

GEORGE L. MOSSE/LAURENCE A. WEINSTEIN

# CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL

Greenfield Summer Institute

# Jewish Memory and Nostalgia

July 8–12, 2012

University of Wisconsin–Madison



CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Greenfield Summer Institute

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

The Mosse/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 Thirteenth Annual Greenfield Summer Institute: **Jewish Memory and Nostalgia.**

Space is limited, so please register early.  
Registration deadline: June 8, 2012.

Online registration:

<http://www.jewishstudies.wisc.edu/greenfield>



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.

## SUNDAY, JULY 8

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**5:00–6:00 p.m.**

Check in and pick up information packets  
Fluno Center (601 University Avenue)

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**6:00–8:00 p.m.**

Opening Dinner  
Fluno Center

Welcome and opening remarks by Michael Bernard-Donals,  
director of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

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

## MONDAY, JULY 9

### **Introduction to Memory/ Ancient Manifestations of Memory**

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**9:00 a.m.**

#### **Memory and the Brain**

Bradley R. Postle  
University of Wisconsin–Madison

How does memory work? Why is it that there are some events from my youth that I can remember vividly, and others about which I have absolutely no recollection? And how “trustworthy” are those “old memories?” These and related questions will be considered.

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**10:30 a.m.**

#### **Break**

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**10:45 a.m.**

#### **Nostalgia and Hope: David in the Latter Prophets**

Ronald L. Troxel  
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Among the Latter Prophets, David is cited as Israel’s high-water mark, as a template for hopes of a future ruler, and,

somewhat surprisingly, as a figure who is best kept in the past. This varied use of David discloses an ambivalence that illuminates different ways nostalgia and memory function.

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**Noon**

**Lunch (on your own)**

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**1:30 p.m.**

**Biblical Memory in Modern Israel**

Rachel Havrelock

University of Illinois at Chicago

Israeli national-secular culture depended upon biblical precedent as it designed its collective identity, its calendar, and its system of education. As proof of the Bible's veracity, archaeology also proved vital to political leaders and citizens alike. The Bible and its material remains were central concerns of Israeli leaders like David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Dayan. However, as the Israeli collective identity has begun to fragment, multiple competing interpretations of the Bible have come to the fore.

Emerging religious movements, settlers, post-nationalists, and leftists have all offered other takes on the Bible and on the state. Rather than receding in importance, the ancient past has remained central in a climate of dispute. In this session, we will consider what sorts of biblical memories have been revived in Israel, as well as positions about the Bible that various groups assume in Israel today.

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**3:00 p.m.**

**Break**

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**3:30 p.m.**

**Film: *Ladies' Tailor* (92 min.)**

**TUESDAY, JULY 10**

**Memory and Modern Israel**

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**9:00 a.m.**

**Why a Ladies' Tailor?**

Judith Deutsch Kornblatt

University of Wisconsin–Madison

This talk will examine a late Soviet film by the now-Israeli director Leonid Gorovets. *Ladies' Tailor* (1990) takes place literally on the eve of the Nazi roundup of Jews in Kiev that culminated in the massacre at Babi Yar. The main character, a ladies' tailor by trade, forces the viewer to look back nostalgically to the pre-Soviet Russian-Jewish past, but also foreshadows as if in pre-memory the later Soviet/post-Soviet emigration from Russia to Israel.

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**10:30 a.m.**

**Break**

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**10:45 a.m.**

**Mizrahi Identity in Israel:**

**Memory, Nostalgia, Invented Identity**

Phillip Hollander

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Most learned Americans will tell you that Jews are divided into two ethnic subgroups—Ashkenazim and Sephardim. In Israel, however, one speaks of Ashkenazim and Mizrahim. Who are the Mizrahim? They are Jews from Arab lands from Morocco to Iraq, as well as Jews from Iran, India, and other Asian locales. Following Israel's establishment, hundreds of thousands of these Jews came to Israel and brought a panoply of different cultures with them. The demands of state creation pushed them to abandon these diverse traditions and adopt Israel's predominately Ashkenazic culture as their own. Yet the cultures these immigrants left behind lingered in their memories, and many Mizrahi Jews yearned for a lost homeland and the unique cultural life that Jews maintained there. Their children and their children's children, however, lacked intimate ties to the specific culture of their ancestors and

the linguistic knowledge to reconnect with it. Nonetheless, dissatisfied with a predominately Ashkenazic Israel culture that failed to reflect their collective histories, these second and third generation immigrants came together to create Mizrahi culture, a Hebrew language counterculture merging various Eastern cultures together to create a less Eurocentric form of Israeliness. This talk will focus on the role played by memory, nostalgia, and invented identity in the manifestation of Mizrahi identity in Israel.

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**Noon**

**Lunch (on your own)**

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**1:30 p.m.**

**Growing Up with Israel**

Gilead Morahg

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Does history shape personality? Does memory reconstitute personal history? Is there value in nostalgia? Such questions and others will be engaged in a recollection of and a reflection about the effects of the formative years of the new state of Israel on a young Israeli whose personality was formed during those years.

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**3:00 p.m.**

**Break**

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**3:30 p.m.**

**Film: *Four Seasons Lodge* (97 min.)**

Haunted by the past but driven by an unquenchable passion for living, an aging group of Holocaust survivors gathers each summer at an idyllic hideaway in the Catskills, where they savor tightly bonded friendships, find new love, and celebrate their survival. *Four Seasons Lodge* is an inspiring and surprisingly funny documentary that captures what may be the final season for a remarkable tribe of survivors who have found that dancing, laughter, and late-night revelry may be the best revenge. **Kelly Sheehan**, Executive Producer, will introduce the film and moderate a post-film discussion.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 11**

**American Jews, Memory, and Nostalgia**

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**9:00 a.m.**

**The Old Neighborhood, Upward Mobility, and American Judaism**

Jonathan Pollack

Madison Area Technical College, University of Wisconsin–Madison

This talk will examine how the American middle-class emphasis on suburban living prompted American Jews to move out of first-settlement immigrant neighborhoods and into the suburbs, even altering the character of Judaism in the drive to do so. It will describe how stories of “white flight” have been papered over, and how contemporary Jewish communities might reclaim their earlier history.

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**10:30 a.m.**

**Break**

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**10:45 a.m.**

**Panel: Growing Up in Jewish Brooklyn**

Ave Butensky '55, moderator

Past president, Viacom's Program Group, Television Bureau of Advertising, and the International Radio & Television Society

Brooklyn, New York was the ultimate mosaic for the many Jewish immigrants fleeing from Eastern Europe in the early 1900s. It was a sharp clash of cultures where European Jewish customs faded away, to be replaced by an Americanization of thought and custom. Brooklyn, with origins going back to the earliest Dutch Settlers, eventually became the home of the Charlotte Russe, The Trolley, Stick Ball, Luna Park, Ebbetts Field, Ocean Parkway and a language easily traceable to the bowels of Flatbush. Growing up in this culture clash, with a large Jewish presence, one would find a kaleidoscope that blended the times of war, the Depression, the coming of age, and an evolving Jewish culture. It was an exciting vibrant time of

growing up in a lifestyle that has since evaporated. This session will revisit the many moving parts of the Brooklyn Jewish connection of the twentieth century.

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**Noon**

**Lunch (on your own)**

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**1:30 p.m.**

**The Good Old Days of Poverty**

Suzanne Wasserman

Gotham Center for New York City History/  
CUNY Graduate Center

The “good old days of poverty” is a line from the American-Jewish writer Anzia Yezierska’s 1919 award-winning short story, “The Fat of the Land.” The phrase became the title of Wasserman’s 1990 dissertation, which examined the Jewish and Italian population that remained out of necessity and desire on New York’s Lower East Side between the World Wars—a period in which Jewish nostalgia first blossomed on the Lower East Side. This presentation will examine the interwar period and feature two of Wasserman’s short films that deal with issues of Jewish memory and nostalgia: *Brooklyn: Among the Ruins* (2005) and *Sweatshop Cinderella* (2010).

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**4:00 p.m.**

**Yid Vicious concert**

Memorial Union Terrace

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**5:30 p.m.**

**Dinner (no charge)**

UW Hillel (611 Langdon Street)

**THURSDAY, JULY 12**

**Holocaust Memory in the United States**

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**9:00 a.m.**

**Memory and Holocaust Education**

Aleisa Fishman

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Since opening in 1993, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has been a leader, bringing together Holocaust education and memorialization. This lecture discusses the delicate balance of remembering the past and educating for the future.

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**10:30 a.m.**

**Break**

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**10:45 a.m.**

**Closing Roundtable Discussion**

Simone Schweber and Michael Bernard-Donals

University of Wisconsin–Madison

This concluding session will take up the questions touched upon in this week's lectures, and begin to draw some tentative conclusions on the themes of memory and nostalgia, considering how they work in the creation of Jewish history, Jewish mythology, American Jewish life and culture, and even the very culture of the Greenfield Summer Institute. Professors Bernard-Donals and Schweber will briefly present their understanding of these and other issues, and lead a discussion among the institute's participants. Professors Bernard-Donals and Schweber, who both write about the role of Holocaust memory in shaping Jewish and Jewish-American culture, will briefly describe how their research touches upon the week's themes and close the institute in a memorable fashion.

## Registration and Payment Information

**Fee >>** The fee for the Greenfield Summer Institute is \$160. This covers classes and selected refreshments.

**Registration forms postmarked after June 8 will be subject to a \$25 late fee.**

**Registration Online >>** New this year, participants may register and pay online with a credit card at <http://www.jewishstudies.wisc.edu/greenfield>.

**Registration By Mail >>** You may still register by mail using the form on the next page and mailing it to the address below with a check for \$160 (**\$185 after June 8**). Please make checks payable to UW–Madison/CJS.

**Please be sure to register only once!**

Mailing address:

Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

108 Ingraham Hall

1155 Observatory Drive

Madison, WI 53706-1319

Confirmation of your registration, as well as information about the lectures, housing, specific events, and parking will be sent to you after your registration has been processed. This information will be sent via e-mail if you register online, and via US Mail if you register via mail.

**Parking >>** Underground parking is available in Grainger Hall. A parking application form will be sent after your registration has been received.

**Lodging >>** The Institute has blocked rooms at several nearby hotels. A list of hotels, with information about discount rates, will be sent after your registration has been received.

## Registration Form (see registration information at left)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

This is my first time attending the Greenfield Summer Institute

I'm a returning participant

I plan to attend the opening dinner at the Fluno Center  
(Reservation required, no extra charge)

How would like your name(s) and hometown to appear on your nametag?

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Please note any special assistance you require due to dietary restrictions, visual and/or hearing impairments, or mobility limitations:

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### For more information:

Phone: 608-890-3572

E-mail: [greenfield@cjs.wisc.edu](mailto:greenfield@cjs.wisc.edu)

<http://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/greenfield>



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