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NINTH ANNUAL GREENFIELD SUMMER INSTITUTE

The World of European Jewry

THE GEORGE L. MOSSE/LAURENCE A. WEINSTEIN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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The World of European Jewry

JULY 13–17, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON
MADISON, WISCONSIN

**The George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies
invites you to an unforgettable week of summer learning and fun.**

Whether you're an alum who wants to relive your college days, a friend of Jewish Studies who wants to share the excitement of Jewish learning, or a member of the public interested in studying Jewish history and culture, you are invited to participate in the Ninth Annual Greenfield Summer Institute, *The World of European Jewry*.

This summer's Institute will be devoted to the Jewish experience in Europe—from the Ashkenazim in the east to the Sephardim in the west, from Jews in the Low Countries on the frigid North Sea to Ladino-speaking communities on the Mediterranean coast. We will learn about tradition and change, and about community, assimilation, immigration, oppression, and toleration. A variety of cultural and intellectual approaches will be offered through history, literature, philosophy, art, and music. A variety of afternoon lectures and special evening programs will add to this wonderful intellectual experience amid the sights and sounds that make summer in Madison a visitor's haven. Please join us as we look at centuries of Jewish life in the Old World.

We invite you to join us. Space is limited, so please register early. Registration deadline: June 15, 2008.

THE PROGRAM

Sunday, July 13

5–6 p.m. **Registration**
University Club, 803 State Street

6–7 p.m. **Opening Dinner (no charge)**
Welcome and opening remarks by the director of the
the Center for Jewish Studies.

7–8 p.m. **Schmoozing time**

Monday, July 14

All lectures will be held at the Wisconsin Historical Society,
816 State Street, unless otherwise noted.

9–10:30 a.m. **“The Changing Synagogue as a Guide
to European Jewish History”**

David Sorkin, *Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor
of Jewish Studies, UW Department of History*

The European Jewish synagogue changed dramatically from the
16th to the 20th centuries. These changes are not just shifts in
architectural style: rather, changes in style reflect dramatic trans-
formations in European Jewish life. In other words, the modern
history of European Jewry can be read from the mutations of the
synagogue. This lecture will be copiously illustrated with slides.

10:30–10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m.–noon **“Jews in the Dutch Golden Age”**
Steven Nadler, *Max and Frieda Weinstein Professor of Jewish
Studies, Chair, UW Department of Philosophy*

This lecture will look at the Portuguese and Ashkenazic Jews
who settled in Amsterdam and elsewhere in the Netherlands
in the 17th century. We will consider historical circumstances,
philosophies and, above all, the art of the Dutch Golden Age.

noon–1:30 p.m. **Lunch on your own**

1:30–3 p.m. **Movie: *The Lost Wooden Synagogues
of Eastern Europe***

Alan Barry, executive producer of the documentary, will be on
hand to provide opening remarks and lead a question and answer
session after the movie. Before World War II, more than a thou-
sand wooden synagogues dotted the shtetls of Eastern Europe.
For decades, the world believed all of these structures were lost.
Then, a few years ago, a team from Hebrew University discovered
six in Lithuania. Barry has been fascinated by the synagogues and
the culture surrounding them for much of his adult life. He will
recount his travels to Lithuania and Latvia as he discovers four
more synagogues, the story of their life before the war, and what
has happened in the last fifty years (running time: 48 minutes).

3–5 p.m.

Plan to stay after the movie to meet and share conversation
with some of the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies
faculty and staff (held on site).

Evening **Free time**

Tuesday, July 15

9–10:30 a.m. **“In Celebration of St. Petersburg
Society for Jewish Music:
100 Years Young”**

Izaly Zemtsovsky, *Visiting Professor, Music and Slavic
departments, Stanford University*

This lecture will honor Russia’s Society for Jewish Folk Music, cel-
ebrating its 100th anniversary, by showcasing a significant group of
Jewish musicians who were active under its auspices in the early
20th century. The work of these musical pioneers provided an
important foundation for the renaissance of Jewish music in North
America in the latter half of the 20th century. The courage, vision,
and talent of the “St. Petersburg School” echo in every composi-
tion written today. Its composers were truly among the fathers
of modern Jewish music. This lecture will be rich in music. The
unique collection of audio and video recordings will re-create the
sound universe of Russian Jewry for your enjoyment during this
presentation of Russian-Jewish composers, performers, writers,
artists, and musicologists.

10:30–10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m.–noon **“Habima Theater in Russia”**
Andrei Malaev-Babel, *Assistant Professor of Theatre,
Florida State University*

Few people outside the theater-history world realize that the
National Theatre of Israel, the Tel-Aviv Habima, was born in
Moscow at the height of the Russian Revolution. Ironically, Stalin
himself signed the 1920 decree establishing Habima as an institu-
tion. Just two years earlier, a group of amateur Jewish actors,
headed by Nahum Zemach, knocked on the door of the Moscow
Art Theater’s legendary founder, Konstantin Stanislavsky.
Stanislavsky turned the Habima over to his most gifted follower,
Russian-Armenian director Yevgeny Vakhtangov, who trained the
Habima actors and in 1921 staged them in *The Dybbuk*, arguably
one of the most significant productions 20th century. The mysti-
cal *Dybbuk* defined Habima for years to come and allowed the
young Jewish theater to take wing. The actors embarked on a
world tour in 1926 that led them to Palestine, where they even-
tually settled. This lecture will concentrate on Habima’s origin; its
relationship with the Revolution, the Soviet regime, the Moscow
Art Theater, and director Vakhtangov; and the defining role of
The Dybbuk in Habima’s history.

noon–1:30 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:30–3:30 p.m.

“Ale Brider: Yiddish Songs of Eastern Europe and America”

Lil Rev, *Folksinger, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Come along on a fascinating journey through songs, history, lore, and stories, as music historian and folk singer Lil Rev demystifies Old World music, highlighting klezmer, Hasidic and Yiddish folk developments. Expect to laugh, learn, and sing along with Rev, who will use live performances, recordings, and old sheet music in this lecture.

4–5 p.m.

If you are interested in continuing the conversation focusing on all that is Yiddish, please join us for more lively discussion. Location to be announced.

7 p.m.

Music on the Terrace

A night of klezmer music by Madison’s own Yid Vicious. The music, the Terrace, the scenery, who could ask for anything more?

Wednesday, July 16

9–10:30 a.m.

“The Jews of Russia”

Judith Kornblatt, *Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature, UW Department of Slavic Languages and Literature*

Many American Jews know of Russia as the land from which their grandparents fled at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. The history of the Jews in Russia, however, is much older and more complicated than family stories of pogroms and impoverished *shtetls* would suggest. This lecture will survey the history of the Jews in Russia, up to and including the tumultuous changes wrought by the revolution and wars of the first two decades of the 20th century. The latter will be seen in part through the eyes of Isaac Babel, the grandfather of Andrei Malaev-Babel, the actor and director who will present on the previous day of the Institute.

10:30–10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.–noon

“Exporting Yiddish Socialism: American Jews and the Russian Revolutionary Movement”

Tony Michels, *Mosse Professor of Jewish History, UW Department of History*

Immigrant Jews both fashioned a new culture in the United States and exported that culture back to Eastern Europe. This lecture will address how immigrants shipped Yiddish-language publications to the Russian Empire to help build the Jewish labor movement there. It will discuss how these Yiddish publications were smuggled into and disseminated throughout Russia’s Pale of Settlement. Through such contacts, immigrant Jews established long-standing ties between political activists in the U.S. and Eastern Europe that would continue into the middle of the 20th century.

noon–1:30 p.m.

Lunch on your own

2–5 p.m.

Tours of the Wisconsin State Historical Society

Evening

An Evening at the Concert on the Square

Enjoy the historic Wisconsin State Capitol as you listen to a concert of pop music by the Madison Chamber Orchestra.

Thursday, July 17

9–10:30 a.m.

“The Past as Future? Images — and Resurgence — of a Lost World of Jewish Learning”

Daniel Pekarsky, *Director, Joint Program in Education and Jewish Studies, UW Department of Educational Policy Studies*

In this session we will carefully examine an inspiring, but now largely lost, universe of Jewish learning that was embodied in eastern European Jewish culture, paying careful attention to the role that learning played in this culture and the distinctive institutions in which this learning unfolded. We will consider what this world of learning can teach us that could inform Jewish and general education today, and we will also look at phenomena that may presage the renaissance of this kind of learning in contemporary Jewish culture.

10:30–10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.–noon

“You Say Kugel & I Say Keegel: Litvaks vs. Galitsianers”

Allan Nadler, *Professor of Religion, Director, Jewish Studies Program, Drew University*

This lecture deals with the religious and cultural origins and the major features of the great divide that separated the Jews of northeastern Europe (Lithuania and Belarus) from their brethren to the south, or Poland and Ukraine. While the Hasidic movement spread like wildfire across Poland and Ukraine in the late 18th century, it met fierce resistance among the leading Lithuanian rabbis, whose followers became known as the Mitnagdim. The Hasidic/Mitnagdic divide served to deepen already existing religious and cultural differences between their respective Lithuanian and Polish constituencies. Since then, and until both Jewries were destroyed in the Holocaust, Litvaks and Galitsianers have been in fierce, though mostly good-natured, competition over issues as sublime as the nature of God and the ideal human encounter with Him, to the nature of *kreplach* and the ideal human encounter with *gefilteh fish*.

noon–2 p.m.

Farewell Lunch (no charge) University Club

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION



Fees

The fee for the Greenfield Summer Institute is \$125. This covers classes and selected meals.

Optional Free Events

- A variety of afternoon lectures
- An evening of klezmer music with Yid Vicious on the Union Terrace
- Concert on the Square
- A tour of UW's Hillel Foundation

Parking

Parking is available close to the State Historical Society building and will cost \$8/day for the duration of the Institute. Application forms will be sent to you upon request.

Lodging

The Institute has reserved rooms at several nearby hotels/motels. Information will be sent in the registration packet.

Information

For more information about Madison, please contact:
The Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau
615 East Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: 1-800-373-6376
Fax: 608/258-4950
E-mail: gmcvb@visitmadison.com

The Greenfield Summer Institute, **The World of European Jewry**, is co-sponsored by the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. It is funded through the generosity of Larry and Roslyn Greenfield and the Ettinger Family Foundation. For more information, contact the Center at 608/265-4763, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (CST).

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

JULY 13-17, 2008

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone and E-mail _____

- Please register me for the Greenfield Summer Institute, \$125.
- I will be attending the opening dinner at the University Club (no charge)
- I need information on a parking permit (information sent separately; \$8/day)
- I would be interested in a tour of UW's Hillel Foundation (no charge)
- I will be attending the farewell luncheon at the University Club (no charge)
- Enclosed is my check, made payable to UW-Madison/CJS

Return before June 15 to:

The George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

308 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1319
Telephone: 608/265-4763
Fax: 608/265-8110

Once your registration has been received, information about the lectures, housing, specific events and parking will be sent to you in a month's time.