

# REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

## Fees

The fee for the Greenfield Summer Institute is \$150. This covers classes and selected refreshments. Registration forms received after June 10 will be subject to a \$25 late fee.

## Optional Free Events

- Concerts on the Square
- Selected KlezKamp concerts and activities

## Parking

Underground parking is available in Grainger Hall and will cost \$10/day for the duration of the Institute. Application forms will be sent in your registration packet.

## Lodging

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

## Information

For more information about Madison, please contact:  
The Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Phone: 1-800-373-6376  
E-mail: [info@visitmadison.com](mailto:info@visitmadison.com)  
[www.visitmadison.com](http://www.visitmadison.com)



The Greenfield Summer Institute is sponsored by the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies through the generosity of Larry and Roslyn Greenfield.

For more information, please contact the Center at 608-265-4763.

## REGISTRATION FORM

**JULY 10-14, 2011**

To guarantee your space at the 2011 Greenfield Summer Institute, please return this form with a check for \$150 (**\$175 after June 10**) made payable to UW-Madison/CJS.

Check here if you plan to attend the opening dinner at the Fluno Center (Reservation required, no extra charge)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

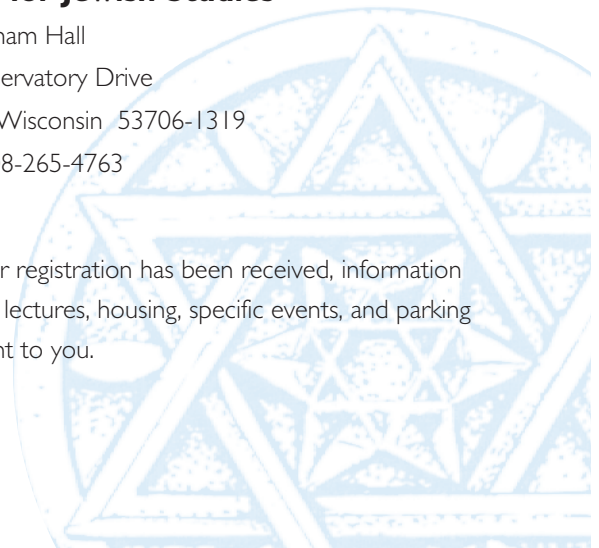
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Return before June 10 to:**

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

108 Ingraham Hall  
1155 Observatory Drive  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1319  
Phone: 608-265-4763

Once your registration has been received, information about the lectures, housing, specific events, and parking will be sent to you.



MOSSE/WEINSTEIN



CENTER FOR  
JEWISH STUDIES

108 Ingraham Hall  
1155 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706



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## TWELFTH ANNUAL GREENFIELD SUMMER INSTITUTE

Yiddish in the Twenty-first Century

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

## TWELFTH ANNUAL GREENFIELD SUMMER INSTITUTE

# Yiddish in the Twenty-first Century

JULY 10–14, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

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 Twelfth Annual Greenfield Summer Institute, *Yiddish in the Twenty-first Century*.

This summer's Institute will examine the past, present, and future of Yiddish as a language and a culture through a series of lectures by leading scholars in the field of Yiddish studies. Our speakers will cover a range of topics, such as the challenge of raising Yiddish-speaking children today, the status of Yiddish in Israel, and Yiddish theatre. The week of learning also includes dinners and entertainment, and this year, for the first time, will run concurrently with the Madison KlezKamp. Greenfield participants will be invited to attend a number of evening KlezKamp concerts and events. A variety of other afternoon and evening programs will evoke a powerful intellectual experience amid the sights and sounds that make Madison in the summer a visitor's paradise.

Space is limited, so please register early. Registration deadline: June 10, 2011.

# THE PROGRAM

## Sunday, July 10

**5–6 p.m. Check in and pick up information packets**  
Fluno Center

**6–8 p.m. Opening Dinner (no charge)**  
Fluno Center

Welcome and opening remarks by Pamela Potter,  
director of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies.

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**All lectures will be held at Grainger Hall,  
975 University Avenue, unless otherwise noted.**

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## Monday, July 11

### The Invention and Reinvention of Yiddish

**9 a.m. “The Meaning of Yiddish, Past and Present”**

**Jeffrey Shandler**, *Rutgers University*

Over the course of the past century, Yiddish has experienced drastic changes, both in how it is used and in the meaning people invest in the language. This lecture explores how Yiddish has weathered great upheavals and found new places in the lives of people around the world.

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. “Today’s Yiddish Literature,  
from Haredi to Godless”**

**Zackary Sholem Berger**, *Publisher, Yiddish House LLC*

This talk will present a brief overview of the fascinating complexities and frustrating weaknesses of today’s Yiddish literature, while trying to answer a few deceptively simple questions: Who reads Yiddish? Who writes Yiddish? And what, if anything, is really worth reading in Yiddish today? For that matter, what does “worth reading in Yiddish” even mean?

**Noon Lunch on your own**

**1:30 p.m. “Frozen Folk Songs: The Forgotten Yiddish  
Musical Renaissance, and What it Tells Us  
about the Yiddish Musical Future”**

**James Loeffler**, *University of Virginia*

One hundred years ago, a group of young Jewish musicians in Tsarist Russia set out to launch an artistic renaissance in the world of Yiddish music. Trained in Russia’s great conservatories as composers, they turned themselves into folklorists to recover the vanishing sounds of the *shtetl*. Their goal was to build a modern Jewish classical music out of klezmer melodies, Yiddish folk songs, and other Yiddish folk traditions. In this talk,

Professor Loeffler will retell the history of this forgotten artistic movement. We will hear music from this Yiddish musical renaissance and discuss its implications for understanding the future of Yiddish music in the twenty-first century.

## Tuesday, July 12

### Geographies of Yiddish

**9 a.m. “The Capital of ‘Yiddishland?’”**

**Kalman Weiser**, *York University*

Litvaks, Galitsianer, Poylishe, Rusishe, Rumenishe: Each “tribe” of Yiddish-speaking Jews had its own reputation reflected in Yiddish folklore and sayings, culinary habits, and, increasingly by the twentieth century, literature, movies, popular music, and even academic research. For the champions of Yiddish culture in Poland in the 1920s and 1930s, the Yiddish language was an all-encompassing, global cultural system—one centered in Eastern Europe but possessing America as its largest “colony.” But where lay the capital of “Yiddishland?” For many, the title of “most Yiddish city” belonged to the relatively small and contested multiethnic city of Vilna, the capital of Litvak culture and home to the “best” Yiddish. For others, the much larger and more boisterous “Polish” Warsaw—the metropolis of the European Yiddish press and theatre—was the more fitting locale to be crowned the capital of Yiddish culture. Still others claimed this title for New York City, then home to the world’s largest Jewish community and a crossroads for Jews of all “tribes.” What lies behind these stereotypes, and what can we learn from them about modern and contemporary Yiddish cultures?

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. “Di Goldene Pave Redux?  
Yiddish in Israel Today”**

**Yael Chaver**, *University of California, Berkeley*

Yiddish is becoming trendy among parts of Israel’s population these days. What are the chances for a true revival? This talk will employ the complex history of Yiddish in pre-statehood Palestine and during Israel’s six decades of existence to consider the prospects for such a revival.

**Noon Lunch on your own**

**1:30 p.m. “The Lower East Side Meets Greenwich  
Village: Yiddish on the New York  
Intellectual Scene”**

**Tony Michels**, *University of Wisconsin–Madison*

Around the turn of the twentieth century, two distinct intellectual communities formed in nearby neighborhoods in lower Manhattan. On the Lower East Side, Russian-born Jewish intellectuals, utilizing the Yiddish language, emerged as leaders of the immigrant Jewish working class. In Greenwich Village, American-

born bohemians from respectable, affluent backgrounds created a radical subculture and discovered the Lower East Side Jews along the way. Interactions between members of both communities gave rise to a new, cosmopolitan intellectual scene in New York City in which Yiddish culture found a place.

## Wednesday, July 13

### Speaking “Jewish”

**9 a.m. “What is ‘Jewish’ Speech?”**

**Neil Jacobs**, *Ohio State University*

This talk focuses on various aspects of what it means to “speak like a Jew.” In the popular imagination “Jewish speech” has often been reduced—by both Jews and by non-Jews—to a few stereotypical features. Most frequently these were supposed “Yiddish” features—particular sounds, words, expletives, expressions, intonations, and syntax. The present lecture examines how linguists approach the topic of “Jewish speech”—what kinds of things they look at and why they do. We will listen to and discuss samples of Jewish entertainers, including Allan Sherman, Lenny Bruce, and Sarah Silverman. Such performances shed light on elements of continuity and change in what it means to “speak like a Jew.”

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. “Issues in Cultural Continuity:  
Yiddish in the Hasidic World Today”**

**Miriam Isaacs**, *University of Maryland*

This talk will provide an overview of the evolving role of Yiddish (and other languages) in Hasidic Jewish communities over the last few decades. Using Hasidic educational materials, we will examine how the media are used to foster communal ties across national boundaries. We will compare and contrast the world of Isaac’s *shtetl* grandparents with the world which the Hasidim today inhabit, and we will explore how Yiddish plays a part in both communities.

**Noon Lunch on your own**

**1:30 p.m. “Yiddish and Language Maintenance  
in the United States”**

**Mark Loudon**, *University of Wisconsin–Madison*

This presentation will explore how speakers of Yiddish have either maintained or moved away from active use of their heritage language against the backdrop of other non-English languages spoken in the United States. We will pay special attention to differences between those communities, such as the Hasidim, who typically maintain active use of Yiddish, versus other Jewish groups where that is less prevalent. We will also compare Hasidim with conservative Christian communities in North America, including the Amish and the Hutterites, who

also maintain German-derived languages long after immigration from Europe has ceased. Finally, we will consider the importance of explicit efforts (such as language classes) to maintain Yiddish and other non-English languages in the United States.

### Evening Concerts on the Square

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

## Thursday, July 14

### From Past to Future

**9 a.m. “Modern Yiddish Theatre, From the  
Nineteenth Century to the Twenty-first”**

**Joel Berkowitz**, *University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee*

The professional Yiddish theatre came of age in the late nineteenth century and blossomed into an exciting, dynamic, truly global phenomenon in the twentieth. While most of the leading Yiddish cultural centers were found in Eastern Europe and North America, Yiddish theatre thrived for a time from Buenos Aires to Tel Aviv, from Milwaukee to Johannesburg, and countless points between and beyond. Despite the marked decline in the vitality of the Yiddish stage in the second half of the twentieth century, its influence can still be felt today. This lecture will survey the development of the modern Yiddish stage and address its continued importance into the twenty-first century.

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. “Raising Kids in Yiddish: Personal  
Notes and Scholarly Perspectives”**

**Kenneth Moss**, *Johns Hopkins University*

What are the ins and outs of raising children in Yiddish today? Drawing on the speaker’s personal experience and research about Yiddish-language education, this lecture will illuminate the daily challenges, rewards, and complexities of rearing children in Yiddish outside the ultra-Orthodox world.

**Noon Roundtable discussion and concluding remarks**

### The Greenfield Institute and KlezKamp

Greenfield participants are invited to attend a number of KlezKamp concerts and events. More detailed information about KlezKamp offerings will be sent in your registration packet.