

# JEWISH STUDIES

at the University of Washington

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 1 AUTUMN 2004

THE HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## JEWISH STUDIES WELCOMES ITS FIRST FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER

### *Dr. Noam Pianko*

With the support of an endowment from Samuel and Althea Stroum, the Jewish Studies Program has just appointed its first full-time faculty member. We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Noam Pianko, who received his Ph.D. in modern Jewish history this past spring from Yale University, to the University of Washington.

He and his wife, Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum, are very excited to be here. Having fallen in love with the beautiful Pacific Northwest during an exhilarating week of hiking on the Olympic Peninsula a year and a half ago, they both felt it would be an amazing place to live someday. Now, less than two years later, they are delighted to have the opportunity to be here. Rabbi Nussbaum has recently accepted the position of assistant rabbi at Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation on Mercer Island.

Dr. Pianko feels the UW is a great match for him because the location of the JS program in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies provides an excellent intellectual community in which to pursue his research. As he states, "My work concentrates on expressions of diaspora Jewish nationalism by American emigrant intellectuals in the 20th century. I am particularly interested in the ways in which Jewish thinkers translated European ideas of Jewish nationalism into an American vocabulary. Approaching American Jewish thought in dialogue with American

history and European intellectual currents fits in well with the Jackson School's interdisciplinary goals and global orientation."

During his visit, here, last spring, Dr. Pianko was impressed by the dual commitment of Jewish Studies at UW to excellence in classroom teaching and to transporting innovative research and scholarly insights beyond the classroom to members of the broader community. As someone who enjoys teaching in both academic and adult Jewish education settings, and thinks a great deal about pedagogy, he is looking forward to sharing his knowledge with both UW students and members of the greater Seattle community.



*Noam Pianko*

*Fall quarter, Dr. Pianko will be teaching "American Jewish History since 1885" (SISJE 336/ HSTAA 436) TTH 1:30-3:50 PM; Spring quarter, he'll teach "Modern Jewish Thought" (RELIG 415) TTH 1:30-2:50 PM.*

## OUR MISSION

**THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**  
*explores the richness and creativity of Jewish cultures across time and around the world.*

**WE PRODUCE INNOVATIVE SCHOLARSHIP THAT EXAMINES JEWISH LIFE**  
*in its cultural, intellectual, religious and international contexts.*

**WE SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**  
*through a broad array of courses in Jewish religion, language, literature, history, and contemporary Jewish life in the United States, Israel, Europe, and throughout the world.*

**WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE VITALITY OF THE BROADER COMMUNITY**  
*by offering public events on campus, participating in educational programs off campus, welcoming non-degree students to our classes (including the ACCESS Program for those aged 60 and over), and preparing our students for community service and leadership.*

## FROM THE CHAIR

Jewish Studies is a thriving discipline. Every university in the Ivy League has a Jewish Studies Program; so does Stanford, every campus of the University of California, the University of Michigan, the University of Arizona, and many liberal arts colleges, including Smith, Colby, Wellesley, and Pomona. There are endowed chairs in Jewish Studies not only at UCLA, Minnesota, Northwestern (two), Michigan (five), Indiana (six) and Florida, but at Notre Dame, Southern Methodist, and the College of the Holy Cross as well. Students can get a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies at four campuses of the University of California; UCLA alone has granted 100.

So why does it so often happen that when I start to tell someone in the Seattle area about Jewish Studies at the University of Washington, the reaction is so often, "Really? You can major in Jewish Studies? You can major in Jewish Studies at the UW?" And why do I sometimes sense just the hint of further questions: "Jewish Studies? But isn't that only Hebrew school for grownups?"

Well, it is possible to major in Jewish Studies at the University of Washington, and to minor, and to simply take a course or two from an exceedingly impressive faculty. Prof. Marty Jaffee co-edits the major journal of the Association for Jewish Studies; Prof. Joel Migdal is the President of the Israel Studies Association; Prof. Sarah Stein just shared the Salo W. Baron Prize for Best First Book in Jewish Studies from the American Academy for Jewish Research. They and other professors, including Scott Noegel, Michael Rosenthal, Naomi Sokoloff, and Susan Glenn are regularly invited to lecture at universities all over the U.S. and around the world. Faculty members have won the most prestigious UW awards for the quality of their teaching, and regularly have a transformative impact on students who take their courses (see the story about this year's Visiting Committee Scholarship winners in this issue). The faculty open their classes to ACCESS students and give lectures to groups all over town. And our students have gone on to positions in Jewish education, community service, business, entertainment and, in the case of one Christian student who was reaching across the faiths, the Christian ministry.

Does this mean that Jewish Studies at the UW is thriving? There are some good signs. We have excellent students, and some of our courses are oversubscribed. With the support of an endowment from Samuel and Althea Stroum, the Jew-



Paul Burstein

*... Jewish Studies at the UW has most of what's needed to be a great program: distinguished faculty, great courses, excellent students, an energetic and committed Visiting Committee, support from a small but dedicated group of friends in the community.*

ish Studies Program (JSP) has just appointed its first full-time faculty member, Dr. Noam Pianko, who is arriving this fall from Yale. Prof. Barbara Henry of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature joined the JSP last year and will be teaching courses on Eastern European Jewish literature and theater. The Program will soon be joined by Dr. Richard Block, a new faculty member in Germanics.

The Jewish Studies Program Visiting Committee, a group of community members dedicated to further building the JSP, has been greatly strengthened by the appointment of Herbert L. Pruzan, a key figure in local philanthropy and institution-building, as its chair. The Visiting Committee has raised money for scholarships and is hard at work increasing community support for the JSP.

But other signs are not so good. The State of Washington has never provided funds explicitly for instruction in Jewish Studies; with the exception of Prof. Pianko, all the faculty are essentially "borrowed" from other departments of the UW—the units that actually pay their salaries. This is not likely to change. We cannot increase the number of majors or minors because there is no room in basic courses, and no money to hire more instructors. Although support from the Jewish Federation has been absolutely essential for the survival of the Program, other demands on Federation resources have led to a decline in funding for the JSP. At a time when all faculty at the UW are being asked to "do more with less," the stress on Jewish Studies faculty is especially severe, because so much of their Jewish Studies activity is on top of their regular duties.

Thus, Jewish Studies at the UW has most of what's needed to be a great program: distinguished faculty, great courses, excellent students, an energetic and committed Visiting Committee, support from a small but dedicated group of friends in the community. This year we will be doing our utmost to increase our visibility and support, in the hope that soon the community will not only know there is a Jewish Studies Program at the UW, but will have helped turn it into a program that is truly thriving, serving the community in Washington State and Jewish Studies scholarship around the globe.

~ Professor Paul Burstein  
Chair Jewish Studies

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## VISITING COMMITTEE AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS

For the second year, the JS Visiting Committee raised scholarship funds for Jewish Studies students. Because there were so many outstanding applicants this time, the committee was inspired to give out three rather than last year's two. The 2004–2005 winners were honored at a reception in July, where each shared similar stories about how stimulating teaching by JS faculty heightened their interest in Jewish Studies and help shift their academic work in new and exciting directions. The scholarships will enable them to further their academic work and, hopefully, influence their future careers.



*Reception for Jewish Studies Visiting Committee Scholarship winners  
Standing l-r: Linda Gould, Prof. Naomi Sokoloff, Ann Neider, Loryn Paxton, Timmie Faghin, Prof. Bob Stacey, Prof. Marty Jaffee, Sheri Brown, Jonathon Brown, Al Maimon, Dorothy Becker, Lucy Pruzan, Prof. Joel Migdal, Betty Ann Richmond, Gil Roth  
Seated l-r: Prof. Paul Burstein, Maureen Jackson, Jacob Brown, Herb Pruzan, Miriam Roth. Not pictured: Tova Perlow*

**Tova Perlow**, a senior with a double major in Jewish Studies and Comparative Religion, was dissatisfied with her original plan to study political science and math, and decided to try something new by taking introductory courses in Judaism with Prof. Marty Jaffee and Hebrew with Prof. Naomi Sokoloff. Her future plans now include attending Ben Gurion University for a Master of Arts degree in Middle East Studies.

**Maureen Jackson**, a grad student in Comparative Literature, has chosen to focus her dissertation and post-doctoral research in Sephardic liturgies as an integral part of Jewish history. Combining

**Jacob Brown**, a third year College Honors Program student, is majoring in International Studies, with a focus on Israeli politics and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in particular. His desire to know more about Israel and the Middle East was sparked by the Birthright Israel trip he took with Hillel last winter and greatly influenced by studying with Profs. Naomi Sokoloff and Joel Migdal.

her knowledge of Turkish, Ottoman and Sephardic history and being an accomplished musician of traditional Turkish music, she has studied with Hazzan Isaac Azose of Seattle's Congregation Ezra Bessaroth and been greatly inspired by JS courses with Profs. Sarah Abrevaya Stein and Naomi Sokoloff.

## UW HAS STRONG PRESENCE IN ISRAEL STUDIES



*Joel Migdal*

It may seem implausible, but in the field of Israel Studies for the past couple of years, all eyes have been on Seattle. Professor **Joel Migdal** has been President of the Association for Israel Studies, and played a key role in organizing its annual meeting in Israel in June, 2004 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is also the editor of a new series of books on Israel to be published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

UW graduates continue to make their mark on Israel Studies. For example, **Patricia Woods**, who received her Ph.D. in 2001 from the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, was at Harvard University during the 2003–2004 academic year as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. This fall she returns to her position in Jewish Studies and political science

at the University of Florida, where she will be teaching courses on "Religion, Law and Politics: Israel in Comparative Perspective" and "Women and Politics in the Modern Middle East." **Michael Weingrad**, a 1999 Ph.D. specializing in modern Jewish literature, was a Starr Fellow last year at Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies, where he presented his work on American Hebrew poetry; formerly a holder of the Montague Burton Fellowship at the University of Leeds (where he protested a British scholar's boycott of Israeli academics), he recently accepted a faculty position at Portland State University.

Undergraduates at the UW have many opportunities to learn about Israel. Professor **Naomi Sokoloff** teaches on Israeli culture and literature, and Joel Migdal on Israel politics and society. Our new assistant professor, **Noam Pianko**, will be teaching about Zionism, and Visiting Professor **Gad Barzilai** will be teaching on Israeli society as well. Though the U.S. State Department discourages universities from supporting study-abroad programs for undergraduates in Israel, UW undergraduates do study there, including this year's Visiting Scholarship Committee Scholarship winner **Tova Perlow**.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Alisa Braun**, the 2003–2004 Hazel D. Cole Fellow, gave a series of lectures last winter, “From Shetl to City: Yiddish Culture in America,” as part of the Temple de Hirsch Sinai & Temple B’nai Torah adult learning program. This fall, she will be a lecturer in the Department of History at the University of California, Davis, where she’ll be teaching courses on American and East European Jewish literature and culture.

**Professor Kathie Friedman** gave a colloquium presentation, “Performing Identities in the Classroom: Teaching Jewish Women Studies,” with Karen Rosenberg, doctoral student in Women’s Studies and past recipient of a JS Visiting Committee scholarship. Prof. Friedman was awarded a Simpson Center grant for her work on “After Ethnic Cleansing: Bosnian refugees and the Transmission of Historical Memory” (with Prof. Sarah Stein), and received a Curriculum Transformation Project Grant to revise her course on “Jewish Women in Contemporary America.”

**Professor Hillel Gamoran** served as editor of *The Jewish Law Association Studies, Volume XIV* in which his article, “How the Rishonism Met the Clash Between Credit Sales and the Law Against Usury,” appeared. Another article, “How the Rabbis Interpreted Halakhah to Meet the Needs of the People”, appeared in the most recent issue of the *Hebrew Union College Annual*. In August he presented a paper entitled “Heter Iska: The Tool for Allowing Lending on Interest” at the conference of the Jewish Law Association in Boston.

**Professor Barbara Henry** gave a presentation, “Moral Power and Mortal Peril: Art in Jacob Gordin’s ‘Kreutzer Sonata’”, for The Modern Jewish Literature Colloquium Series and finished an article for her book on Jacob Grodin’s adaptations of Russian literature for the Yiddish theater. As she does each summer,

Prof. Henry attended the annual “Yiddish-vokh” in Copake, NY with about 200 others who gather to speak and learn Yiddish for a week.

**Professor Martin S. Jaffee**, chair of the Comparative Religion Program, has been elected to the American Society of Religion (limited to 100 members nationally). This past year, he developed a new course, “Anti-Semitism as a Cultural System”, and lectured on the subject to a Friends of Jewish Studies parlor meeting. Professor Jaffee is currently revising his book, *Early Judaism*, and has begun writing a monthly column for the *JT News*, “A View From the U.”

**Professor Joel Migdal** is serving as President of the Association for Israel Studies, an organization of academics from around the world doing research on Israeli life and history. This year, for the second time in its 20 year history, the association’s annual conference took place in Jerusalem. One of the newest AIS programs is a dissertation workshop for graduate students specializing in Israel. In addition, Prof. Migdal published *Boundaries and Belonging: States and Societies in the Struggle to Shape Identities and Local Practices* (Cambridge University Press, 2004)

**Professor Scott Noegel** had a very productive sabbatical year. He published numerous articles, including “Abraham’s Ten Trials and Biblical Literary Convention” (*Jewish Bible Quarterly*) and “New Observations on Scribal Activity in the Ancient Near East” (*Voice, Text and Hypertext at the Millennium*); co-edited *Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World*, with Joel Walker and Brannon Wheeler; and completed work on his monograph, *Nocturnal Ciphers: The Allusive Language of*

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## JEWISH STUDIES FACULTY 2004–2005

**Paul Burstein**, Chair, Ph.D., Harvard (1974); Professor, Sociology; The American Jewish Community

**Jere Bacharach**, Ph.D., Michigan (1967); Professor, History, Islamic History.

**Joseph Butwin**, Ph.D., Harvard (1971); Associate Professor, English; Jews in the literature of England, Jewish American immigrant literature

**Julia Niebuhr Eulenberg**, Ph.D., University of Washington (1996); Visiting Scholar; American Jewish history

**Kathie Friedman**, Ph.D., State University of New York at Binghamton (1991); Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Adjunct, Sociology and Women Studies; comparative immigration and ethnicity, contemporary Jewish American identities; Jewish women in contemporary America

**Susan A. Glenn**, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (1983); Professor, History; Jews and Blacks

**Barbara Henry**, D. Phil., University of Oxford (1998); Assistant Professor, Slavic; 20th Century Russian literature, theatre and drama, Modern Yiddish literature and drama.

**Martin S. Jaffee**, Ph.D., Brown (1980); Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Adjunct, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; Post-Biblical and Rabbinic Judaism

**Deborah Kerdeman**, Ph.D., Stanford (1991); Associate Professor, Education; philosophy of education, Jewish education

**Levis A. Kochin**, Ph.D., Chicago (1975); Associate Professor, Economics; Israeli economics

**Joel S. Migdal**, Ph.D., Harvard (1972); Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Adjunct, Political Science; Arabs and Jews in Israel and Palestine

**Scott Noegel**, Ph.D., Cornell (1995); Associate Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; Adjunct History. Hebrew Bible, Near Eastern languages and literature.

**Noam Pianko**, Ph.D., Yale (2004); Assistant Professor, Jackson School of International Studies; Modern Jewish thought

**Michael Rosenthal**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (1996); Associate Professor, Philosophy; Spinoza and Jewish Philosophy.

**Naomi B. Sokoloff**, Ph.D., Princeton (1980); Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; Adjunct, Women Studies; Hebrew language and literature; The Holocaust and Literature

**Robert Stacey**, Ph.D., Yale (1983); Professor, History; Medieval Jewish history

**Sarah Abrevaya Stein**, Ph.D., Stanford (1999); Assistant Professor, Jackson School of International Studies and History; Modern Jewish History, Eastern European Jewry; Sephardic Studies

**Joan Ullman**, Ph.D., Bryn Mawr (1963); Professor Emeritus; History; Jews in the History of Spain

**Brannon Wheeler**, Ph.D., University of Chicago (1993); Associate Professor, Near East Languages and Civilization; Islamic Studies, History of the Study of Religion, Jewish Languages

### VISITING FACULTY

**Gad Barzilai**, Ph.D., Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1987); Professor, Political Science, Political Science and Law; Politics, Law, State and Society

**Hillel Gamoran**, D.H.L., Spertus College (1966); Visiting Lecturer; Rabbinic literature

### HAZEL D. COLE FELLOW 2004–2005

**Mara Benjamin**, Ph.D. expected, Stanford (2005); Post-doctoral Fellow, Jewish Studies; Modern Jewish thought, modern Western religious thought

### STAFF

**Loryn Paxton**, Program Coordinator

**Rochelle Roseman**, Development and Outreach

*Dreams in the Ancient Near East*. Prof. Noegel also completed his second term as President of the American Research Center of Egypt, Northwest Chapter; delivered lectures at the University of Swansea, Wales; Columbia University, and the meeting of the American Oriental Society (where he was a plenary speaker). Community service includes serving as Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation Beth Am (the first UW faculty member to be so honored), where he spoke on the biblical Abraham; talks to the Dean's Club, Seattle Arts & Lectures, and groups at North Seattle Community College, Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation, and in Walla Walla.

**Professor Noam Pianko** received his Ph.D. from Yale University in spring, 2004. The title of his dissertation: *Diaspora Jewish Nationalism and American Identity, 1915–1967*.

**Professor Michael Rosenthal** gave conference presentations on Spinoza and Judaism at the University of Toronto, The University of Maryland, Eotvos Lorand University (Budapest), and the University of North Carolina. His article, "Persuasive Passions: Rhetoric and the Interpretation of Spinoza's Theological-Political Thesis" was published in *Archiv fur Geschichte der Philosophie*.

**Professor Naomi Sokoloff**, the Samuel and Althea Stroum Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies, organized a Jewish Studies colloquium series during 2003–2004 on Modern Jewish Literature, including seven presentations, one of which was her own "Hebrew, Yiddish and the Translingual Imagination in the Writing of Aharon Appelfeld." She has organized a symposium (supported in part by a grant from the Simpson Center for the Humanities) for the spring of 2005 on "American Jewish Writing Today," to be held in conjunction with her new course on that topic. Among Professor Sokoloff's recent publications are "The Holocaust and the Encyclopedic Imagination: See Under: Grossman," in *The Representation of the Holocaust in Literature and Film*, ed. Marc Lee Raphael; and (Williamsburg, VA: The College of William and Mary, 2003); and an essay on Aharon Appelfeld in *The Holocaust Novel*, ed. Ephraim Sicher. She co-edited "The Jewish Presence in Children's Literature," a special issue of *The Lion and the Unicorn*, and lectured at Princeton on "Gila Almagor's *Aviya: Remembering the Holocaust in Children's Literature*" as part of a conference called "Under Fire: Childhood in the Shadow of War." As part of her effort to contribute community service this year, she offered an adult education class "Poems and Prayers" at Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle. Proceeds went to support the Temple's Judaic library, which is open to the public. She also made a presentation and ran a discussion after a performance of "The Children of the Beast," a marvelous stage adaptation of David Grossman's novel, *See Under: Love*, which was brought to the Seattle Children's Festival by the Tübingen Figuren Theater.

**Professor Robert Stacey** is now serving as Divisional Dean for Social Sciences and is continuing his work on the study of ritual crucifixion stories in medieval England.

**Professor Sarah Abrevaya Stein** achieved a key goal in the life of any professor: she won tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, in the Department of History and the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. Her book, *Making Jews Modern: the Yiddish and Ladino Press in the Russian and Ottoman Empires* (Indiana University Press, 2004) won the Salo Wittmayer Baron Prize for Best First Book in Jewish Studies for 2003. Stein has been awarded a National Endowment for the

## Professor Gad Barzilai of Tel Aviv University Teaches at UW

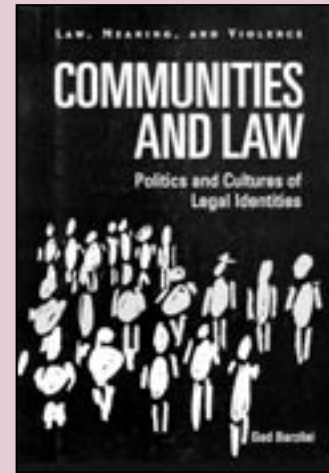
The Jewish Studies Program is pleased to welcome Professor Gad Barzilai of Tel Aviv University as Visiting Professor at the University of Washington during the 2004–05 academic year. Barzilai teaches in both the political science department and the law school at Tel Aviv. While here, he will teach "The Politics of Rights" (Winter 2005) and "Theories of State, Society and Law" (Spring 2005).



Gad Barzilai

Barzilai has taught at Berkeley and Yale as well as Tel Aviv. In Israel he co-founded the Israel Law and Society Association, and the Law, Politics, and Society Program at Tel Aviv University, the first graduate program of its kind in Israel. He has served on the boards of directors of the [American] Law and Society Association and the Israel Studies Association, and the editorial board of the American Journal of Political Science. Beginning in 2000, he was the first director of the Dan David Prize, which annually awards three prizes of \$1 million each for "achievements having an outstanding scientific, technological, cultural or social impact on our world."

Barzilai has published many articles on law and politics, legal cultures, religious fundamentalism, the differences between American and Israeli law, and other topics. The most recent of his four books is *Communities and Law: Politics and Cultures of Legal Identities* (University of Michigan Press, 2003), which won the Best Book Award for 2003 by the American Association for Israel Studies.



Humanities Fellowship and a Charles A. Ryksamp Research Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for work on her new book, *Colonialism's Forgotten Cultures: European Jews in sub-Saharan Africa, c. 1870–1930*. Recent articles by her have appeared in numerous edited volumes and scholarly journals, including: *Slavic Review*, *American Quarterly*, *Journal of Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies*; *Jewish History*; and *Pe'amim*, *Studies in the Cultural Heritage of Oriental Jewry*.

## THE 2004 SAMUEL & ALTHEA STROUM LECTURESHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

This year, Susan Handelman, Professor of English at Bar-Ilan University, Israel presented the Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures. Her subject was "Find Yourself a Teacher: The Mentor-Disciple Relation in Classical Jewish Thought and Contemporary Practice." Handelman organized her lectures around three scenes from the Talmud that featured encounters between teachers and students. Over the course of the lectures, Professor Handelman demonstrated her own award-winning teaching skills, engaging the audience in lively discussions as she explored how classical Jewish texts offer productive models for conceiving of teacher/student relationships.

Handelman began her first lecture, "Becoming a Living Book: 'And Your Eyes Shall See Your Teacher'" by emphasizing how teaching and learning are fundamentally human activities that take place not only within educational institutions but through inter-generational exchange. She cited an oft-quoted verse from Pirke Avot (Chapters of the Fathers): "Make for yourself a teacher; acquire a friend" to introduce some of the questions that would frame her lectures: How does a student find a teacher? To what extent is a teacher's identity conferred by the student? What is the relationship between friendship and teaching?

Handelman introduced the figure of Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus to explore the hierarchical nature of the teacher/student relationship. Likened by his teacher to "a plastered cistern that loses not a drop," Rabbi Eliezer both retained perfectly the knowledge transmitted to him and desired to impart this knowledge to his own students. But excommunicated and therefore forbidden from teaching, Rabbi Eliezer was unable to transmit his wisdom to the next generation of scholars. Handelman used the Talmudic account of Rabbi Eliezer's final deathbed encounter with his students to underscore the pathos inherent in the teacher/student relation: the impossibility of a teacher to impart everything he or she knows and

### *"Find Yourself a Teacher: The Mentor/Disciple Relation in Classical Jewish Thought and Contemporary Practice"*



*Susan Handelman*

interaction between a teacher and student is mutually nourishing. Both teacher and student desire the relationship and both are enriched from the exchange of knowledge. The nursing analogy further suggests that the teacher/student encounter must be face-to-face.

The intimacy inherent in the teacher/student relation thus creates a context that is also erotic, fueled by the dynamics of seduction and betrayal.

In her final lecture, "Teachers and Study Partners: 'Friendship or Death,'" Handelman invoked two interpretations of the deaths suffered by Rabbi Akiva's students during the Roman era as a way of exploring the relationship between friendship and teaching. The Talmud attributes the deaths of Rabbi Akiva's 12,000 disciples to the fact that they did not treat each other with respect. By contrast, the Lubavitcher Rebbe posits

that Rabbi Akiva's students perished because they had too much love for each other, and thus could not validate each other's experiences. These competing explanations raise the



*Susan Handelman and Althea Stroum greet each other during reception after the first lecture*

the student's ability to grasp only a small portion of what a teacher has to offer. Drawing on Rabbi Eliezer's comparison of his arms to "two torah scrolls that are being rolled up," Handelman invoked the idea of the sage or Talmud scholar as "living torah" and cited a host of twentieth-century rabbinic sources that conceive of the teacher/student relation as an intensely personal dynamic between two individuals.

In her next lecture, "The Reciprocity of the Teacher/Student Relation: 'More Than the Calf Wants to Suckle, the Cow Wants to Nurse,'" Handelman cited an encounter between Rabbi Akiva and his student Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai to exemplify the reciprocal nature of teacher/student relations. Expanding on the analogy that Rabbi Akiva draws between a teacher and a nursing mother, Handelman explored how the

## SAMUEL & ALTHEA STROUM ANNUAL LECTURES SERIES ~ MAY 16, 18, 23

The STROUM LECTURES will be presented in Kane Hall 220 at 7:30 PM



Aron Rodrigue

### Professor Aron Rodrigue will present “Sephardi Jewries and the Holocaust”

Aron Rodrigue, the Eva Chernov Lokey Professor in Jewish Studies and Professor of History at Stanford University and Co-Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, will deliver the 30th annual Samuel & Althea Stroum Lectures in 2005. His lectures, “Sephardi Jewries and the Holocaust”, will focus on the disastrous impact of the Holocaust, not on the Ashkenazi communities so often studied, but rather on Sephardi Jewries. The Sephardi communities

of Southeastern Europe, the Judeo-Spanish world, were destroyed or disintegrated, leading to their disappearance from an area where the exiles from the Iberian peninsula after 1492 had reconstructed a transplanted Sepharad. North African Jewries, while not destroyed, saw considerable hardship and discrimination under Vichy France

and fascist Italy, and faced real dangers from the German armed forces in Tunisia and Libya—dangers which often led to profound community destabilization and their eventual mass departures from these lands. These lectures will discuss the history of these communities during the period of the Holocaust, in areas that had been considered until recently marginal to its central story. They will also focus on the way Sephardi Jews represented what was happening to them through a focus on eyewitness accounts, autobiographies and memoirs. They will ask questions about our understanding of the Holocaust when perceived from the perspective of the Sephardim.

Professor Rodrigue is a specialist in the history and culture of Sephardi and French Jewries. His books include *Sephardi Jewry: A History of the Judeo-Spanish Community, 14th–20th Centuries* with Esther Benbassa (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000) and *Jews and Muslims: Images of Sephardi and Eastern Jewries in Modern Times* (University of Washington Press, 2003)

of Southeastern Europe, the Ladino speaking centers of the Judeo-Spanish world, were destroyed or disintegrated, leading to their disappearance from an area where the exiles from the Iberian peninsula after 1492 had reconstructed a transplanted Sepharad. North African Jewries, while not destroyed, saw considerable hardship and discrimination under Vichy France

## STROUM LECTURE SERIES Celebrates 30 Years

It has been 30 years since Murray Shiff, then Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, and Edward Alexander, chair of the Jewish Studies Committee at the UW, got an idea that was quite ambitious for a relatively small and isolated Jewish community: to bring to the UW each year an internationally-known Jewish studies scholar

for a series of lectures — lectures that would reach not only the Seattle community but, through publication, a nationwide audience as well. Shiff asked one person after another for the financial resources needed. One after another, they turned him down — until he talked to Sam Stroum, who proved willing to add support for what became the Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectureship in Jewish Studies to the very long list of worthy causes to which he was already committed.

By the tenth series, according to the April 26, 1984, issue of the *Jewish Transcript*, the quality of the lectures, the size of the audience, and the links forged between the UW and the community had been such that Stroum said the lectures “provide the biggest bang for the buck I’ve ever seen.”



Sam and Althea Stroum were pictured in the April 26, 1984, issue of the *Jewish Transcript* celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Stroum Lecture Series

And now, 20 years later, 30 years after the initial lectures, what can be said? Have the lectures met the expectations of those there at the beginning?

The continuing generosity of Samuel and Althea Stroum and hard work by UW faculty have brought to the UW some of the world’s most distinguished Jewish studies scholars, including Paula Hyman, Steven Zipperstein, Michael Stanislawski, and Calvin Goldscheider. The University of Washington Press has published at least 16 books and one sound recording based on the lectures; the books have collectively sold tens of thousands of copies; several have won national book

awards; and many are used in university courses around the country. The lectures put the Jewish Studies Program, the UW, and Seattle on the Jewish Studies “map” worldwide.

As Calvin Goldscheider writes in the recently published *Studying the Jewish Future*, based on his Stroum Lectures, “Along with the world of Jewish scholarship, I am indebted to the Stroum family for their generosity and vision.”

Bang for the buck, indeed!

Now, thanks to modern technology, it is possible to watch the 2000–2004 lectures at any time on streaming video.

Go to [www.uwtv.org/programs/searchdisplay.asp](http://www.uwtv.org/programs/searchdisplay.asp).

Type in (keyword) *stroum*.

## *Susan Handelman Meets the Visiting Committee*

The JS Visiting Committee got to better know Stroum lecturer, Susan Handelman, one evening between lectures, during an informal dinner held in her honor at Herb & Lucy Pruzan's home. She thoroughly enjoyed meeting the committee and greatly appreciated their interest in Jewish learning.

On another occasion during her time in Seattle, the Jewish Studies Program and Jewish Education Council arranged for Prof. Handelman to lead a study session with the Jewish day and supplemental school principals. During a working lunch, the group discussed teaching experiences and challenges and studied an essay from Handelman's book, *Wisdom From all My Teachers*.



*Naomi Sokoloff*

### *Symposium Will Explore American Jewish Literature*

The last 15 years have been an exciting time for American Jewish literature. During this period, there has been an explosion of writing by new and established authors. To explore this emerging literature, **Professor Naomi Sokoloff**, the Samuel & Althea Stroum Chair in Jewish Studies, will offer a new course in Spring 2005 called "American Jewish Writing Today." It will focus on fiction, plays and essays written since 1990.

In conjunction with the course, she is organizing a symposium to be held April 13 and 14. Co-sponsors of the event will be The Simpson Center for the Humanities, the Jewish Studies Program, the English Department, and the Comparative Literature Department. The symposium is also being coordinated with the Seattle/King County Library **NextBook** efforts to bring a series of contemporary Jewish authors to Seattle for public readings and presentations. Students in the course will study works by Tony Kushner, Allegra Goodman, Gary Shteyngart and other writers slated to make appearances in 2004–2005.

This year, as we commemorate 350 years of Jewish life in America, the Symposium will be open to the public. Please come and join us to consider what's on the mind of American Jewish writers today.

#### **"FACULTY NEWS" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

question of where responsibility lies in the student/teacher relation. The two interpretations also underscore the tension and conflict that fuels the relation between study-partners as well as the respect and understanding necessary for it to be successful. In the "khavruta" or "study-partner" model, knowledge emerges through a dialectical process of argument, challenge, and reconciliation. Handelman concluded that the "khavruta" or "study-partner" structure, although fragile and fraught with tension, ought to be further explored as a useful pedagogical model for contemporary university education.

Throughout the lectures, Handelman deftly integrated teachings from a variety of sources. Citing such diverse figures as the post-modern philosopher Emmanuel Levinas and Reb Chaim of Volozhin, a disciple of the Vilna Gaon, Handelman demonstrated the resonance of teacher/student relations across a spectrum of Jewish thinkers. The lectures both re-created the world of rabbinic Judaism and affirmed the relevance of classical Jewish texts to contemporary circumstances. Invoking Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and her own experience of living in Israel today, Handelman reflected on the way our teachers can help us come to terms with suffering and instruct us on how to survive.

~ Alisa Braun, Hazel D. Cole Fellow, 2003–2004



*Ina Willner (l) engages in a lively discussion with Susan Handelman (r) at the Pruzan's.*



*Visiting Committee member Gil Roth (l) shares a moment with Florence Burstein and Hillel Executive Director, Rabbi Dan Bridge (r).*



*Dorothy and Jerry Becker enjoy being with other Visiting Committee members at dinner with the Stroum Lecturer.*

## MARA BENJAMIN, THE NEW HAZEL D. COLE FELLOW, ARRIVES

The Jewish Studies Program welcomes **Mara Benjamin** as the Hazel D. Cole Fellow for 2004–2005. The first Cole Fellow to have grown up in Seattle, Ms. Benjamin is currently earning her Ph.D. in religious studies from Stanford University, where she specializes in modern Jewish thought, and modern Western religious thought more generally.

Her doctoral thesis, “Franz Rosenzweig and Scripture,” situates Rosenzweig’s work in the intellectual and theological context of early twentieth-century Germany, in which contemporary research methods had effectively nullified the possibility of “sacred scripture.” Ms. Benjamin argues that Rosenzweig’s work responded to what was widely perceived as an age of crisis as well as renewal by mobilizing biblical texts to serve contemporary ends.

Ms. Benjamin was a Wexner Graduate Fellow and is the recipient of dissertation-writing awards from the Mellon Foundation, the Leo Baeck Institute, the National Foundation for

Jewish Culture, and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. She completed her undergraduate degree at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, and received a Diploma in Jewish Studies at the Oxford University Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. She also spent a year studying Talmud and Hebrew Bible at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education in New York.



Mara Benjamin

*The Hazel D. Cole Fellowship was established in 1992 by Althea Stroum and her late husband, Samuel, to provide financial assistance to deserving doctoral or postdoctoral fellows in Jewish Studies, and to honor the memory of Mrs. Stroum’s sister, Hazel D. Cole.*

*In the winter quarter 2005, Mara Benjamin will be teaching a seminar entitled “Feminism and Religion: Critique and Innovation” (Wednesdays, 2:30-4:20)*

### THE HAZEL D. COLE FELLOWSHIP IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Jewish Studies Program at the University of Washington welcomes applications for the Hazel D. Cole Fellowship in Jewish Studies for the academic year 2004–2005. The Fellowship may be used for either doctoral or post-doctoral research in any field of Jewish Studies. Candidates must agree to be in residence at the University of Washington for the tenure of their fellowship. The Hazel D. Cole Fellow will receive a stipend of approximately \$30,000 pending funding for the academic year, will take part in the ongoing Jewish Studies Colloquium, and will offer one undergraduate seminar or lecture course during their tenure.

*Applicants from all American and foreign universities are welcome.*

Applications should consist of:

- (1) A current curriculum vitae.
- (2) A description (not exceeding five pages) of the proposed research proposal.
- (3) Three letters of recommendation.

All applications (including letters of recommendation) should be received no later than November 20, 2004.

Mail application materials to:

Hazel D. Cole Fellowship Search Committee  
Jackson School of International Studies  
University of Washington, Box 353650  
Seattle, WA 98195-3650.

Applications by fax or email will not be accepted

### *Being the Hazel D. Cole Fellow Can Change Your Life*

**Charlotte Fonrobert** was a Hazel D. Cole Fellow at the University of Washington during the 1994/95 academic year. When we learned that she and Prof. Martin Jaffee were now — 10 years later — working together on a book, we asked if she would take a moment to tell us how this came to be. This, in part, is what she wrote:

“The Hazel Cole fellowship provided me with the crucial funding to complete my dissertation. Since it dealt with rabbinic literature in general, Prof. Martin Jaffee was my natural conversation partner. But he was much more than that during that year. He was a mentor; indeed, a mentor on several levels. He generously invited me to join his study sessions with Hillel Kieval who was then professor of Jewish history at the U. Together the three of us studied talmudic texts and these sessions were invaluable to my growth as talmudist.... Throughout the years I have stayed in touch with Prof. Jaffee. He has often read my work and provided ongoing and extremely helpful comments and advice.

“Then, two years ago, as Assistant Professor of Religious and Jewish Studies at Stanford University, I met with the editor of Religion at Cambridge University Press. During that meeting we discussed what a “Cambridge Companion to Rabbinic Judaism” might look like and, indeed, the need for such a book, considering the dearth of introductory literature to rabbinic Judaism that either is accessible to the general academic audience in the humanities, or renders rabbinic Judaism accessible to that public. I asked Prof. Jaffee if he might be interested in co-editing such a volume with me. I could think of no person I would rather collaborate with in this enterprise. Thankfully, he immediately and enthusiastically agreed and since then we have designed the topics for the companion and gathered the contributors for the volume. Further, Prof. Jaffee suggested that the “Companion” should be to Rabbinic Literature rather than to Rabbinic Judaism.

“It has been a great joy and honor to be able to work together with someone who has been and who continues to be my mentor.”

Publication date for *The Companion* has not yet been set. Every expectation is that it will be published in 2005.



Renowned oud player, Munir Beken (l) and Hazzan Isaac Azose (r) participate in the May 11 event.

## Living in Harmony throughout the Ages

The evening of May 11, 2004, saw hundreds of people gather at the HUB auditorium for "Living In Harmony Throughout the Ages," an educational, cultural and musical program celebrating 500 years of warm relationships between Turks and Jews.

The collaborative effort involving the Jewish Studies and the Turkish Studies programs of the University of Washington and the Sephardic and Turkish-American communities of greater Seattle began with introductions by Professor Paul Burstein, chair of the Jewish Studies Program, Al Maimon of the Ladino Heritage Group, and John Gokcen, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey. Following was a performance of Turkish and Sephardic music by the Seattle Turkish Music Ensemble, featuring renowned oud player,



Enjoying the reception are Seattle Jewish Federation president and CEO, Barry Goren (l) and JS Visiting Committee chair, Herb Pruzan (r)

Munir Beken and a solo by Hazzan Isaac Azose of Seattle Congregation Ezra Bessaroth.

Central to the evening event was the showing of *Desperate Hours*, an award-winning documentary telling the little known story of how Turkish diplomats saved the lives of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. A personal and emotional link to those events was provided by a presentation honoring special guests Hans and Hesi Bodlaender. Now in their 90s and living in Seattle, they were among those saved and who met, married and lived happily in Turkey for many years following the war. Professors Sarah Abreveya Stein and Resat Kasaba of The Jackson School of International Studies provided historical context in a panel discussion moderated by Professor Michael Williams, chair of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

In line with the evening's theme, the program ended with a reception that featured the Seattle Turkish Music Ensemble and traditional Turkish and Sephardic foods prepared by Ramazan Senturk and staff from the No Boundaries Cafe and members of Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation.

## OLDER ADULTS HAVE ACCESS TO UW COURSES

Washington state residents sixty years or older are welcome to audit classes at the UW through the ACCESS program for a very minimal fee on a space-available basis.

Many members of the Jewish Studies Visiting Committee have taken advantage of the ACCESS program for years and are very enthusiastic about it:

**Gil & Miriam Roth** heard about the wonderful classes in Jewish Studies from other ACCESS students. "There were so many choices, we just kept going," said Gil Roth. "We are enormously impressed with the rich resources in Jewish Studies, particularly in history and religion. A few years ago, we traveled to Spain and found many of our fellow travelers had no idea what they were missing from an ill-informed tour guide until we shared what we had learned in Prof. Joan Ullman's class on the history of Jews in Spain.

**Ina Willner** and her late husband Richard began

auditing classes during the 1990s, and Ina loves to share what she has learned from her classes with the many people she meets on her wide travels.

**Linda Gould** found Prof. Marty Jaffee's class, "Anti-Semitism as a Cultural System," so stimulating, she got him to talk about it to 20 friends gathered at her home.

But it's not necessary to be on the Visiting Committee to audit Jewish Studies courses as an ACCESS student. Professors enjoy having ACCESS students in their classes when space is available. Prof. Paul Burstein notes that older students "often bring perspective to classes that undergraduates lack; older students' participation in class discussions sometimes makes them teachers as well as learners."

**For information about the ACCESS program, go to <http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/access.html>, or call 206-543-8580.**

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I am interested in discussing a more substantial gift to the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Washington.

Please contact me at:

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Pursuant to RCW/19.09, the University of Washington is registered as a charitable organization with the Secretary of State, State of Washington. For information, call the Office of the Secretary of State 1-800-332-4483 (source code: MJESTD98.JESTDI)

**Please provide credit card information or make checks payable to *Friends of Jewish Studies* and enclose in the postage paid remittance envelope or return this form to: Jewish Studies Program, Box 353650, UW, Seattle, WA 98195-3650.**

**You may also call toll-free 1-877-UW-GIFTS to make a credit card gift.**

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The Jewish Studies Program (JSP) in the UW's Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies is the premier program in the Northwest for the academic study of Jewish life. Working together in the JSP, professors of history, political science, English, Near Eastern languages and civilizations, philosophy, Slavic languages and literature, economics, international studies, and other departments do research and teach about Jews from Biblical times to the present day and from the furthest parts of the globe to Seattle's own neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, Jewish Studies gets very little direct funding from the State of Washington. Faculty involvement is made possible through the generosity of faculty members' home departments (which let faculty devote time to Jewish Studies); virtually all Program activity requiring funds is made possible through the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and private donors.

The JSP wants to serve undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Washington, the broader community, and the cause of Jewish scholarship around the world. The faculty want to attract more students, augment the Program's participation in community activities, and provide lectures, courses, and special events that will attract ever-greater numbers of participants. They want to reach out to the community, connect the community to the University, and celebrate knowledge about the rich diversity of Jewish lives past and present.

Over the years, wonderful alumni and friends, organiza-

## *Developing a Relationship with the Jewish Studies Program*

tions, foundations, and businesses from around the Puget Sound have supported the JSP; the Program would not exist without their support. But past levels of support are not enough. Right now the JSP cannot significantly increase the number of Jewish Studies majors or minors because it lacks the resources to meet the demand for required courses in Hebrew. Key courses are oversubscribed. Popular faculty cannot serve more students while maintaining quality because they lack funds to hire teaching assistants. Lack of staff support limits both the capacity to serve students and to reach out into the community.

So please take the opportunity to contribute to the vitality of Jewish Studies in the Northwest. If you are not already a "Friend of Jewish Studies," now is the time to lend us your support. If you are already a friend, now is the time to solidify your commitment. Contributions of any amount are welcome: a few dollars may enable the UW Libraries to purchase needed books or journals; a few hundred may help support a student scholarship or faculty research on a vital topic; a few thousand could make it possible to temporarily support the cost of teaching assistants in key courses; more could help turn the JSP into a program that could meet and increase student demand for courses, reach out more effectively to the community, and, ultimately, have a core faculty of its own.

It's easy to help. Just send in your contribution in the attached envelope. And if you want to know more, give us a call. Thank you very much for your support.

## 2003-2004 FRIENDS OF JEWISH STUDIES

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The *Jewish Studies Newsletter* is published once a year in cooperation with the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington.

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**EDITORS:** Rochelle Roseman  
 Loryn Paxton  
**DESIGN:** Deb Figen  
 Art & Design Service  
**PRINTING:** UW Publications

## JEWISH STUDIES CUMULATIVE COURSES 2004–2005

### AUTUMN 2004

HEBR 411	Elementary Modern Hebrew	Daily 9:30–10:20
HEBR 421	Intermediate Modern Hebrew	Daily 10:30–11:20
HEBR 451	Introduction to Hebrew Literature <i>Sokoloff</i>	MWF 11:30–12:30
HEBR 414	Elementary Biblical Hebrew I <i>Noegel</i>	TTh 10:30–12:20
SISJE 269	The Holocaust <i>Poiger</i>	TTh 11:30–12:50
SISJE 336	American Jewish History since 1885 <i>Pianko</i>	TTh 1:30–3:50
HSTAA 436	American Jewish History since 1885 <i>Pianko</i>	TTh 1:30–3:50
RELIG 210	Intro to Judaism <i>Jaffee</i>	Daily 11:30–12:20

### WINTER 2005

SISJE 490A	Special Topics: Jews and Blacks <i>Glenn</i>	TTh 12:30–1:50
HST 490	Special Topics: Jews and Blacks <i>Glenn</i>	TTh 12:30–1:50
SISJE 490B	Jewish–German Writers <i>Block</i>	MWF 12:30–1:20
GERMAN 295CHD	Jewish–German Writers <i>Block</i>	MWF 12:30–1:20
SISJE 490	Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation <i>Sokoloff</i>	MWF 11:30–12:30
NE 325	Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation <i>Sokoloff</i>	MWF 11:30–12:30
SIS 342	Social Theory in International Context <i>Pianko</i>	TTh 1:30–3:20
HEBR 412	Elementary Modern Hebrew	Daily 9:30–10:20
HEBR 415	Elementary Biblical Hebrew II <i>Noegel</i>	TTh 10:30–12:20
HEBR 422	Intermediate Modern Hebrew	Daily 10:30–11:20
NE 496	Rabbinic Oral–Traditional Texts <i>Jaffee</i>	MW 11:30–1:20
RELIG 490B	Feminism and Religion: Critique and Innovation <i>Benjamin</i>	W 2:30–4:20

SIS 490C/ Politics of Rights, Politics and Rights (Special Topics.  
 Meets with LSJ) LSJ490C *Barzilai* TTh 1:30–3:20

### SPRING 2005

SISJE 377	American Jewish Community <i>Burstein</i>	
SOC 377	American Jewish Community <i>Burstein</i>	
SISJE 490A	Introduction to the Talmud <i>Gamoran</i>	TTh 11:30–12:50
HEBR 453	Introduction to the Talmud <i>Gamoran</i>	TTh 11:30–12:50
SISJE 490B	American Jewish Writing Today <i>Sokoloff</i>	TTh 10:30–12:20
ENGL 452A	American Jewish Writing Today <i>Sokoloff</i>	TTh 10:30–12:20
C LIT 496B	American Jewish Writing Today <i>Sokoloff</i>	TTh 10:30–12:20
HEBR 413	Elementary Modern Hebrew	Daily 9:30–10:20
HEBR 423	Intermediate Modern Hebrew	Daily 10:30–11:20
HEBR 426	Biblical Hebrew Prose <i>Noegel</i>	
HSTAM 367	Medieval Jewish History <i>Stacey</i>	MWF 1:30–2:50
SISJE 467	Medieval Jewish History <i>Stacey</i>	MWF 1:30–2:50
RELIG 400	Jewish Mystical Tradition <i>Jaffee</i>	MW 11:30–12:50
RELIG 415	Modern Jewish Thought <i>Pianko</i>	TTh 1:30–2:50
SISME 458	Israel Politics and Society <i>Migdal</i>	
SIS 460	State, Society and Law <i>Barzilai</i>	
LSJ 490	State, Society and Law <i>Barzilai</i>	

*This list is a tentative course plan for the year. Current course information is available in the course catalog and at the UW online time schedule: [www.washington.edu/students/timeschd/](http://www.washington.edu/students/timeschd/)*

## THE JEWISH STUDIES ELECTRONIC CALENDAR

The Jewish Studies e-calendar provides information about:

- Programs sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.
- Events of Jewish interest sponsored by other academic units at the UW
- Intellectual/scholarly programs sponsored by non-UW organizations that are related to Jewish Studies and

are of potential interest to the greater Seattle Jewish and academic communities.

The calendar is usually mailed every two weeks during the academic year. If you would like to receive the e-calendar, please request it from Rochelle Roseman at [roseman@u.washington.edu](mailto:roseman@u.washington.edu).

**OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY ~ SAVE THE DATES!**

**SAMUEL AND ALTHEA STROUM LECTURE SERIES MAY 16, 18, & 23, 2005**

**Professor Aron Rodrigue of Stanford University will present "Sephardi Jewries and the Holocaust"**

**SYMPOSIUM: "American Jewish Writing Today" APRIL 13 & 14, 2005**

**Presented by Professor Naomi Sokoloff, the Samuel & Althea Stroum Chair in Jewish Studies**