students that Judaic Studies has a great deal to offer and the increase in the numbers of majors, minors, and students enrolling in our courses reflects the growth of our reputation. We are offering more courses this semester in Judaic Studies than we have ever offered and we are enrolling more students in our courses than ever before.





## The Miller Center

At the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies we are, of course, delighted with the good work that the Feldenkreis Program has been doing. In addition directly and indirectly to supporting the teaching efforts of the Program, we are proud of progress made in two distinct areas: applied research and outreach. These efforts have enabled us to build new and innovative coalitions at the University of Miami, with other universities, with the Jewish community, with public agencies, and with the US and other governments. The Miller Center is partnering on different projects with the Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy and the Global Public Health Group at the University of Miami; Ecopeace/Friends of the Earth-Middle East; the International Joint Commission and UNESCO (Jordan River Valley–Dead Sea Project); the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, Hillel International, and Jewish Community

Services of South Florida (ICHEIC Service Corps); the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, the Office of Emergency Management of Miami Dade County, and the US Armed Forces Southern Command (emergency preparedness in the face of threats of terrorism); and with various Jewish community organizations in public lectures. The major research projects began with testimony in May 2004 by Dr. Shaked before the US House of Representatives Committee on International Relations reporting on work being done in the Center as part of the Taplin Middle East Peace Project. This work focused on the reclamation of the Dead Sea which has been diminishing in size over the last several decades.

This was followed by the March 2005 convening of a Jordan River Mayors' Forum chaired by the Miller Center and the Ecopeace/Friends of the Earth-Middle East on Peace Island in the Jordan River south of Tiberias. Mayors and local leaders from Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian towns and villages in the lower Jordan River Valley met to discuss collaborative efforts, to deal with common issues concerning water, the environment, and public health.

The Miller Center's public programs involved frequent public lectures with capacity audiences. Some of the recent notable visitors to the Center were Boaz Ganor, Executive Director of the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya; Uzi Arad, Director of the Institute of Policy and Strategy (IPS) and Professor of Government at the Lauder School of Government, Policy and Diplomacy at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya; Robert Rockaway, Professor of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University; and Major General (ret.) Ya'akov Amidror, former head of the Assessment and Production Division of IDF Intelligence and Military Secretary to the Minister of Defense.

We are particularly delighted by the synergistic relationship between the Center and the Program, which benefits both in a wonderfully successful manner.

Whether you are member of the UM faculty, a current student, an alumnus/a of the University, or just a visitor to Coral Gables, we hope you will have the opportunity to visit our beautiful facilities at the Miller Center, to join us for any of our numerous events and, perhaps, to sit in on some of our classes. We would be delighted to speak with anyone who has questions about our Center and Program and are most eager to greet you should be able to visit us on campus.

Best wishes,

Haim Shaked, Ph. D.

Professor, Department of International Studies

The Dr. M. Lee Pearce Professor of Middle East Peace Studies

Director, The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies  
and

Jeffrey Shoulson, Ph. D.

Director, The George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies

Associate Professor, Department of English

Fellow, The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies

## PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT



The University of Miami's Judaic Studies Program will benefit from a magnificent gift pledged by Mr. George Feldenkreis, Chairman and CEO of Perry Ellis International and member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees. The Program will be named for Mr. Feldenkreis in recognition of his generosity.

This gift, to be managed by the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies to which it is directed, will allow for a variety of enrichment programs. The funds will enable the Program to invite distinguished visiting professors and guest lecturers and to provide other opportunities to deepen and enhance the learning experience of both undergraduates in Judaic Studies and members of the general public who are very often invited to the campus to participate.

George Feldenkreis was born in Cuba to parents who managed to flee from the Ukraine just before the Nazi onslaught. As a youngster, he was active in Jewish life and organizations and, with the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, he also became a dedicated supporter of the Jewish state.

Coming to the United States in 1961, just before the Bay of Pigs invasion, like most everyone who came to this country from Cuba, Mr. Feldenkreis had to start from scratch. Since that time, he has enjoyed enormous success in his business life and has become a notable philanthropist and community leader and activist.

The George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies, the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, and the University of Miami are all grateful beneficiaries of his generosity.



*Top: George Feldenkreis. Bottom: Gloria Scharlin, receiving the Golden Menorah brooch from University of Miami President, Donna Shalala.*

## SCHARLIN PATIO DEDICATION

After the premature death of Howard R. Scharlin in May 2001, his widow, Gloria, determined to do something in his memory. On behalf of the Scharlin Family Foundation, she has pledged a most generous gift to name the Scharlin Patio at the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies. As if that weren't enough, she has also donated five eight-foot tall sculptures of Hasidic Jews that used to stand in her garden. Now adorning the patio's garden, the beautiful verdigris metal statues sway in the breeze, praying, no doubt that all who study beneath their steady gaze will receive As.

Howard and Gloria's son, David, explained how the family came to select the endowment of this patio: "The patio at the Miller Center combines three elements which were of paramount importance to my dad: Judaism, intellectual pursuit, and social intercourse."



On February 21, 2005, in front of an audience of 300, UM President Donna E. Shalala convened the formal dedication ceremony. The Scharlin family's Rabbi, Gary Glickstein of Temple Beth Shalom, spoke on "Commemoration in Jewish History and Custom" and was followed by a mini-concert by the Scharlin granddaughters, accompanied by Temple Beth Shalom's Cantor, Steven Haas. Gloria spoke movingly about her husband, who served the Greater Miami Jewish community in many capacities including as president of its Federation. Finally, David Scharlin read an essay written by Howard himself at age 17, in which he outlined his goals for his life, goals which were—amazingly—entirely fulfilled.

The Scharlin Patio serves the University in many ways. One can hardly find a moment in which students, faculty and visitors are not sitting at one of the green tables, studying, chatting, or eating. Some professors bring their entire class into the patio when the weather is balmy. The Miller Center uses the patio regularly for events, including, naturally, the dedication of the patio itself. Other departments of the University have also discovered the Scharlin Patio and often ask to use it for their events.



*Above, and below: Scharlin Patio and its statues.*



# MILLER CENTER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies continued to serve the University, the Jewish community, and the community-at-large through its outreach and research programs.

## Outreach Programs

Outreach programs were a major feature of the Miller Center's activities and included the following:

**Public lectures** which attracted capacity audiences. These lectures, delivered at the Miller Center or at Jewish community locations in association with other organizations, included presentations by Dr. Boaz Ganor on "The Challenge of Countering International Terrorism Post 9/11"; Amb. Alon Pinkas on "The Evolution of the Relationship Among Israel, the U.S. and American Jewish Organizations"; Rabbi Joseph Telushkin on Jewish humor; Prof. Robert Rockaway on Jewish gangsters, and Nonie Darwish on "How I, a Product of the Palestinian School System, Came to Be a Supporter of Israel."

**ICHEIC Service Corps (ISC) Pilot Project** had its formal public launch on January 31, 2005, capping the month-long commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The ceremony was attended by senior representatives of national Jewish and Holocaust survivor organizations; Tom Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida;

Roman Kent, Chairman of the Board of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors; senior members of the University and Jewish communities; survivor and student participants in the program; and representatives of the national and local media.

## Research Programs

The Miller Center's research program focused on issues affecting Israel and its neighbors. High points of the year were a series of projects and activities that were part of the Taplin Middle East Peace Project. These included:

**Congressional Testimony** prepared by Dr. Haim Shaked and Miller Center Visiting Research Fellow Dr. Eugene Rothman and delivered by Dr. Shaked on May 5, 2004 at the US House of Representatives Committee on International Relations. The testimony at the hearings on water in the Middle East proposed the establishment of a regional management structure involving Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians for managing resources in the Jordan Valley. The testimony was well received and led to the establishment of a strategic alliance with key non-governmental organizations in the Middle East to further develop and encourage the adoption of this and similar regional models.

**Reclamation of the Dead Sea Project's** research phase continued. Work on this project provided the basis for the congressional testimony. Key meetings were held in Miami, Tel Aviv, and Antalya,

Turkey with Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and non-governmental organization representatives on the issue of regional management of water, a common concern of all the parties involved. Drs. Shaked and Rothman have proposed a multi-national regional resource management system based on the International Joint Commission model that manages the border between the United States and Canada.

**Jordan River Mayors Forum** was established on "Peace Island"/Baqura in the Jordan River. For the first time, more than 30 Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian mayors and local municipal leaders of villages and towns in the Jordan valley met on March 9, 2005 to discuss common issues dealing with water, the environment, and public health. The meeting was convened by the Miller Center and the Ecopeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East in association with and support of the University of Miami's Global Public Health Group, the National Institute of Health, UNESCO, USAID, the European Union, and the Government of Finland. Prince Hassan of Jordan was the Honorary Patron of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify common issues involving resource management as well as tracking and controlling disease in the Jordan valley. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of a continuing process that will contribute to Arab-Israeli peace and the "habit of dialogue."

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# AND SPONSORED RESEARCH

## THE SUE MILLER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On June 6, 2004, Dr. Haim Shaked and Maxine Schwartz were hosting Sue Miller at lunch for her birthday. As they described the still fledgling ICHEIC program, Mrs. Miller caught the enthusiasm and volunteered scholarship assistance to this program on a yearly basis. As a result, a scholarship of \$500 per semester is awarded to each student participating in the 'friendly visits'. Our continuing thanks go to Mrs. Miller for her ongoing care and generosity.



*Sue Miller, pictured at the Scharlin Patio dedication, between Jacob Solomon, Executive Vice President of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and Norman Braman, University of Miami Trustee.*

## NEW SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM PAIRS UM STUDENTS WITH LOCAL SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

The ICHEIC Service Corps (ISC) was initiated by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) and its chairman, former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who approached the University of Miami to develop a program that combined undergraduate education and service to survivors of the Holocaust. The resulting program is a product of the combined efforts of the George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies, the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, the Jewish Community Services of Miami-Dade County, Hillel International, and the Claims Conference.

Following a formal screening by Jewish Community Services and a concurrent period of required training, students who have been approved to participate in the program provide supervised services to Holocaust survivors as "friendly visitors." Participants devote between one and three hours per week to their work with survivors.

Student volunteers meet on a monthly basis with Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, an expert in Holocaust education, who serves as the Director of Education at the Holocaust Memorial of Miami Beach and advisor to the Miami-Dade Public School system. The goal of their meetings is to share their experiences and to participate in enrichment activities.

Students—who are expected to commit to at least two semesters of service—earn two academic credits at the end of each semester for the "friendly visits." Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Mrs. Sue Miller, student participants are eligible for a Sue Miller Scholarship in the amount of \$500 per semester. Students also earn a stipend of \$250 per semester to cover any transportation costs.

Combining classroom study of the Holocaust and services to local survivors of the Holocaust, the value of this program is manifold. Weekly visits by student participants offer much-needed assistance to these elderly survivors, many of whom are house-bound and isolated. Students gain a great deal from their participation, as well, by developing relationships with survivors who put a human face on historical events that are rapidly receding into the past. The students are asked to keep journals of their experiences and, reading through their entries, it is possible to see how much of a life-changing experience this program is for them. One student offered the following reflections after one of his meetings:

"I feel extremely lucky to have heard [the survivor's] story and was surprised how open and comfortable [she] was in recounting her entire experience to me. I've read many books and watched many videos on the Holocaust, but nothing has affected me as much as hearing [her] story face-to-face in an interactive discussion. Even with a fairly good knowledge of the history of the Holocaust and what took place, I was shocked to hear about her experiences. Hearing of some specific events made me angry and also made me feel helpless. . . . In just the past two days since meeting with her, her words have popped into my head countless times. Each time I have been hungry, thirsty, tired or frustrated by traffic or amounts of homework, her words jump into my head to help put things into perspective."

## MILLER CENTER OUTREACH PROGRAMS & SPONSORED RESEARCH

**Jewish Demography Project:** The major purpose of the Project is to promote research into Jewish demography among scholars. The Project also has a community service component, aiming to communicate the results of Jewish demographic research to the Jewish community in a fashion that will facilitate its employment for planning purposes. During 2004, the Director of the Jewish Demography Project, Dr. Ira Sheskin, completed a major study of the Jews of the Greater Washington, DC area that documented significant growth of the Jewish population of that area. In addition, he completed the field work for similar studies in Miami, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Atlantic City. United Jewish Communities published a paper by Dr. Sheskin entitled "Geographic Differences among American Jews." He also presented a paper entitled "Density of Jewish Settlement and Jewish Identity" at the annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Studies in Chicago and a paper on the National Jewish population Survey at the Association of American Geographers meeting in Philadelphia.

### Building Strategic Alliances

One of the hallmarks of the Miller Center's activities was building strategic alliances and bridges within the university, the Jewish community, and the community-at-large, locally, nationally, and internationally.

In this connection, projects and activities were held in conjunction with the University of Miami's Global Public Health Group, the Medical School's Department of Epidemiology, the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies, the International Commission for Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, Hillel International, the Claims Conference, Jewish Community Services of South Florida, the Hebrew University, the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Jewish community organizations, and others.

## FELDENKREIS PROGRAM AWARDED GRANT TO DEVELOP CURRICULUM IN JUDAISM AS CULTURE

The George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies was the recipient of one of six grants from the Center for Cultural Judaism for the purpose of developing and instituting new courses and curriculum in the study of secular and cultural Judaism. The Center for Cultural Judaism, founded and funded by the Posen Foundation, is engaged in efforts in the US and abroad to enlarge college-level instruction in Judaic Studies to include the important cultural, social, and intellectual history of non-religious Jews of the last several centuries.



*Posen Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Daniel Greene*

The award from the CCJ, which is renewable for up to three years, has funded a Posen Post-Doctoral Fellow position which has been ably filled by Dr. Daniel Greene, who recently completed his Ph. D. in Jewish American History from the University of Chicago. Dr. Greene's brilliant research on the Menorah Association makes him wonderfully suited to the academic goals of the grant. The Menorah Association was founded in the first half of the twentieth century by Jewish college and graduate students to advocate for cultural and religious pluralism. Many of the most influential Jewish intellectuals of the last century got their start in the *Menorah Journal* which was spawned by the Menorah Association.

Dr. Greene has developed three new courses for the current academic year. It is the purpose of these courses to expose students to an expansive view of Jewish culture, including literature, the arts, science, political thought, and other forms of academic discourse. Exposure to the breadth of this Jewish culture will help Jewish students better understand how they and their immediate forebears came to be what they are. Non-Jewish students are exposed to the values of tolerance and diversity through their exposure to a great and creative world culture.

This March the Miller Center and the Feldenkreis Program will host the first annual conference on “Teaching Judaism as Culture in the University.” Sponsored by the Posen Foundation, the conference will bring together representatives of the six universities to have received grants this year (University of Albany, University of California at Davis, University of Denver, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Miami, and Temple University), as well as representatives of the four US institutions granted for the coming year (Bard College, Dickinson College, UCLA, and University of Virginia) to discuss the diverse ways in which the grants have been implemented, to learn from each other about the most effective methods for developing courses in the area of cultural Judaism, and to confer about what resources are currently available and what is still needed.

As a scholarly program committed to academic integrity, the Feldenkreis Program does not advocate any single expression of Judaism. Jewish culture is neither reducible to religion nor to the distance taken from the practice of religion. The Feldenkreis Program is grateful for the grant and the opportunity it presents. Students will derive great benefit from the new courses it has funded.

## CCJ/POSEN FOUNDATION-FUNDED COURSES ON JUDAISM AS CULTURE

### **Judaism and Modernity: Pluralities of Jewish Culture since the Enlightenment**

The philosophical and social upheavals of the modern period severely undermined many of the traditional theological and religious justifications for Jewish life. Divine revelation as the source of philosophical knowledge and religious practice lost its authority in the face of the Enlightenment’s secular and scientific claims. In response to these challenges, Jewish thinkers created a number of strategies for embracing Jewish life that remained compatible with the secular assumptions of modern political, intellectual, and cultural movements.

This course explores these philosophical responses. Students will gain an understanding of the emergence of secular notions of Jewish identity as well as an appreciation for the complex relationship between Jewish and general intellectual thought.

### **Secular Jewish Identity in the Modern World**

Count Clermont-Tonnere, one of the chief advocates for Jewish Emancipation in the French National Assembly, summed up the promise of Emancipation in 1791 writing: “To the Jews as individuals, everything; to the Jews as a nation, nothing.” Faced with this opportunity for complete political equality as individual citizens, Jews rushed to shed their distinctive religious practices and corporate organization in order to gain social acceptance. They attended secular universities, declared allegiance to their countries of origin, and adopted the social and cultural habits of their fellow citizens. Yet, even in the face of tremendous social, economic, and political pressure to fully assimilate, Jewish communities retained a distinctive Jewish identity.

This course utilizes recent historical research to explore the social, political, and cultural factors that enabled Jews to secularize and acculturate without fully assimilating. The class pays particular attention to the role of culture, gender, and politics in creating permeable boundaries between Jews and non-Jews. In addition, focusing on three geographical regions (Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and, to a lesser extent, the United States) enables this class to explore the ways in which different historical contexts engendered variegated approaches towards acculturation. By exploring these dimensions of modern Jewish life, this course will shed light on the nature of secular Jewish identity in the modern world.

### **The “Vanishing” American Jew?**

Jews’ successful integration into the social, cultural, and political fabric of the United States often has been celebrated, but at the same time has led to profound anxieties about the future of American Jewry as a distinct group. A number of recent publications have claimed that, because of factors such as intermarriage, declining religious observance, and success and acceptance, American Jews are soon to disappear. This course will examine the most influential of these studies, and question one pervasive assumption that they share—that religion must provide the foundation for the future of Jewish self-definition. As we read these defenses of Jewish religiosity, we will consider other factors—such as culture, history, memory, and familial ties—that also have defined Jewish identity in the late-twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Students will read a number of the most popular and influential books that demonstrate American Jews’ “survival anxiety,” as well as some of the most recent Jewish population surveys that have helped to contribute to anxieties about “vanishing” American Jews.

# THE GEORGE FELDENKREIS PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES

*The Judaic Studies Program is a broad, flexible, interdisciplinary program designed for undergraduates to gain an understanding of Jewish civilization and its diverse cultural experiences. The program, which is non-theological in orientation, is an academic exploration of the multi-faceted, socio-historical, 4,000-year record of the Jewish people. Courses taught in and cross-listed with the Program highlight the variety of cultural, political, social, and religious experiences of Jews in different times and places.*

*The program is structured to provide an in-depth liberal arts education that will constitute a foundation for advanced academic study, professional careers in a variety of fields, and a more complex and rich understanding of the world. Judaic Studies courses meet distribution requirements for both the Humanities and Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, the School of Communication and the School of Business, and can be used to satisfy requirements by majors and non-majors.*

## *Why Major in Judaic Studies?*

### **Intellectual Sophistication**

As a program and a major/minor that encourages interdisciplinary teaching and research, Judaic Studies courses are taught by scholars working at the cutting edge of their fields.

### **Academic Flexibility**

The interdisciplinary nature of Judaic Studies means that students are encouraged to take courses in a diverse range of departments and disciplines, from English to Political Science, History to Religious Studies, Art History to Sociology. By specializing in Judaic Studies, students retain the opportunity to continue to explore different fields even as they advance toward their degrees.

### **Individual Attention**

Judaic Studies courses are typically small in size, often with as few as ten students, so students can be sure of receiving personal attention from their professors. Academic advising is done by the Director of the Program, who meets individually with all Judaic Studies majors and is always available for appointments.

### **Study Abroad**

Though UM's official exchange programs with the Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University have been temporarily suspended (in response to security issues), it is still possible to receive academic credit for study in Israel (and elsewhere) through other programs.

### **Scholarship Opportunities**

The Judaic Studies Program has up to \$5000 a year in scholarship money available for Judaic Studies majors, and *only* for Judaic Studies majors. These funds are disbursed by the Program Director to students of exceptional academic ability.

## *Course Spotlights*

### **JUS 410, Israeli Society, Dr. Kaylin Goldstein**

How do we characterize Israeli society today? How has the meaning of "Israeliness" changed over the past half century? This course examines Israeli society in terms of ethnicity, gender, race, religion, and nationality. The emphasis will be on the multiple, overlapping communities in Israeli society and their relation to the state: ultraorthodox and secular Jews, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews, Palestinian citizens of Israel, Jewish Israeli and Palestinian Israeli women, immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopians, and non-Palestinian overseas workers (from, e.g., Thailand, Romania, Philippines).

To provide a framework for analyzing these groupings, the course introduces students to major sociological and anthropological models of Israeli society, from the early days of statehood to today, and looks outside of these models to provide a comparative perspective. To conclude we will examine current debates within Israel/Palestine on the character of the state and society.



*IDS Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Kaylin Goldstein*

# CURRICULUM AND COURSE NEWS

## Courses Listed and Cross-Listed in Judaic Studies for Fall 2004

- JUS 231**, Jewish Civilization: Society, Culture, and Religion, Henry Green  
**JUS 310**, Judaism and Modernity: Pluralities of Jewish Culture since the Enlightenment, Daniel Greene  
**JUS 375**, Religion and Democracy in Israel, Henry Green  
**JUS 410**, Zionism and Post-Zionism, Kaylin Goldstein  
**ARB 101**, Elementary Arabic I, Abla Khalil  
**ARB 201**, Intermediate Arabic I, Abla Khalil  
**ENG 205**, Jewish Narratives of Place: Desert, Shtetl, City, Ranen Omer-Sherman  
**ENG 365**, Literature of the Holocaust, Joseph Alkana  
**HEB 101**, Elementary Hebrew I, Miri Talmon  
**HEB 201**, Intermediate Hebrew I, Miri Talmon  
**HIS 341**, History of the Third Reich, Hermann Beck  
**INS 205**, A Panoramic View of the Middle East, Haim Shaked  
**PHI 351**, Philosophy of Religion, Simon Evnine  
**POL 387**, Politics of the Middle East, Pete Moore  
**POL 586**, The State of War in Africa and the Middle East, Pete Moore  
**REL 111**, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, Dexter Callender

## Courses Listed and Cross-Listed in Judaic Studies for Spring 2005

- JUS 360**, Hollywood and Popular Culture: The Jewish American Experience, Henry Green  
**JUS 401/HIS 337**, Secular Jewish Identity in the Modern World, Daniel Greene  
**JUS 401/TAL 591**, The Holocaust through Film and Literature, Miriam Kassenoff  
**JUS 410/APY 377/POL 388**, Israeli Society, Kaylin Goldstein  
**JUS 411/APY 418/ARH 400**, Museums, Monuments, and Memory, Kaylin Goldstein  
**JUS 411/AMS 301/SOC 382**, The 'Vanishing' American Jew, Daniel Greene  
**ARB 102**, Elementary Arabic II, Abla Khalil  
**ARB 202**, Intermediate Arabic II, Abla Khalil  
**ENG 205**, Jewish Adolescence and the Coming-of-Age in the Literature of North Americans and Israelis, Ranen Omer-Sherman  
**ENG 488**, Literary Fantasies of Assimilation and Passing: Case Studies in African American, Jewish American, and Other Identities, Ranen Omer-Sherman  
**ENG 495**, Jews, Turks, and Moors: The Non-European Other in Early Modern English Literature, Jeffrey Shoulson  
**HEB 102**, Elementary Hebrew II, Danielle Sharon  
**HEB 243**, Hebrew for Heritage Speakers, Danielle Sharon  
**POL 392**, International Politics: International Terrorism, Pete Moore  
**REL 111**, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, Dexter Callender  
**REL 121**, Introduction to the New Testament, John Fitzgerald  
**REL 322**, St. Paul: His Letters and Controversies, John Fitzgerald  
**REL 325**, Jesus in Myth and History, John Fitzgerald  
**REL 404**, The Biblical World and the Dramatic Arts, John Fitzgerald  
**REL 408**, Spirituality and Education, Henry Green  
**SOC 303**, Social Inequalities, George Wilson  
**SOC 387**, Race and Ethnic Relations, Jomills Braddock

## ENG 495, Jews, Turks, and Moors: The Non-European Other in Early Modern English Literature, Dr. Jeffrey Shoulson

The England of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries fashioned a national identity within the context of a radically changing world. In a time known for explorations, expanded trade, and formative literature, at the margins of society lived those who were left out of England's increasingly fixed "white," Protestant identity. This course will focus on how early modern English society dealt with the rise of a plurality of religious, political, and ethnic minorities.

We shall be concerned in particular with the varied representations of Jews, Muslims, and Africans in English writings of the period. We shall examine these depictions in relation to popular stereotypes and beliefs about these groups in circulation in the early modern period. The course questions the extent to which early modern writers—dramatists, poets, polemicists, travel writers, and others—undermined or supported stereotypical conceptions of the English "Other." Did writers merely reflect popular prejudices and stereotypes, or did they embody more complex and layered responses? In what ways do the textual representations of these "alien" and nationally other figures express anxieties about emerging—and competing—notions of "Englishness?"

Readings include (but are not limited to) Christopher Marlowe, *The Jew of Malta* and *Tamburlaine the Great*, William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello*, Robert Daborne, *A Christian Turn'd Turk*, Elizabeth Carey, *The Tragedy of Mariam*, Philip Massinger, *The Renegado*, and Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*. There will also be shorter primary materials along with modern historical and literary scholarship relevant to the subject.

# Judaic Studies Faculty Areas

## David Abraham

Professor of Law

M.A. and Ph. D., History, University of Chicago; J.D., University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Abraham is author of *The Collapse of the Weimar Republic: Political Economy and Crisis* (Princeton, 1981), numerous articles on migration, labor, and citizenship, and is currently completing a book-length project titled *The Boundaries and Bond of Citizenship: Recognition and Redistribution in the U.S., Germany, and Israel*.

## Joseph Alkana

Associate Professor, Department of English

M.A. and Ph. D., University of Texas

Dr. Alkana is the author of *The Social Self: Nineteenth-Century Psychology and the Writings of Hawthorne, Howells, and William James* (Kentucky, 1996), and co-editor of *Cohesion and Dissent in America* (SUNY, 1994). He is currently at work on a study of the American Jewish literary imagination. As a member of the Judaic Studies Program, he has taught courses in a wide range of areas, including literature of the Holocaust, American Jewish literature, and Sephardic literature.

## Robin Bachin

Charlton W. Tebeau Associate Professor, Department of History  
M.A. and Ph. D., University of Michigan

Dr. Bachin is the author of *Building the South Side: Urban Space and Civic Culture in Chicago, 1890-1919* (Chicago, 2003) and articles on urban planning and design, historic preservation, images of "nature" in urban development, and urban leisure and recreation. Her current book is a comparative study of vacation sites along the Atlantic seaboard. Bachin is co-curator of an exhibition at the Wolfsonian

Museum in Miami Beach entitled "In Pursuit of Pleasure: The Hotel, Travel and Tourism in New York, Miami, and Havana," scheduled to open in November 2004. She teaches courses on urban, environmental, immigration, and cultural history. Bachin has received fellowships from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Driehaus Foundation, and was a winner of the 2003 Excellence in Teaching Award.

## Steven F. Butterman

Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

M.A. and Ph.D., University of Wisconsin

Dr. Butterman is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and a winner of the Brazilian International Press Award. He has published articles and presented papers on a wide range of topics, including 19th and 20th century Luso-Afro-Brazilian Literature and Culture; Contemporary Brazilian Poetry and Music; Queer Theory; Women's Studies; Brazilian Jewish Writers; Postmodernism; and Aesthetics. He is the author of *Perversions On Parade: Brazilian Literature of Transgression and Postmodern Anti-Aesthetics in Glauco Mattoso*, forthcoming with San Diego State University Press. Butterman's current research examines "Journalistic and Cinematic Representations of Brazilian Carnival During Dictatorship."

## Dexter Callender, Jr.

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies

M.A.T.S, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; A.M. and Ph. D. in Near Eastern Languages, Harvard University  
Dr. Callender is the author of *Adam in Myth and History: Ancient Israelite Perspectives on the Primal Human*

(Harvard, 2000); his current research interests include the nature of religious discourse, myth and society, and issues of monotheism. He is presently working on a book titled *The Early History of Angels*. Winner of the Provost's Excellence in Teaching Award and the Panhellenic Association's "Professor of the Year," his teaching includes "Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)," "Prophecy and Prophetic Literature," and "Religion and Culture in the Ancient Near East."

## Nancy Clasby

Senior Lecturer, Department of English  
M. A., Theology and Scriptural Studies, Barry University;

M.A. and Ph. D., English Literature, University of Wisconsin

Dr. Clasby is the author of *New Jerusalem: Myth, Literature, and the Sacred* (Scranton, 2000) as well as numerous articles on American literature. She regularly teaches the Bible as Literature and is currently at work on a book relating biblical narrative to the symbol structures of world myth.

## John Fitzgerald

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies

M. Div. and Ph. D., Yale University

Dr. Fitzgerald is the author of *Cracks in an Earthen Vessel: An Examination of the Catalogues of Hardships in the Corinthian Correspondence* (Scholars Press, 1988), translator and editor of *The Tabula of Cebes* (Scholars Press, 1983), editor of *Friendship, Flattery, and Frankness of Speech: Studies on Friendship in the New Testament World* (Brill, 1996) and *Greco-Roman Perspectives on Friendship* (Scholars Press, 1997), and co-editor of *Early Christianity and Classical Culture* (Brill, 2003) and *Philodemus and the New Testament World* (Brill, 2004). Winner of the Freshman Teaching Award and

# of Research and Teaching

Honors Professor of the Year, he teaches courses in “Introduction to the New Testament,” “Jesus and the Gospels,” “St. Paul: His Letters and Controversies,” “Jesus in Myth and History,” and various special topics and projects courses. He is currently at work on a book on Paul for Norton’s Critical Edition series.

## Kaylin Goldstein

IDS Post-Doctoral Associate in Judaic Studies

MA and Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Chicago

Dr. Goldstein’s research and teaching focus on contemporary Israeli society, postzionism, the politics of museums, and the culture of memory. Her writing has appeared in the *Middle East Report*, and her article “Secular Sublime: Edward Said at the Israel Museum” was recently published in *Public Culture*. She is currently at work on a book manuscript on the politics of museums in Israel/Palestine and is planning a comparative study of Jewish museums in the U.S. and Europe.

## Henry Green

Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Ph. D., St. Andrews University

Dr. Green, who is former Director of Judaic/Sephardic Studies, has also completed postgraduate work at the Sorbonne and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He specializes in interdisciplinary research and Jewish Civilization of different epochs. He has published on modern Israel, and in particular issues around Sephardic/Mizrachi ethnicity—*Research in Action* (1979)—Second Temple Judaism and Hellenism—*The Economic and Social Origins of Gnosticism* (1985)—and American and Florida Jewry—*Mosaic: Jewish Life in Florida* (1991) and *Gesher Vakesher*,

*Bridges and Bonds: The Life of Leon Kronish* (1995). Dr. Green is the Founding Director of the Jewish Museum of Florida and serves as the USA national chair of the Home Instruction Program for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY), a literacy and school readiness program for at-risk children and families that was piloted in Israel. He teaches courses on Israel, American Jewry, comparative Jewish civilization, and spirituality and education.

## Daniel Greene

Posen Post-Doctoral Associate in Judaic Studies

MA and Ph.D., History, University of Chicago

Dr. Greene’s research focuses on American Jewish intellectuals’ efforts to redefine Jewish identity in the early twentieth century. He is currently working on a book that chronicles the history of the Menorah Association and Horace Kallen’s concept of “cultural pluralism.” He has published articles in the *American Jewish Archives Journal* and *Amerikastudien: American Studies*. Dr. Greene has received fellowships from the American Jewish Archives, the University of Chicago, and the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University. As the Posen Post-Doctoral Associate, his courses on secular Judaism examine the ways that Jews in both Europe and the United States have encountered and helped to shape the modern world.

## Anthony Krupp

Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

M.A. and Ph.D., German, Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Krupp’s research and teaching focuses on the European Enlightenment. His articles have appeared in the *Goethe Yearbook* and A

*New History of German Literature*; a choral composition is forthcoming in the *Brecht-Yearbook*. He is currently writing a book on childhood in 17th- and 18th-century Franco-German thought. He serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies in German, sings with the Miami Bach Society, and is the recipient of the Greek Community’s Outstanding Faculty Award.

## Peter Moore

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science M.A., University of Virginia; Ph. D., McGill University

Dr. Moore has published articles on the political and economic situation in the Middle East and has recently completed a book-length manuscript, *Buy Low, Sell High, and Organize for Politics: Fiscal Crisis and Business-State Relations in the Arab World*. He teaches courses in comparative and international politics, war and state in Africa in the Middle East, and the politics of international terrorism.

## Ranen Omer-Sherman

Assistant Professor, Department of English

M.A. and Ph. D., University of Notre Dame

Dr. Omer-Sherman is the author of numerous articles on Jewish writers and two books: *Diaspora and Zionism in Jewish American Literature: Lazarus, Syrkin, Reznikoff, and Roth* (New England, 2002); *Jewish Writing and the Desert: Israel in Exile* (forthcoming, University of Illinois Press). He is currently editing a collection of essays on “Jewish Orientalism” and writing a study on representations of the “Levant” in modern literature. He teaches courses in Israeli literature, especially in relation to representations of Arab identity and culture, Jewish literature of North America, as well as Holocaust literature.

# Judaic Studies Faculty Areas of Research and Teaching

## Robert Rosen

Professor of Law

J.D., Harvard Law School; Ph.D., Sociology, University of California at Berkeley

Dr. Rosen's current research interests include Jewish law, Jewish ethics, and Jewish interpretations of forgiveness. He teaches courses in professional responsibility, business associations, children and the law, sociology of law, and contracts.

## Eugene Rothman

Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Miller Center

Ph.D., School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

Dr. Rothman has worked as a translator, editor and journalist in Israel and the United States, was the Founding Academic Director of the Canada-Israel Foundation for Academic Exchanges, and, for over thirty years, has been a professor at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, heading the Jewish and Middle East Studies program at its College of the Humanities. He has served as a consultant to different levels of government, international agencies and non-governmental organizations in the areas of peace-building, peacemaking, policing and policy and project management. He has led teams that designed peacekeeper training in the Middle East and Latin America, peace-building in the Balkans, managing cultural diversity in Canada and senior police training for the Directors General of Policing in seven Balkan countries.

## Haim Shaked

Professor, Department of International Studies

Ph. D., History, School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London  
Dr. Shaked is founding Director of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, Director of the Middle East Studies Institute, and the incumbent of the Dr. M. Lee Pearce Chair in Middle East Peace Studies. His academic specialization is in the modern history and

politics of the Middle East, Islam as a political force, and Arab-Israeli relations. He was the co-founder and editor of the annual publication *Middle East Contemporary Survey*. In addition, he founded and edited the first fully computerized, comprehensive annotated bibliography on the Middle East, *Mideast File*. He has authored and edited several books and numerous articles about the Middle East. He was one of the founders of the Shiloah (now Moshe Dayan) Center for Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University. He served as its Head from 1973-80 and as Dean, Faculty of Humanities from 1975-80. In 1983 he established at UM the Graduate School of International Studies (which later became the School of International Studies).

## Danielle Sharon

Lecturer, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

M.A., Languages and Literature, University of Rome; M.A., Judaic Studies, Barry University; M.A., English Literature, Barry University

Ms. Sharon has taught widely in the field of Hebrew language and literature and has developed numerous innovative curricula that take advantage of the interactive advances in computer technology.

## Ira Sheskin

Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Regional Studies  
M.A., SUNY-Buffalo; Ph. D., Ohio State University

Dr. Sheskin is Director of the Jewish Demography Project at the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, where he is also a Fellow. He is a human geographer with interests in quantitative methods, urban geography, the Middle East, and Jewish geography. Recent publications include "The Dixie Diaspora," "American Jewish Ethnicity," and "The Changing Spatial Distribution of American Jews." His books include *Survey Research for Geographers* and *How Jewish Communities Differ*. He is also the

author of more than 30 demographic/geographic studies of Jewish communities throughout the United States.

## Jeffrey Shoulson

Associate Professor, Department of English

M. Phil., Renaissance Studies, University of Cambridge; M.A. and Ph. D., English Literature, Yale University

Dr. Shoulson is Director of the George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies and Fellow at the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies. His first book, *Milton and the Rabbis: Hebraism, Hellenism, and Christianity* (Columbia UP, 2001), was awarded the American Academy of Jewish Research's Salo Baron Prize for Best First Book in Jewish Studies. He is co-editor of *Hebraica Veritas? Christian Hebraists and the Study of Judaism in Early Modern Europe* (U of Pennsylvania Press, 2004). He is currently completing his second book, tentatively titled *Fictions of Conversion: Community, Identity, and Instability in Early Modern England*, which explores the idea of conversion as it functions within a diverse range of early modern discourses. He regularly teaches courses in the areas of early modern English literature and culture, Jewish literature, and the Bible as literature.

## George Wilson

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

M.A., Brown University; J.D., Rutgers University; Ph. D., Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Wilson's research interests focus on the institutional production of racial and ethnic inequality in the workplace and the social structural causes and policy-related consequences of adherence to tenets of racial and stratification ideology and he has published widely in these areas. He teaches courses on Socioeconomic Inequality, Race and Ethnic Relations, and the Dynamics of Poverty in the United States.

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