

The Golden Peacock



Stahl Center Celebrates Jewish Lives in the Arts

Series will focus on contributions to theatre, photography, and more

One of the main goals of UWM's Year of the Arts is to celebrate the contributions that the arts, creativity, and innovation have in every discipline and community. That's why we're thrilled that the Stahl Center selected the arts as its programming focus this year. We are thrilled to be working so closely with the Stahl Center to develop and deliver programming in music, theatre, film, and the visual arts.

— Ellen Frieber Schupper, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for the Peck School of the Arts

The legacy of Jewish artists will be celebrated throughout the 2012-2013 academic year with a series of public programs organized by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies at UW-Milwaukee.

The Association for Jewish Studies approved the Stahl Center's application for \$11,000 in matching funds for "Roots and Restlessness: Jewish Lives in the Arts," under the second and final year of the prestigious Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project grant. The match was made possible with generous contributions from the Baye Foundation, Dr. Ervin Colton, and the Peck School of the Arts.

This year's series connects the theme of "Roots and Restlessness" with UWM's Year of the Arts, and all programs will be co-sponsored by the Peck School of the Arts. Other programming partners include the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Boswell Book Company, and Hillel Milwaukee, as well as UWM's History department and Cultures & Communities and Comparative Ethnic Studies programs.

Our series will begin with the Milwaukee Jewish community's third annual Slichot celebration, organized by the Harry and Rose Samson Jewish Community Center and co-sponsored by the Stahl Center, many area synagogues, and other organizations. This year's program consists of a concert, led by noted composer Daniel Asia, on the themes of introspection, atonement, and forgiveness.

In another concert, the Stahl Center will bring the world-renowned klezmer band, The Klezmatics, to the Zelazo Hall stage on the UWM campus. Since their emergence more than 25 years ago, the Klezmatics have helped change the face of contemporary Yiddish culture. The band has collaborated with such artists as



Felix Samoilovich Lembersky (Russian, 1913-1970), *By the Fence (U zabora)*, 1963-64. Courtesy of Yelena Lembersky

violinist Itzhak Perlman, playwright Tony Kushner, and singer/songwriters Chava Alberstein and Natalie Merchant.

Other events will explore the arts in a variety of different formats. Local artist Barbara Kohl-Spiro will give a presentation at the Golda Meir Library on her artistic process, in conjunction with an exhibit of her work at the library and at Hillel Milwaukee. An exhibit of selected works by noted Soviet Jewish painter Felix Lembersky will be mounted at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee next spring, co-curated by Stahl Center director Joel Berkowitz. The Stahl Center will organize talkbacks after films shown at the Milwaukee Art Museum in conjunction with its exhibition on the work of ceramic artist Grete Marks, and on campus during the Festival of Films in French. Other speakers will explore Jewish contributions to such fields as studio photography, architecture, and American theatre. And Palestinian writer Samir El-Youssef, whose works include a collaboration with Israeli writer Etgar Keret on the book *Gaza Blues*, will address the role of literature in efforts to make peace.

To learn more about these events and other Stahl Center news, visit www.uwm.edu/cjs and "like" UWMJewish on Facebook.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



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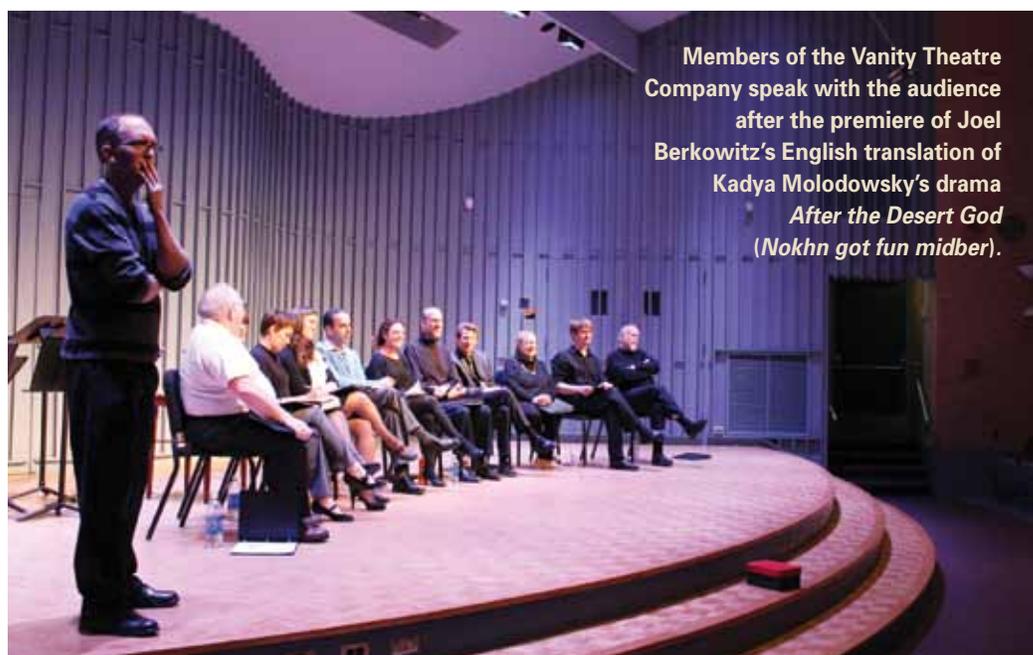
In the latest issue of a journal published by the leading learned society in Jewish Studies, a variety of scholars are asked why they chose to go into Jewish Studies. Of course, the proper Jewish answer is simply to ask, “So why *shouldn't* I have gone into Jewish Studies?” But it's telling that some of the respondents replied, “I didn't.” Like most scholars working in this field, they trained in some other specialty—history, literature, religion, sociology, etc.—and for one reason or another, their career path led them to Jewish Studies.

This phenomenon highlights how much Jewish Studies, as an inherently interdisciplinary field, depends on the many other subject areas with which it intersects. Similarly, our program at UWM, like other successful Jewish Studies programs, relies on strong partnerships with other disciplines and organizations. As we survey the past academic year and look forward to the next, one of the most important developments is the extent to which our partnerships have blossomed. Many of the key educational and cultural institutions in the Milwaukee Jewish community helped promote, host, and organize our events last year. As those relationships continue, we are establishing a number of new ones as well.

Our major programs this coming academic year will all be included in UWM's Year of the Arts programming, and the Peck School of the Arts has made it possible for us to plan on a more ambitious scale than could be done otherwise. But that is just the start of a wider constellation of organizations that will have allowed us to offer a variety of programs on many areas of the arts: concerts, art exhibitions, film screenings, and cutting-edge scholarship on the place of the arts in the Jewish world.

Thanks to such partnerships, a vigorous marketing campaign, and the engagement of the local community, our programs reached large audiences last year—sometimes astonishingly large! At each event, we see many stalwarts who have consistently attended our programs, and often audited our courses, for many years. Increasingly, these supporters are also introducing their friends to our events. If you enjoyed one or more of our programs in 2011-12, we feel confident that you will return. If you didn't, we hope to see you this coming year, and hope that you will form a lasting, meaningful relationship with the Stahl Center as well.

Joel Berkowitz



Hebrew Studies Welcomes New Instructor

Nicolet teacher continues Hebrew legacy at UWM

Yael Gal, a native of Haifa, Israel, will join the Hebrew Studies instructional staff in University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Foreign Languages and Literature Department this fall. She will also serve as an affiliate faculty member of UWM's Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies.

Gal has been teaching three levels of Hebrew at Nicolet High School since 2008. She also has been teaching middle school students at Milwaukee Jewish Day School since 2004, and she taught at both schools for several years in the 1990s.

At Nicolet, she teaches the only Hebrew language courses taught at a public high school in Wisconsin. Students from Whitefish Bay, Shorewood, and Rufus King also go to Nicolet to take Hebrew courses with her. Gal will continue to teach at Nicolet in the mornings.

Phillip Hollander, assistant professor of Jewish Studies at UW-Madison, notes that Nicolet High School "has long supplied the UW-Madison with outstanding advanced Hebrew students. Yael Gal, who skillfully assisted these students in developing their Hebrew language skills,

proves an outstanding addition to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Hebrew program."

In the fall, Gal will teach two courses at UWM: a first-semester Hebrew class focusing on the essential structure of the language as well as on reading simple narratives, and a third-semester class that will involve reading selections from the Bible and later Hebrew literature while learning advanced grammar. Stahl Center director Joel Berkowitz foresees that "as a master language teacher, Yael will clearly energize our Hebrew program. The continuity she provides for students coming from her courses at Nicolet is also a tremendous plus."

Gal earned her bachelor's degree in English as a Second Language at the University of Haifa in Israel. In 2010, she received her post-baccalaureate teaching certificate in Hebrew language education at UWM.

She has taught in a variety of educational environments. While in Israel, she taught Jewish studies and English at the Misgav Regional High School, where

Teaching Hebrew has always been a dream, as I am fascinated by the Hebrew language and its history—especially modern Hebrew, which was revived in the 1900s after 2,000 years.



she also served as the supervisor for the 7th and 8th grade teachers. She also taught English to Arab children in the city of Sakhnin.

"Teaching Hebrew has always been a dream, as I am fascinated by the Hebrew language and its history—especially modern Hebrew, which was revived in the 1900s after 2,000 years," Gal said.

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cjsuwm@uwm.edu

We welcome your story ideas, comments, or feedback.
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Follow UWMJewish on Facebook and Twitter for more information and additional events as they're added.



The Dybbuk (Der dibek)
Poland, 1937



Green Fields (Grine felder)
USA, 1937



**Jewish Luck (Yidishe glikn /
Evreiskoe schastye)**
USSR, 1925



**Uncle Moses
(Onkel Mozes)**
USA, 1932

All films courtesy of the National
Center For Jewish Film.

Jolly Paupers (Freylekhe kabtsonim)

Long is the Road (Lang ist der Weg)

Motl the Operator (Motl der opreyter)

His Excellency (Yevo prevoshoditelstvo)

UWM Libraries Acquire 47 Films for Jewish Studies

*Laughter Through Tears
(Gelekhter dukh trern/
Skvoz slezy)*

Overture to Glory (Der vilner shtot khazn)

By JANET PADWAY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

Two Sisters (Tsvey shvester)

The UWM Libraries were thrilled to learn of the Legacy Heritage Grant awarded to the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies for the 2011-2012 academic year. Following discussions with Professor Joel Berkowitz, Director of the Center, we learned that we would be able to enhance our film holdings using this funding. Many films were identified for grant funding, and these were available through the National Center for Jewish Films (NCJF). The NCJF has numerous restored and current films available.

The list of titles we wanted to acquire was extensive, but we did not want to exhaust the funds solely purchasing films when there were other materials to consider. Instead of limiting the number of films we would purchase, the Libraries provided additional support using special funds specifically for the purchase of materials supporting Jewish Studies. Through this collaboration, we were able to purchase all 47 of the titles on our wish list and make them available to the UWM community. All are now included in the UWM Libraries' online catalog. The titles can be found searching the catalog with "National Center for Jewish Film".

The majority of the films acquired were originally created in the early twentieth century, and have since been preserved and restored by the NCJF. In line with the grant's theme of "Roots and Restlessness", the films represent a broad range of topics exploring Jewish tradition and culture throughout the world. These include many aspects of the Holocaust, including little known stories of the treatment of the Jews of southern France during the Italian occupation; the impact of the Holocaust immediately after WWII; Yiddish theatre and culture; stories of the Marranos; a documentary of the final decades of a centuries-old North African Sephardic Jewish community in Libya, and much more.

The UWM Libraries look forward to continuing to work closely with the faculty and staff of the Center for Jewish Studies. It is a great opportunity for both of us to build programs and provide resources contributing to the research and knowledge of the entire UWM and Milwaukee community.

Me and the Jewish Thing (Mig og Jøderiet)

The Singing Blacksmith (Yankl der shmid)

The Vow (Tkies-khaf) • The Jester (Der purimshpiler)

A Vilna Legend (Dem rebns koyekh)

The Wandering Jew (Der vandernder yid) • Yizkor

We Live Again (Nous continuons) • Without a Home (On a heym)

Where is My Child? (Vu iz mayn kind?)

Yidl with his Fiddle (Yidl mitn fidl)

Mothers of Today (Hayntike mames)

Mirele Efros • Our Children (Unzere kinder)

The Living Orphan (Der lebediker yosem)

God, Man, and Devil (Got, mentsh un tayol)

Jewish Studies Faculty Recognizes Graduates, Students

On May 18, the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies celebrated the achievements of students in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Prof. Rachel Baum, who coordinates the Jewish Studies major for the Center, said the students give life to the Jewish Studies program, so it was fitting that as of May 18, UWM had 18 students enrolled as Jewish Studies majors and 18 as minors—the number whose Hebrew letters spell the word “chai” (life).

April Slabosheski received the Chava Frankfort-Nachmias Award for excellence in Jewish Studies. April, graduating this spring, has been one of the outstanding majors in Jewish Studies. She will be going to the University of Michigan this fall to pursue an M.A. in Judaic Studies (with full funding) at one of the best programs in the field. She won the program’s award for best essay last year.

Rebecca Pollak, another consistently outstanding student, received the award for Excellence in Jewish Studies. She was graduated from the Honors College with a double major in Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature. Two years ago, Rebecca was recognized for an award as a continuing major.

The 2012 graduates are (from left) April Slabosheski, Rebecca Pollak, Jared Thompson, Sarah Nash, Ira Tick

Tad Bollman won the Marden Award for Hebrew Studies. Tad was selected by the Jewish Studies faculty as eminently deserving of this annual award for his hard work and achievement in Hebrew-language courses.

Ira Tick won the Award for Best Essay from the Milwaukee Jewish Community Fund. Ira, a major who graduated in December, submitted an essay that was chosen by Jewish Studies faculty as the most deserving of this award this year.

The graduating majors also include **Jared Thompson** and **Sarah Nash**. At the ceremony, each of the graduating seniors was presented with a book individually selected for them by the Jewish Studies faculty.

Ceremony marks milestone in growth of program



Marvin Tick with Professor Lisa Silverman



Jared Bierbach, Megan Daniels

Rabbi David Brusin



Ira Tick



Rebecca Pollak, Sarah Nash



Tad Bollman

FACULTY NEWS

Ellen Amster was recently promoted to associate professor. After fifteen years of research field work in Morocco, Amster collaborated with colleague Karla Bartholomew of the UWM Zilber School of Public Health to create a Global Health Study Abroad Program, "Maternal and Infant Health in Morocco: Women's Rights and Family in Islam," which ran for the first time from May 29 to July 6, 2012. The program integrates Arabic language study and home-stays with Moroccan families with the study of the social, epidemiological, nutritional, economic, urban, religious, technological, legal, and family issues that affect birth, pregnancy, motherhood and the health of newborns in the Islamic country of Morocco. The course was developed with grant support from a U.S. Department of Education grant (UISFL). Amster was invited to present her research to the MEOS research group (Médicament comme objet social) at the Université de Montreal, Canada in May, and presented papers at conferences in Los Angeles; Washington, D.C.; Portland, Oregon; and Tunisia. Her interview with Fox 6 Television News Channel in Milwaukee about the Libyan revolution and the fall of Qaddafi aired on August 22, 2011.

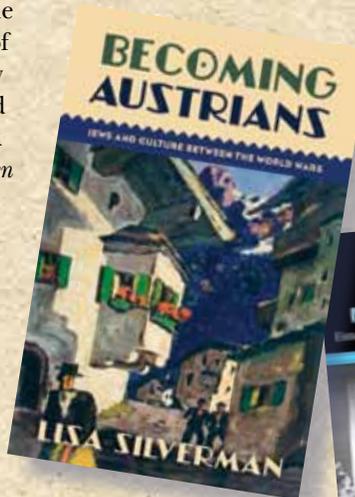


Rachel N. Baum won the 2012 Joanne Lazirko Award for the innovative use of learning technologies from UWM. In June 2012, she traveled to Wroxton College in England to participate in the Stephen S. Weinstein Holocaust Symposium, an international group of thirty-six Holocaust scholars who have met biennially since 1996. Dr. Baum has been a participant and member of the advisory committee of the group since its inception. This year, she facilitated a plenary session on the role of fiction in Holocaust remembrance. This small group of distinguished Holocaust scholars includes two Wisconsin colleagues: Amy Shapiro of Alverno College and Robert Skloot of UW-Madison.

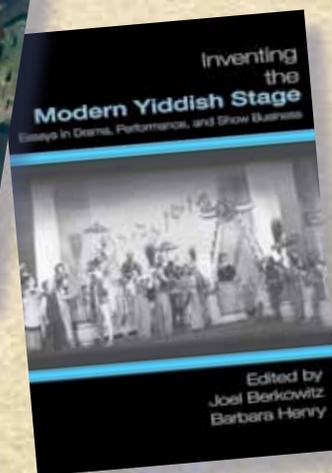


In the fall of 2012, Dr. Baum will teach an Honors College seminar on cyborg literature.

Lisa Silverman gave invited lectures at the University of Minnesota, the University of Tennessee, and the Humboldt University in Berlin. At those lectures, she discussed her research from the forthcoming book *Becoming Austrians: Jews and Culture between the World Wars*, published by Oxford University Press in July. Silverman was awarded promotion to associate professor with tenure and a year's sabbatical leave by UWM. During her sabbatical, Silverman will conduct research for her current project, "Beyond Material Claims: Rhetorics of Restitution after the Holocaust." Silverman was awarded a residential Fellowship at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan for the fall semester 2012. In November, she will lecture at the Jewish Museum in Vienna, in conjunction with an exhibit on Jewish women photographers, for which she was also invited to contribute a catalogue essay.



Joel Berkowitz gave two lectures on responses to the Holocaust in Yiddish drama: the Sid Fine Memorial Lecture for Congregation Shir Hadash in Milwaukee, and a presentation sponsored by the student Yiddish Club at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His new book, *Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage*, co-edited with Barbara Henry (University of Washington), was published in July by Wayne State University Press.



Stahl Center Calendar of Events

All events free except where otherwise indicated

SEPTEMBER 15

"Breath in a Ram's Horn: The Jewish Spirit in Classical Music"
with composer Daniel Asia, 8:30pm, Zelazo Center, UWM

OCTOBER 4

***Eyewitness*; talkback with Ruth Schwertfeger and
co-producer Marcia Specks**
6:15pm, Lubar Auditorium, Milwaukee Art Museum

OCTOBER 11

**Michael Berkowitz, "Jews and Studio Photography in Britain and
Beyond: Between Intimacy and Commercialism"**
7:30pm, Congregation Beth Israel, Glendale

OCTOBER 16

Barbara Kohl-Spiro, "Shiviti: The Journey of an Artist"
5:30pm: Reception, Joseph & Vera Zilber Student Center, Hillel Milwaukee
Free, but RSVPs appreciated
7pm: Talk, Golda Meir Library, UWM

NOVEMBER 1

***The Rape of Europa*; talkback with Winson Chu**
6:15pm, Lubar Auditorium, Milwaukee Art Museum

NOVEMBER 4

The Klezmatics in Concert, 6pm, Zelazo Center, UWM
Tickets: \$30; ages 13-18: \$15; 12 & under: \$5
UWM students (with ID): free

NOVEMBER 14

Samir El-Youssef, "Writing for Peace"
7pm, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee

DECEMBER 6

***The Train*; talkback with Carl Bogner**
6:15pm, Lubar Auditorium, Milwaukee Art Museum

2013

FEBRUARY 9 & 10

Festival of Films in French, Union Theatre, UWM
***Moi, petite fille de 13 ans*; talkback with Rachel Baum**
Feb. 9, 7pm; Feb. 10, 5pm
***Les hommes libres*; talkback with Ellen Amster**
Feb. 9, 9pm; Feb. 10, 7pm

FEBRUARY 20

**Tobias Brinkmann, "Queen Isabella's Statue: Chicago Reform Jews
and the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition"**
7:30pm, Congregation Sinai, Fox Point

MARCH 14 – JUNE 16

Exhibition: "Felix Lembersky: Soviet Forms, Jewish Context"
Jewish Museum Milwaukee
Free to members or with admission to the Museum

MAY 9

**Jill Dolan, "What Makes a Jewish Theatre Artist? Gesture, Voice, and
Ethics in American Performance"**
(Faye Sigman "Woman of Valor" Lecture)
7:30pm, Golda Meir Library Conference Center, UWM

Please check UWMJewish on Facebook and Twitter for more information and additional events.

ALUMNI VOICES

Scott Noegel

My experience at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee dates to 1985, when I enrolled in Biblical Hebrew classes in what was then known as the Hebrew Studies Department. At the time, I had been out of college for a few years (having originally been a student in the arts:

painting, music, and film). I had just finished reading a small book entitled *Teach Yourself Biblical Hebrew* and I had found myself eager to know more. After enrolling in the Department, I quickly found my passion for the languages and histories of the ancient world. Under the guidance of the Chair, Prof. Alan Corré, I soon began an ambitious program. I took a number of Hebrew language classes with Prof. Corré, enrolled in Aramaic and Semitic grammar courses with Prof. Bernard Grossfeld, and supplemented my language study with Arabic and French. I then diversified my research interests by adding a two-tiered degree in History (Medieval and Modern European Intellectual History) and by taking on a Program Certificate in North African and Middle Eastern Studies.

In those days the department was housed in Holton Hall. It was a faculty of only a few, but it was incredibly vibrant and effective. Profs. Corré and Grossfeld also taught courses on the history of the Holocaust, the Literature of Modern Israel, and a wide variety of courses related to the Hebrew Bible. My course work and training made possible several grants from the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning, the John and Sylvia Laiken Prize in Semitic Studies, and in my final year of study, the McGovern Award Best History Student Paper and the Menachem Mansoor Award for Excellence in Semitic Studies. Upon graduation in 1989, I was accepted on scholarship to Cornell University, where I completed my M.A. (1992) and Ph.D. (1994) in Semitic Languages and Literatures. Today I currently serve as Professor of Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies and as Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington in Seattle.

I could not have attained my academic goals without the support of the Hebrew Studies Department and especially the unwavering encouragement of Prof. Corré, whose mentorship and deep friendship remain with me to this day. I think back upon my undergraduate life in the Hebrew Studies Department with fondness and in gratitude. It has left an indelible impression on me and it has been formative in the direction my career has taken. Though the Department no longer exists, the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies is well positioned to build upon its long and honored tradition of excellence and to enjoy the continued success of its faculty, students, and alumni.





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The Golden Peacock

The bird that gives its name to this publication, and its image to our logo, figures prominently in Jewish folklore. In folk song, the golden peacock frequently arrives bearing some important message. We proudly adopt this figure as a symbol that connects us to the long tradition of Jewish learning and creativity.

Yes, I want to become a friend of the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies.

Please accept my gift of \$ _____

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