



DAVID KARP

Professors Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (left) and Alain Finkielkraut were among the YIVO conference noted participants.

## Landmark Conference On The New Anti-Semitism

The news has been alarming. Reports indicate that two-thirds of the 313 racially motivated attacks reported in France last year were directed at Jews, while Britain had a 75 percent rise in anti-Semitic incidents. What part of this narrative is new – a manifestation of an abruptly changed world? Is the backlash against globalization setting fires of intolerance and resentment and radical nationalism everywhere? What does the revival of anti-Semitism owe to the revival of anti-Americanism? What does it owe to the new anti-Zionism?

To grapple with these complex questions, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research asked three eminent intellectuals – Leon Botstein, Martin Peretz and Leon Wieseltier – to bring together 35 of their colleagues from Europe, the United States and Israel, to join them for an exchange of information and ideas. The result was the landmark four-day YIVO international conference, “Old Demons, New Debates: Anti-Semitism in the West,” which took place at the Center for Jewish History from May 11-14. The conference was co-chaired by Joseph Greenberger and Martin Peretz.

Reflecting the urgency of these crucial issues, journalists from throughout the world settled in at the Center to cover the proceedings for such newspapers as *Die Zeit*, *Le Monde*, the *London Times* and the *New York Times*, as well as *National Public Radio*. The house was packed full, with an overflow crowd viewing the sessions via simulcast from an adjacent hall. For the broader audience worldwide, the conference was simultaneously web-streamed on the Center’s site, where sessions will be available for future viewing.

Some of the core themes became apparent at the opening Plenary Session, at which conference organizer and *The New Republic* literary editor Leon Wieseltier, Columbia University history

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### *From the Executive Director’s Desk*

The Center is flourishing as a major New York hub for the exploration and interpretation of Jewish history. There have been critically acclaimed exhibits, headliner programs and world-class speakers—all furthering our mission to preserve the Jewish past and bring its treasures to people throughout the world.

We take pride in the partners’ well-earned reputations for creating new models and standards of historical research, programming and outreach. This reputation has been acknowledged many times over in recent months. Sixty journalists from the U.S., England, France, Germany and Israel visited the Center to cover the four-day YIVO conference that considered the alarming recent upsurge in anti-Semitism in the West. Earlier, National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Bruce Cole toured the Center, after he appeared as Yeshiva University Museum’s guest speaker at the opening of the current exhibit “A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life,” presented at the Center by Yeshiva University Museum

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# Archive and Reading Room Technology Provides Global Reach Resources More Accessible Than Ever

**DIGITIZING THE PAST FOR  
UNIVERSAL ACCESS**

With the support of a \$2 million dollar Federal grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Center's ambitious project to computerize its vast collections is well underway. When completed, the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) will enable users worldwide to go online and search the rich resources of the five partner institutions—library holdings as well as archival and museum collections.

The first stage was the scanning and online structuring of the complete English language card catalogue of the American Jewish Historical Society. Yet, even with generous government funding, additional support is required to complete the project by the 2004 target date. The Center is eager to enlist donors to help finalize this impressive project on schedule.



**WOMEN IN DAILY LIFE**

The five partners of the Center have combined selected holdings to produce a single integrated bibliography on the life of Jewish women. This multi-media resource, the first in a series to acquaint patrons with the wealth of material available on frequently researched subjects at the Center, encompasses all the areas in which Jewish women have been active.

The bibliography is segmented into Domestic Life, focusing on such traditional roles as marriage, children, religious life and travel; Social Life, including such activities for the betterment of society as volunteer work and art patronage; Professional Occupations, ranging from art and business to social work and medicine; a section comprising general bibliographies and relevant periodicals; and a final section of selected artifacts and items from the collections of Yeshiva University Museum. This project was made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. It can be accessed via the Center website, [www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org), under "Research at the Center."

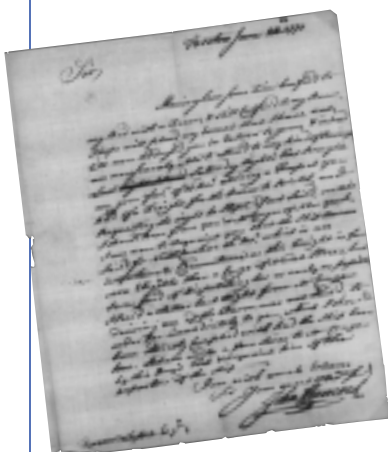


**ONLINE WEBCASTS OF MAJOR  
CENTER EVENTS**

Friends throughout the world can now go online and view highlights of the recent YIVO conference on anti-Semitism as well as other outstanding past programs and events that have taken place at the Center. Just log on to the Center website's "Video and Streaming Media" section to enjoy any of the following webcasts:

- International YIVO Conference on Anti-Semitism, 5/11-5/14/03
- Interview with Elie Wiesel, 3/19/03
- Brazilian singer Fortuna, 12/04/02
- Interview with Dr. Ruth Westheimer, 12/04/02
- Interview with Shimon Peres, 9/12/02
- Days of Awe: Reflections from Jewish Chaplains at Ground Zero, 9/11/02
- Jews & Justice: Aharon Barak, 9/09/02
- Tribute to Cardinal John O'Connor, 5/05/01
- Gala Center Opening and Address by Leon Botstein, 10/26/00

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Letter from John Hancock to Jewish merchant Aaron Lopez regarding the fate of a goods-bearing ship, Boston, Massachusetts, 1771. Gift of Sidney and Ruth Lapidus. American Jewish Historical Society

## Landmark Conference

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professor Simon Schama and French philosopher Alain Finkielkraut made presentations. Leon Wieseltier spelled out the litany of types of anti-Semitism—anti-Semitism of the right in Europe and the

U.S. and anti-Semitism of the left, seen today in the anti-globalization movement, and most dangerous in his view, anti-Semitism that manifests itself as anti-Zionism.

France was the focus of much criticism. Alain Finkielkraut asserted that anti-Semitism in France today was of a different ilk than the older European anti-Semitism of the right wing, which criticized Jews for their “otherness.” Today, he said, even as older traditional forms of anti-Semitism are condemned, the new anti-Semitism in his country of seven million Muslims is anti-nationalistic, anti-Israel and directed against the suffering inflicted on Palestinians. As such condemnations come as well from

the European left, with its universalist and anti-globalization sympathies, a form of intellectual anti-Semitism associated with harsh criticism of Israel is clearly evident. And, as such criticism evolves into the demonization of Zionism, going so far as to equate Zionism with Nazism, it expands to include Jews generally.

Other speakers concurred. “In England, said Professor Schama, people more in the mainstream of political and intellectual life feel there is no longer any taboo on crossing the line between anti-Zionism, criticism of the Israeli government and anti-Semitism.” It is “a mutation of ancient images within new contexts,” said another

participant.

Speakers from abroad explained the particular nuances of anti-Semitism in their countries. Mexican historian and author Enrique Krauze spoke of anti-Semitism of the left that exists in some South American countries and reminded the audience of the Muslim terrorist attacks against the Jewish community in Buenos Aires. In some other countries, he said, noting Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay and even Venezuela, “there does not seem to be any real reason for alarm.”

In the United States, there has been a steep rise in anti-Semitic incidents on university campuses. And, as Professor Schama reported, there are some 500 anti-

the United States “represents a revolution in Jewish history, a country that is in its philosophical foundations and in its political practices structurally hospitable to us.”

While there were few answers to many difficult questions, the conference clearly reached its goal of providing a very broad audience of scholars, students and the general public with the context and analyses necessary for interpreting the new anti-Semitism and hopefully determining appropriate actions. ■

*For a list of conference participants and more information, visit [www.anti-semitism-debates.org](http://www.anti-semitism-debates.org)*



YIVO conference panelists (left to right) Irwin Cotler, Fiamma Nirenstein, David Pryce-Jones and Robert Wistrich.

DAVID KARP

Semitic websites in the U.S today. But Leon Wieseltier painted a somewhat rosier picture. In spite of the hostility in many quarters to the American model of modernity (globalization), to the American model of democracy and capitalism, and to the American policy in the Middle East, he believes that

## Film Lens on Anti-Semitism

The Center partners' sharp focus on anti-Semitism during the spring months included the showing of six documentary and feature films exploring historical events and narrative themes relating to this ever-timely subject. Presented under the aegis of the Center's Monday Night Film Series as “Anti-Semitism: A History of Hatred,” in association with the five partners, each screening was followed by discussion led by a guest speaker. The series screened films from England, France, Germany, Russia and the U.S., and was curated by Sheba Skirball.

Launching the series was “The Longest Hatred,” an English film that explores the span of anti-Semitic sentiment from the earliest writings to recent decades.



“Get Thee Out,” a Russian film, is based on the stories of Scholem Aleichem and Isaac Babel. “The Dreyfus Affair,” a French documentary, was followed by “Rosenzweig's Freedom,” a German feature film set against the backdrop of actual events past and present that explores the ongoing right-wing extremist violence in that country. “To Live with Terror” is a wrenching study of the two unsolved bombings of Jewish facilities in Buenos Aires in the 1990s. The series ended with a screening of “Focus,” based on Arthur Miller's 1945 novel of the same name.

“Lens on French and Belgian Jewry,” a concurrent YIVO film series curated by Dr. Eric Goldman, explored the different ways that World War II and the Holocaust continue to cast a shadow on contemporary Jewish life. ■

## Archive and Reading Room: Online Resources

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### JEWISH LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE

Some 17,000 evocative images of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, all from the trove of YIVO's photo archives, have been compiled and are now available online as YIVO's "People of a Thousand Towns." Portraying daily life in the large cities as well as small rural villages, from the late 19th century to the early 1940s, this collection provides a visual record of thousands of pre-World War II Jewish communities in Poland, Russia, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The online album was made possible by a generous grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, with additional funds from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The site can be accessed at: <http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org> ■



## Coming Online Soon

### JEWISH WAR HEROES

The Blavatnik family is funding a new Jewish Military Heroes Website Project which, when completed for online viewing, will feature 100 military heroes and events in the military history of the Jews in the 20th century, with a special focus on World War II. The project, which is scheduled for completion in 2004 and will include biographical portraits and a complete bibliography, will further knowledge and appreciation of the legacy of heroism passed on by these Jewish men and women.

### 350 YEARS OF JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA

In 1654, 23 Jewish refugees fled Brazil and the long arm of the Portuguese Inquisition and arrived by sea in the Dutch port of New Amsterdam. In anticipation of the September 2004 milestone anniversary of this event, which marked the first Jewish settlement in America, the AJHS is developing an online interactive timeline that honors the importance of this date. The timeline is being developed with the participation of all Center partners, and will include documents for the public's viewing from the various partners' collections, spanning 350 years of archival records.

## Dialogue on the "New Anti-Semitism"

In February, Fordham University in association with the Center for Jewish History and the American Sephardi Federation hosted a multi-cultural discussion aimed at investigating the historical antecedents of anti-Semitism in Islam and Christianity. "We welcome the opportunity to work with as illustrious an institution as Fordham University to bring these subjects to light," said Center Executive Director Joshua Plaut.

Participants were Ronald C. Kiener, associate professor of Religion at Trinity College and an expert on Islamic theology, and John T. Pawlikowski, O.S.M., a leading figure in the Christian-Jewish dialogue, and professor of Social Ethics and Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Professor Suzanne Last Stone of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law moderated the symposium, which encompassed perspectives on Islam's attitude toward Judaism and the challenges that the Christian community faces in combating anti-Semitism.

Based on the success of the February event, the partners will launch a more formal program with Fordham University. ■

## Executive Director's Desk

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and the American Jewish Historical Society. In June, the Center hosted a panel discussion of Southern Jewish authors including Alfred Uhry, author of *Driving Miss Daisy*, and Tova Mirvis, author of *The Ladies Auxiliary*, sponsored by Yeshiva University Museum and made possible by the New York Council on the Humanities.

A different backdrop was presented to audiences attending the 7th International Sephardic Film Festival, sponsored by Sephardic House, the cultural division of American Sephardi Federation, and Yeshiva University Museum. Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron attended the opening night gala as an honored guest, along with Honorable Mohammed Bennouna, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations. And on these pages you will recognize the names of many popular contemporary Jewish figures who are frequent Center visitors, among them longtime Leo Baeck Institute member Dr. Ruth Westheimer, who received the Leo Baeck Medal for 2002.

The accomplishments of all our partners were recently highlighted in the Center's first published Annual Report. The Center, through its preservation efforts, reference collections, cultural programming and educational initiatives, is able to enhance the vitality and visibility of its partners, while contemporizing the lessons of Jewish history. With broad support, we are building our historical legacy every day. ■

## Your "Key" to the Center

CJH = Center for Jewish History

CGI = Center Genealogy Institute

AJHS = American Jewish Historical Society

ASF = American Sephardi Federation

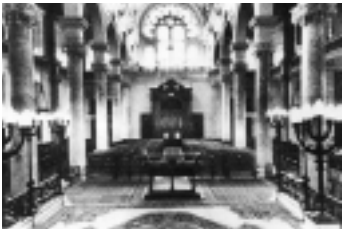
LBI = Leo Baeck Institute

YIVO = YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

YUM = Yeshiva University Museum

# Arts and Letters

## Exhibition Highlights



### 300 YEARS OF SOUTHERN JEWISH LIFE

A groundbreaking traveling exhibition now on view at the Yeshiva University Museum tells visitors to the Center the remarkable story of 300 years of Jewish life in the American South. This rich history begins with the earliest documented presence of Jews in Charles Town in 1695. By 1800 Charleston, South Carolina was home to the largest and wealthiest Jewish community in North America—some 500 Jews, or one-fifth of all Jews in the nation.

Through more than 200 ritual, decorative and domestic objects, paintings and photographs, and documents



and testimony, the exhibit “A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life” brings to life the history of a still-evolving Jewish culture.

Curator Dale Rosengarten spent years researching the lives of this richly textured culture and discovered artifacts and family stories that provide intimacy to this story. The exhibition follows the history through World War II

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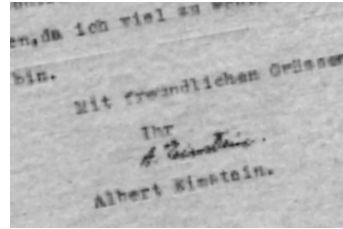
### A BOOK LOVER'S COLLECTION

The exhibit “Not for Myself Alone: Celebrating Jewish-American Writers,” also on view at the Center for Jewish History, draws together poetry, fiction, drama, essays, artwork and correspondence from 75 men and women who have enriched American culture over the past 200 years. It is sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society.

The exhibit features selected works from the Leonard L. Milberg Collection of Jewish-American Writers, and is the product of years of book collecting and loving preservation by Mr. Milberg. It was originally curated by Princeton University's Firestone Library to honor Harold T. Shapiro, Princeton University's president from 1988 until 2001. The exhibition includes Yiddish and English-language writers and embraces both the famous as well as the less well-known.

Visitors will encounter 19th century writer Rebecca Gratz, who is reputed to have served as the model for the character of Rebecca in Sir Walter Scott's novel *Ivanhoe*, as well as Emma Lazarus, whose sonnet “The New Colossus,” is engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Twentieth century writers are also well represented—from Arthur Miller

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### LBI EINSTEIN ITEMS AT MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Some time ago curators from the American Museum of Natural History visited the Leo Baeck Institute to review holdings in its Albert Einstein Collection. Since the blockbuster “Einstein” exhibit opened in February, thousands of visitors to the museum have seen the two very personal Einstein household items the curators selected to include. These are two decorative cups with images of Albert and his sister Maja as children, and a guestbook that Einstein kept at his summer home in Caputh, Germany, with entries by such visitors as Chaim Weizmann and the artist Hermann Struck, who added a pastel sketch to his greeting. ■



### A PAGEANT OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

From the Amazon to Ethiopia, from Madras to Italy, the exhibition calendar at the Center has offered a journey through Jewish communities worldwide. Photographs by Win Robins at the Yeshiva University Museum document two faces of the Ethiopian



experience: the struggle to lead a Jewish life in Africa and overcoming considerable cultural obstacles to preserve Ethiopian heritage while integrating into Israeli culture.

In “Scattered Among the Nations,” presented earlier this year by the American Sephardi Federation, Bryan Schwartz, Jay Sand and Sandy Carter vividly captured an unfamiliar world of Inca Jews, Zimbabwe Shabbats and sub-Saharan Jewish choirs. The cast of characters presented in the current exhibit on Southern Jewish life includes gentry, religious reformers and poets, loyal Confederates and radical Reconstructionists, back country peddlers and Main Street merchants. ■

# Summer 2003 Center Exhibits



## 300 Years of Southern Jewish Life

*continued from page 5*

and concludes with a present-day photo essay by Bill Aron.

"A Portion of the People" is a traveling exhibition, organized and circulated by the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina, in association with the Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston Library, and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. It has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is presented in New York by the Yeshiva University Museum. ■

## A Book Lover's Collection

*continued from page 5*

and Bernard Malamud to Philip Roth, Allen Ginsberg, Grace Paley and Art Spiegelman. Photograph portraits and eight original caricatures by David Levine complement the published works and letters and manuscripts in the exhibit. The opening night, on April 10, featured readings by luminaries such as Arthur Miller, Grace Paley, and Cynthia Ozick. ■

### AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### *Not for Myself Alone*

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4**

Exhibit showcasing the books, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia of 75 celebrated Jewish-American writers from the past two centuries. Selected from the collection of Leonard L. Milberg. (Diane and Mark Goldman Gallery and Selma L. Batkin Mezzanine Gallery)

### AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION

An exhibit about the various communities of Greek Jews will open later this summer and be on view through October.

### LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

#### *Nahum Goldmann:*

#### *Statesman without a State*

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7**

Together with Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion, Goldmann (1895-1982) helped formulate plans for the establishment of the State of Israel but never thought that a Jewish state would be the answer for all Jews. Rather, he believed there must be vibrant Jewish organizations throughout the diaspora and helped found the World Jewish Congress and the Conference of Jewish organizations. Exhibit sponsored by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, World Jewish Congress. (Katherine and Clifford H. Goldsmith Leo Baeck Institute Gallery)

### YESHIVA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

#### *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life*

**THROUGH JULY 20**

Ground-breaking exhibition on Jewish life in the South. "A Portion of the People" brings to life 300 years of a still-evolving Jewish culture, through 200 ritual and domestic objects, paintings and photographs, documents and testimony. (Rosenberg Gallery & Winnick Gallery)

#### *Stage & Page:*

#### *Jewish Theater and Book Designs of Emanuele Luzzati*

**THROUGH AUGUST 17**

Born in Genoa, Italy, Luzzati opened a Jewish theater there and distinguished himself as a painter, ceramicist, cartoon animator, book illustrator and set and costume designer of note. This Yeshiva University Museum exhibit of some 200 original artworks has been co-sponsored by the Centro Culturale Primo Levi in North America. (Betty & Walter L. Popper Gallery)

#### *A Memorial to Lost Souls: Threads of Light*

**THROUGH JULY 27**

Austrian artist Luise Kloos has transformed the Museum's outdoor space into a memorial to lost souls, creating a transcendental atmosphere out of optic fibers. This installation is sponsored, in part, by the Austrian Cultural Forum, New York. (Rosenberg Sculpture Garden)

#### *Children of the Lost Tribe of Dan: Portraits of Ethiopian Jewry.*

**THROUGH AUGUST 3**

Photographs of Ethiopian Jews, taken in Ethiopia and Israel by New York photographer Win Robins in 2001. Sponsored in part by the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry and the Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry. (Rachel and Abraham Bornstein Arcade)

#### *Gan Eden Hadash—A New Paradise*

**THROUGH AUGUST 3**

Installation by Ilana Lilienthal blends sculpting and painting into an ethereal luminous medium for transmitting spiritual energies and materializing soulful icons. (Second Floor Gallery)

### YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

#### *Light One Candle: A Child's Diary of the Holocaust*

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

This new exhibition is based on the lost secret diaries of Solly Ganor, a native of Kovno, Lithuania; his autobiography as a survivor after the war; and the photographs of George Kadish, chronicler of the Kovno Ghetto. (The Constantiner Gallery)

#### *The Kishinev Pogrom of 1903*

**THROUGH OCTOBER**

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the pogrom, this exhibition explores the facts of this important event and its aftermath with original documents, photographs, leaflets, books and posters from that time. All books and documents in the exhibit are from the YIVO Library and Archives. (The John & Gwen Smart Library Gallery)

# Voices of Jewish Writers Resonate at Center

## REDISCOVERING BRUNO SCHULZ

The Center and the five partner institutions continue to present engaging and groundbreaking literary programs. In a milestone event in November, the Center commemorated the 60th anniversary of the death of Polish-Jewish writer and artist Bruno Schulz, who was shot



Bruno Schulz

by the Nazis on the streets of Drohobycz in 1942 at the age of 50.

In recent years, he has become known to a larger audience as a result of international reports about a controversy arising from the discovery in 2001 of portions of wall paintings he produced under Nazi duress during the Holocaust, which were hastily removed and taken to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Reflecting the respect given to Schulz, several cultural organizations joined with YIVO and the Jewish Heritage Project and the Center to sponsor a tribute to him: Goethe-Institute New York, the Polish Cultural Institute, New York, PEN International Center, and the Institute for the Humanities at New York University.

Readings of Schulz's stories, moderated by Alan

Adelson, were followed by the world premiere of "Finding Pictures," a documentary film about Schulz by German filmmaker Benjamin Geissler. Filmed in six countries with interviews in various languages, the film is a montage without a narrating voice, punctuated with readings from Schulz's published works. Said the filmmaker, "What is important now is that people speak of Schulz."

## OTHER LITERARY VOICES

Schulz was only one of many literary voices heard at recent Center programs. Among others was Amos Elon, the acclaimed journalist and social critic and recent author of *The Pity of It All: A History of the Jews in Germany, 1743-1933*, who was the featured guest at a fall lecture and book signing sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute.

The LBI also sponsored a reading and panel discussion marking the publication of *The Fullness of Time*, a new bilingual German-English volume of poems by Gershom Scholem (1897-1982). Scholem, one of the great scholars of the 20th century, virtually created the subject of Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism as a serious area of study. Literature also played a critical part in Scholem's own life, and he wrote poetry from his teens on—political poems about Zionism and assimilation, parodies of German and Jewish philosophers, religious lyrics, and poems to other writers and friends such as Walter Benjamin, Hans Jonas, and S. Y. Agnon.

ASF showed the diversity of Sephardi culture this spring with two book discussion events. *Jewish Week* editor, Gary Rosenblatt, moderated a conversation with the editors and authors of *Jews from the*



Israeli writer A.B. Yehoshua

*Middle East and North Africa in Modern Times*. This volume documents the significant role that Jews played in the Middle East and North Africa over the last 200 years. Asher Naim, former Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia, discussed his recent book, *Saving the Lost Tribe, The Rescue and Redemption of the Ethiopian Jews*. Mr. Naim recounted the story of the incredible rescue of 14,000 Ethiopian Jews in 1991. His story was illustrated by a wonderful film about "Operation Solomon" made by the Israeli Air Force.

Primo Levi was presented in the spring in the form of a contemporary opera by Israeli composer Ari Frankel. This first full reading of the opera was co-presented by America Opera Project, Centro Primo Levi and the Center for Jewish History, with the support of New York State Council on the Arts and Meet the Composer. Other recent events included the PEN American Center Translators Roundtable, an ASF event curated by Esther Allen and dedicated to Hebrew texts from the Bible to modern poetry, and a YIVO program featuring the Israeli writer A.B. Yehoshua. And, on the occasion of the opening of the AJHS exhibit "Not for Myself Alone: Celebrating Jewish-American Writers,"

playwright Arthur Miller and authors Jorie Graham, Cynthia Ozick and Grace Paley presented a live reading from their own works.



Author Grace Paley

## BLOOMSDAY

The Jewish Heritage Project in collaboration with the Center, the American Sephardi Federation, and the Jewish Community Center of New York presented *Bloom*, a gala theatrical reading focusing on the peculiarly endearing character of Leopold Bloom, James Joyce's Jewish protagonist in his epic novel *Ulysses*. Theatrical readings by a distinguished cast of Broadway actors, including actress Kathleen Chalfant, star of the Off-Broadway hit "Wit" and "Angels in America", were presented on Bloomsday, June 16, at the Center.

Fall events will explore the voices of such international writers as Paul Celan and Clarice Lispector. The Center is also scheduled to participate in the fall city-wide literary festival, a collaboration of over 30 cultural organizations. ■

# Steinberg Music Series Offers New Visions

It has been said that one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Jewish diaspora is its ability to assimilate aspects of the dominant culture while maintaining a distinctly Jewish culture and identity. Jewish music reflects the many countries Jews have “passed through”—Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean to the Middle East, Western Europe and the Americas.

The Steinberg Music Series, funded by the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust and curated by Susan Feldman, has reflected this diversity in its selection of artists. Interest in Jewish music is at a peak. Composers and musicians are studying Jewish music, are inspired by it, and are playing it. Of particular interest is the

number of American musicians who are exploring the traditions in depth—from Hasidic prayer to klezmer to Sephardi holiday festivals to new music inspired by personal experiences of being Jewish. It is hoped that the Music from the Center programs provide a place for a living Jewish music tradition, a place where music and religious practice, music and the past, music and inspiration can meet.

In three years of programming, the Steinberg series has brought such artists and programs to the Center’s stage as

Andy Statman, Uri Caine, finger picking champion Tim Sparks, Marta Sebestyen and Muzsikás. Curator Feldman has presented special events also funded by the Steinberg Trust, such as David Isay’s Yiddish Radio Project Live and Aviva Slesin’s moving documentary, “Secret Lives, Hidden Children and their Rescuers during WWII,”



Clarinetist David Krakauer

which was preceded by a live concert with film composer John Zorn and his legendary Masada band.

## HIP HOP AND LATIN KLEZMER

This past spring, an enthusiastic and youthful audience attended Solomon and Socalled’s “Hip Hop Khasene,” a performance that achieved a compelling fusion—a fresh interpretation of the traditional klezmer wedding suite using the language and tools of hip hop. DJ Socalled (Josh Dolgin) laid down propulsive beats which were further enlivened by the colorful



CARLOS FURMAN

Argentine klezmer duo, Lerner and Moguilevsky

musical language. Inspired by the music of their Jewish grandparents, Lerner and Moguilevsky infuse classic klezmer with soulful elements from a wide range of musical traditions, including Argentine folk, jazz, pop and tango.

The long-term plan of the Steinberg Trust and its curator is to invite artists to the Center to work with archival material in the partners’ collections and to create new works based on their research and discoveries. ■



JIM ALLEN

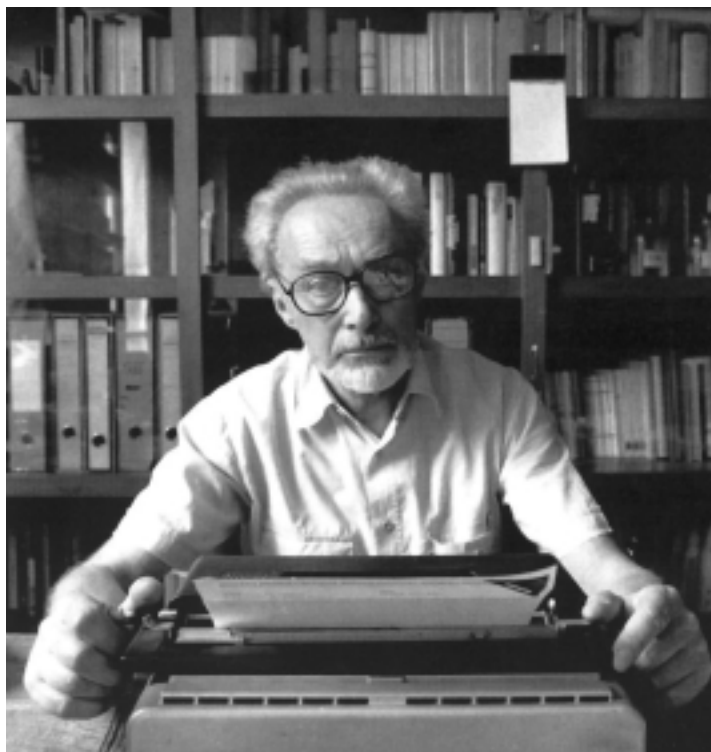
Cellist Maya Beiser

Ashkenazi music of fiddler Sophie Solomon and clarinet virtuoso David Krakauer.

The series also presented Israeli cellist Maya Beiser in a collaboration with percussionist Glen Velez and Middle East oud and nay player Bassam Saba, and the Argentine program, “Klezmer en Buenos Aires,” presented by the Lerner Moguilevsky Dúo, which has developed its own spirited and innovative



# Center Newswire



GIANSANTI/STGMA

Italian-Jewish writer Primo Levi, after whom Centro Culturale Primo Levi is named.

## NEW CENTER AFFILIATE

The new North American branch of the Centro Culturale Primo Levi joined the Center for Jewish History in June under the umbrella of the American Sephardi Federation. Inspired by the writings of Primo Levi, the Turin-born writer who survived Auschwitz and was an essential voice of his generation, the Centro was established in Genoa in 1989 to explore and promote interest in Italian-Jewish history. The new branch strives to create a contemporary context for Italian-Jewish studies in North America.

Announcing the move to the Center, Dr. Alessandro Di Rocco, President of the American branch of the Centro, expressed his pleasure at finding a home at the Center, a most appropriate site for an organization representing one of the oldest Jewish communities of Europe that interacted for centuries with the Sephardi and

Ashkenazi worlds. He expressed the hope that the Centro will establish ongoing collaborations with the five partners.

## 2003 CENTER FELLOWSHIPS ANNOUNCED

The Center for Jewish history has named six doctoral candidates from the U.S. and Europe as recipients of research fellowships for 10 months of work at the Center beginning in September. The fellows were selected by a committee of the Center Academic Advisory Council, representing the five partner organizations: American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), American Sephardi Federation (ASF), Leo Baeck Institute (LBI), Yeshiva University Museum (YUM) and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (YIVO). "Together, the topics of the 2003 fellowships reflect the diversity of affiliation and depth of study which is at the core of the mission of the Center," said Dr. Diane Spielmann, director of Center Public Services.

The appointed fellows are: Marcy Brink, Stanford University, who is researching Turkish-Jewish ideologies of language and kinship, utilizing the resources of YIVO, ASF

and the Center Genealogy Institute; Maria Ecker, University of Salzburg, who is comparing the integration of Jewish Holocaust survivors who emigrated to the U.S. from 1945-1950 with Holocaust survivors in Israel, utilizing the resources of the LBI, YIVO and AJHS; Krueger Genealogy Fellow Noah L. Gelfand, New York University, who is using materials from the AJHS and ASF to study Sephardi Jewish communities and commerce in the 17th and 18th century Dutch Atlantic world; Pawel Maciejko, Oxford University, who will examine the development of the religious doctrine of Jacob Frank, using resources from the LBI and YIVO; Noam F. Pianko, Yale University, who will consult resources at the LBI and YIVO to study Diaspora Jewish nationalism in American Jewish thought; and Frederick P. and Sandra P. Rose Fellow David Ira Snyder, Princeton University, who will utilize LBI and YIVO material to

*continued on page 10*



Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron with Leon Levy(L), Rabbi Elie Abadie(R), Moroccan-born liturgical poet and singer Jo Amar (rear center) and other guests at the ASF Gala in December 2002.

## Center Newswire: 2003 Center Fellowships Announced

*continued from page 9*

research the perceived role of the Jews and the actual impact of the ghetto in Prague and Warsaw on the shaping of the modern city.

### FIRST SAMBERG FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM

On July 7, a diverse group of high school students from the New York area public and private schools and Jewish day schools began uncovering their families' pasts at the Center. These teens, from Sephardi and Ashkenazi backgrounds, and including a young immigrant from the former Soviet Union, were enrolled in the Samberg Family History Program. This intensive two-week interdisciplinary seminar will taught participants how to dig through archives and libraries to discover more about their families and themselves.

The program offered a crash course on immigration to the United States, while teaching the students how to use primary sources relating to Jewish immigration and genealogy from the Center's archive, library and museum collections.

"Under the mentorship of Center staff, each student designed an independent project reflecting the results of their delving into history at the Center," says project director Dr. Rachel Fisher, who advises readers to watch the Center website for the students' essays about their experience.

The Samberg Family History Program is a partnership between the Center for Jewish History and the American Jewish Historical Society.

### CREATING AN ARCHIVE OF LOSSES

"The last thing I remember," recalls a Jew from Benghazi, Libya, "was closing the door to our home with everything in place – the furniture, carpets, dishes, drapes, no boxes, no packing or preparation, no transition. But we were not going for a walk; we were leaving, never to come back."

Nearly four decades after this family was forced to leave their home, the American Sephardi Federation (ASF) is helping refocus the attention of the world Jewish community on the losses of the Jewish refugees from Arab countries. "Half the population of Israel is made up of Jewish refugees from Arab countries and their descendants," says Vivienne Roumani-Denn, ASF Executive Director. "Theirs is an important, little known story that needs to be told." As part of an international effort, ASF has launched a campaign to collect testimonials from Jews displaced from Arab countries. In order to preserve the historical record and document the material losses, all former Jewish refugees or family members are urged to complete and return the Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries claim form, which can be found on ASF's website, [www.jewishrefugees.org](http://www.jewishrefugees.org), or can be obtained by calling 212-294-8350.

### CENTER COLUMN IN THE FORWARD

The first in a regular series of columns, called "Treasures from the Archives," recently appeared in *The Forward* newspaper. The column, scheduled to appear twice a month and generously funded by a friend of the Center, will feature one archival treasure preserved at the Center in one of the partners' collections. The first column told the unique story of the publication of the Talmud by the U.S. Army for Holocaust survivors in Displaced Persons camps. ■



Mike Wallace of CBS News' *60 Minutes* interviewed by Rabbi William Berkowitz for the popular *Dialogue Forum* Series.

## Cultural Forum

### VISIONS OF JUSTICE

"Jews and Justice," the penetrating series of lectures and dialogues exploring the Jewish contribution to the development and practice of the law and legal institutions, continues to attract broad attention.

In September, an overflow audience of hundreds was on hand as Aharon Barak, President of the Supreme Court of Israel, discussed the necessity of balancing Jewish interests with democratic values and the dilemmas inherent in maintaining that balance.

The appearance of Barak, a Supreme Court Justice since 1978 and its President since 1995, was sponsored by the Center and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research as part of the Center's ongoing "Jews and Justice" series that is funded by the David Berg Foundation. Justice Barak stressed the special tenet of Israel's legal system, articulated in its "Basic Laws" in 1992: to establish the values of both a Jewish and a democratic state. "We are not like all nations, and we are not like all peoples," he said. "We are a democracy, but we are also a Jewish state. Israel's society must come to grips with this duality."

A program on "Jewish Lawyers and Justice" continued the series in 2003, featuring Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, with Bettina B. Plevan, a partner in the law firm of Proskauer Rose LLP, and Samuel J. Levine, associate professor of law at Pepperdine University School of Law. The program was presented in association with the American Jewish Historical Society and explored the challenges of being a committed Jew in today's embattled legal environment and how Judaism's history and traditions come into play.



(Above, left to right)  
Dr. Arturo Constantine,  
Prof. Alan Dershowitz and  
Chairman Bruce Slovin at  
“Jews & Justice” event.



DAVID KARP

Center Chairman Bruce Slovin  
greeting Dr. Ruth Westheimer.



(Above) Shimon Peres,  
Israel's Foreign  
Minister, at the  
Dialogue Forum Series.  
(left) Aharon Barak,  
President of the  
Supreme Court of  
Israel, at the “Jews &  
Justice” series.



**AJHS DIALOGUE FORUM SERIES**

Shimon Peres, Israel's Foreign Minister, 1994 Nobel Prize winner and a major figure in the Israeli government for half a century, was the guest of Rabbi William Berkowitz as part of the Dialogue Forum Series, presented by the American Jewish Historical Society. Peres spoke on the anniversary of the September 11th attacks. He spoke about his childhood and his relationship with David Ben-Gurion, and reflected on the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, the future role of Arafat, and the relationship between the American Jewish and Israeli communities.

Rabbi Berkowitz has been leading free-wheeling dialogues with prominent guests for 51 years. In these unscripted interviews, Rabbi Berkowitz poses questions that have not been seen or reviewed by his guests before the event. Other prominent personalities participating in recent dialogues included Elie Wiesel and Mike Wallace, actor Tony Randall, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Theodore Bikel and Ambassador Alon Pinkas. Many of these interviews are archived on the Center website at [www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org). ■

This season's “Jews and Justice” series concluded with a panel in June on “The Ethics of Warfare—A Jewish Perspective,” presented in association with the Leo Baeck Institute. The panel discussion was moderated by Suzanne Last Stone, Professor of Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, who curated the program, and was co-sponsored by the David Berg Foundation and the Cardozo Program in Jewish Law and Culture. Joining Ms.

Stone were panelists Dr. Michael Walzer, Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University; Rabbi Saul Berman, Adjunct Professor of Law, Columbia University School of Law; and Rabbi J. David Bleich, Herbert and Florence Tenzer Professor of Jewish Law and Ethics at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

In conjunction with the Center's “Jews and Justice” series, the American

Association of Jewish Lawyers & Jurists and Fordham University School of Law recently co-sponsored a series of three Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs at the Center. Topics were: “Tradition and Modernity in the Legal System in Mandated Palestine and Israel,” “An Overview of Islamic Jurisprudence,” and “The Origin of Holocaust Reparations and an Overview of Recent Restitution Issues.”

# Center Gala Dinner

December 9 was a very special evening, as many of the Center's donors, supporters and members of the partner organizations basked in the magnificence of the home they had helped build. The list of guests dining in the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Great Hall of the Center included many of the individuals who shared the early vision of Board Chairman Bruce Slovin, the driving force for the Center since it was just an imposing plan on an architect's drawing board. For many guests, the event was their first opportunity to meet Center archivists and scholars and experience first-hand the magnitude of the Center and the rare collections of its partners. On display was a rich assortment of documents, artifacts and ritual objects from the Jewish past—a selection from the treasures preserved at the Center that reflect the diverse strands of Jewish history. For the occasion, the Brazilian vocal artist Fortuna, a performer of Ladino music, was invited to entertain the guests. ■



(Above) Reba Wulkan, YUM Curator of "Stories Untold: Jewish Pioneer Women 1850-1910; The Art of Andrea Kalinowski" (right) A volume on display from the collections.



Clockwise from top left: Richard Scheuer and Stanley Batkin; The Great Hall; Fortuna; AJHS Executive Director Michael Feldberg with Joseph Steinberg; Center chairman Bruce Slovin with LBI Executive Director Carol Kahn Strauss; Center Executive Director Joshua

Plaut and City Councilman David Weprin; YIVO Executive Director Carl Rheins with YIVO Chief Archivist Fruma Mohrer; Leon Levy, Honorary President of the ASF, and friends.



ALL PHOTOS: MARTY HEITNER

Since the Center for Jewish History formally opened three years ago, it continues to demonstrate that the past can serve to illuminate the present and enrich our heritage for future generations. The impact of the Center—its impressive architecture, preservation efforts, reference collections, cultural programming and educational initiatives—are all cataloged in the Center's first Annual Report, titled "Our Legacy." A highlight of the report is the impressive ongoing work of each of the partner organizations, which converge to make the Center a landmark institution for the exploration, interpretation and presentation of Jewish history and culture. For a copy of the Annual Report, call our Development Office at 212-294-8310.

# Endowing Our Legacy



## Make a Commitment

There are many ways to invest in the future of the Center for Jewish History. The late Dr. Sophie Bookhalter wished to perpetuate her commitment to Jewish education for the benefit of future generations. She endowed the Sophie Bookhalter Fellowship Program, which already has enabled six graduate students to pursue their studies at the Center in subjects related to Jewish history, literature and the arts.

The Center's future rests on the thoughtfulness of donors like Dr. Bookhalter. There are many opportunities for participation. You may name the Center as a beneficiary in your existing will. You may also choose from a variety of naming opportunities, endowment gifts and planned giving programs, including charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, charitable lead trusts and other plans. Please call the Center's Development Office at 212-294-8310 for a copy of the 2002 Center Annual Report and to discuss your personal interests.

## Take a Seat

The recent acclaimed YIVO Conference on anti-Semitism in the West took place in the beautiful Leo and Julia Forchheimer Auditorium, the jewel in the crown of the Center and the setting for the Center's extensive program of films, concerts, theater, lectures and meetings. Endowing a seat in the Forchheimer Auditorium as a memorial to a loved one, or a tribute to the Center, offers an outstanding gift opportunity. For further information, please contact the Development Office at 212-294-8310.

## Become a Friend of the Center

Support the Center for Jewish History with a gift of \$36 or more, and you will become a *Friend of the Center* and be eligible for the following benefits:

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 10% DISCOUNT AT THE FANYA HELLER GOTTESFELD BOOK STORE.** The shop reflects the mission of the Center with a rich collection of scholarly and popular works on Jewish history, culture and language. Come browse for your personal shopping and distinctive gift needs—books, historical posters, silver Judaica, CDs, jewelry by innovative Israeli artists, and a selection of cards and stationery. Many items are exclusive to the store.

**ENJOY A 10% DISCOUNT IN THE CONSTANTINER DATE PALM CAFÉ.** Visit the Café for lunch or an afternoon coffee break—delicious kosher cuisine in a lively, yet relaxing environment. Meet your friends at the Café surrounded by the work of artist Michele Oka Doner.

**CENTER TOURS**—Receive a 15% discount on the price of the tour, conducted by trained docents, which begins every Tuesday and Thursday at 2pm.

And, when making a reservation for a Center event—music, film or lecture—just mention that you are a *Friend of the Center* and you will receive a 15% discount off the price of your ticket.

Please show your support and become a *Friend of the Center*.

# Center for Jewish History

## Center Hours

Monday through Thursday	9am to 5pm
Friday	9am to 2pm
Sunday	11am to 5pm

## Library and Reading Room

Monday through Thursday	9:30am to 5:15pm
Friday	By appointment

## Café and Bookstore

Monday through Thursday	9am to 5pm
Open during selected evening events	
Sunday	11am to 5pm

## Contact Info

General Information	212-294-8301
Box Office	917-606-8200
Genealogy Institute	212-294-8324
Center Tours	917-606-8226

See website for all program updates: [www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org)

## DIRECTORY OF THE PARTNERS AND AFFILIATES OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

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American Sephardi Federation <a href="http://www.asfonline.org">www.asfonline.org</a>	212-294-8350
Leo Baeck Institute <a href="http://www.lbi.org">www.lbi.org</a>	212-744-6400
Yeshiva University Museum <a href="http://www.yu.edu/museum">www.yu.edu/museum</a>	212-294-8330
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research <a href="http://www.yivoinstitute.org">www.yivoinstitute.org</a>	212-246-6080

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# Sharing Our Commitment

The Center for Jewish History proudly recognizes the following donors for their most generous support of its undertaking to preserve the Jewish past and ensure the Jewish future. In addition to many anonymous gifts, this roster includes major benefactions received through May 31, 2003. Many significant gift opportunities remain available at the Center, including the naming of outstanding facilities. Please call our Development Office at 212-294-8310.

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