



CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

University of Connecticut, Stamford

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, *Director*

One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901-2315
203-251-9525 • cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu

FALL 2015

The 2015 Louis J. Kuriansky ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

FROM ENMITY TO FRIENDSHIP:
*The Remarkable Transformation
of Christian-Jewish Relations
Since Vatican II (1965)*

7:15 PM

FROM THE CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE:
DR. JAMES BERNAUER

8:05 PM

FROM THE JEWISH PERSPECTIVE:
DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL

9:00 PM
Q&A

REV. DR. BLAINE EDELE, *Moderator*

THE FALL 2015 LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Thursdays 12 noon—1:30 PM
Oct. 15, 22, 29, & Nov. 5

From Our Director's Desk:



The 1965 Vatican II Proclamation is considered a theological landmark, signifying a dramatic turn in the Catholic Church's conception of Jews and of the role of Judaism in history. It is thus with great pride that our Center, committed for decades to interfaith studies and to providing a forum for public discourse, will offer a unique conference with outstanding scholars this fall to our students and community. Please join us on November 10, 2015, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Vatican II (also known as "*Nostra Aetate*," in our time) and learn of its great significance to the Jewish community worldwide, the Catholic faith, other Christian denominations, the world of ideas at large, as well as to the universal pursuit of religious tolerance and understanding in our own times.

MOMENTS FROM OUR 2014 KURIANSKY CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST TERRORISM



ABOVE: Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy (far right), Director of the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford, welcomes the conference speakers and attendees, with (left to right) Political Science Professor Dr. Jeremy Pressman, University of Connecticut, moderator; Dr. Michael Rubin, American Enterprise Institute, guest speaker; and Dr. Bruce Hoffman, Georgetown University, keynote speaker.

TOP LEFT: Conference speakers are joined by Kuriansky Trustees and Dr. Aschkenasy. **LEFT TO RIGHT:** Mr. Edward Backer, Kuriansky Trustee; Ms. Sary Backer, Kuriansky Trustee; Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Center Director; Dr. Michael Rubin, guest speaker; Dr. Bruce Hoffman, keynote speaker; and Dr. Jeremy Pressman, moderator.

BOTTOM LEFT: Ron Goldstein, a member of the Center's Advisory Committee, participates in the Q&A session following the lectures.





CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

University of Connecticut, Stamford

2015 LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 • 7:00-9:30PM • GenRe Auditorium, UConn-Stamford

From Enmity to Friendship: The Remarkable Transformation of Christian-Jewish Relations Since Vatican II (1965)

7:00 PM • Welcome and Introductions:

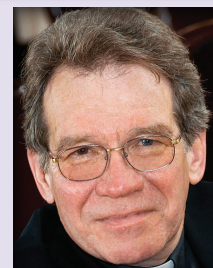
Dr. Daniel Weiner, Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Professor of Geography, UConn

Dr. Sharon White, Campus Director, UConn-Stamford

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Center Director
and Professor of Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, UConn

7:15 — 8:05 PM

From the Catholic Perspective **DR. JAMES BERNAUER**



8:10 — 9:00 PM

From the Jewish Perspective **DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL**



9:00 — 9:30 PM

Q&A with MODERATOR:

Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele, Union Memorial Church

Dr. Susannah Heschel is the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College and the author of numerous books and articles, including *Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus* and *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany*, and the editor of *Insider/Outsider: American Jews and Multiculturalism*, as well as *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: Essays of Abraham Joshua Heschel*. A recipient of four honorary doctorates, she has held grants from the Carnegie Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and a fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. Currently on a Guggenheim fellowship, she is writing a book on the history of Jewish scholarship on Islam.

Dr. James Bernauer, S.J., a Jesuit priest, is the Kraft Family Professor of Philosophy at Boston College. He is also Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College. His most recent book, co-edited with Robert Maryks, is *"The Tragic Couple": Encounters Between Jews and Jesuits* (2014). He is the author of many publications, including "The Flawed Vision in Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah* and the Corrective Lens of Pierre Sauvage" in *Through a Lens Darkly: Films of Genocide, Ethnic Cleansing and Atrocities* (2013). His current research project is a study of Jesuits and Jews during the period of the Holocaust.

POST CONFERENCE PROGRAM—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015 *Lunch and Conversation: A Follow-up Dialogue on the Annual Conference*

A special free luncheon session for our students & local community

12:00 NOON — 1:30 PM IN THE MPR

Moderated by **Dr. Beth Ginsberg**, UConn-Stamford, with
Dr. June-Ann Greeley (Professor of Theology, Sacred Heart University) and
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman (Temple Beth El, Stamford)

Please register in advance by using the included registration card
or by contacting the Center at (203) 251-9525 or stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.



CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

University of Connecticut, Stamford

REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2015 LUNCH & LEARN

Thursdays: Oct. 15, 22, 29, & Nov. 5 • 12 noon–1:30 PM

Please make your check of **\$50 for the entire four-session series (including lunch)**
*payable to: Judaic Studies, UConn-Stamford, and mail to: Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies,
UConn-Stamford, One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901-2315.*

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS
LUNCH & LEARN *Only*
(\$50 per person)

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS
LUNCH & LEARN
AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
(\$50 per person)

ENCLOSED CHECK FOR \$

Please indicate your choice: ☐ Veggie Wrap ☐ Tuna on Rye ☐ Bagel with Lox and Cream Cheese

Dietary Laws observed.

Registration is for the entire series only! Please register by THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015.

Discounts for local students and educators and non-profit professionals, but advance registration is required.

For more information call our office at (203) 251-9525 or write to stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.

The Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference is FREE for our Lunch and Learn students, but advance registration is required.

REGISTRATION FOR 2015 LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, November 10 • 7:00—9:30PM

Please make your check *payable to: Judaic Studies, UConn-Stamford,*
and mail to: Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies,
UConn-Stamford, One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901-2315.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

NUMBER OF CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS
Suggested donation of \$10 per person

ENCLOSED CHECK FOR \$

To help us better plan the event, please respond by THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015.

Free admission for the UConn community, other local students and educators, and non-profit professionals, but advance registration is required.

For more information call our office at (203) 251-9525 or write to stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.



CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

University of Connecticut, Stamford

OUR FACULTY: CURRENT RESEARCH & TEACHING

Professor Nehama Aschkenasy

recently contributed two articles to the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin, de Gruyter) and is currently writing five more, in the categories of "literature" and "Judaism." Appearing soon: "Israeli Fiction and the National Identity," in Fred Greenspahn, ed., *New Scholarship on Israel* (New York University Press, 2015) and "Reversing the Aqeda: The Biblical and the Mystical in David Grossman's *To the End of the Land*," in Helen Leneman and Barry Walfish, eds., *The Bible Re-told in Jewish Art, Literature, Music, and Film* (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2015). Her award-winning book, *Eve's Journey: Feminine Images in Hebraic Literary Tradition*, was selected by University of Pennsylvania Press to be reprinted in hardcover and as eBook, in celebration of the Press' 125th Anniversary.



Professor Beth Ginsberg

pecializes in the intersection of race, ethnicity, religion and voting. She is particularly interested in the impact of race on turnout. She is currently working on a research project that is an empirical study of the electoral behavior of Latino voters throughout the 2000s. She teaches a wide range of courses in American politics, including a popular Religion and Politics course that helps students understand the impact religion and religious beliefs have on the US political system. Professor Ginsberg also serves as faculty advisor to the Political Affairs Club located on the Stamford campus. This fall she will serve as moderator for the Center's post-conference program, "Lunch and Conversation: A Follow-up Dialogue on the Annual Conference."



Professor Joel Blatt

continues to research and write a book on "The Assassination of Carlo and Nello Rosselli." He recently taught The Western Civilization survey course from the Renaissance and Reformation until the Present, the History of the Holocaust, Twentieth Century Europe, and a course on Italian Fascism and Italian Antifascism. This past spring he served as the faculty supervisor for the final phases of two Honor's Theses. He was also selected by the students to be the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award. During the current Fall semester, he is teaching the Western Civilization survey and a course on Personality and Power during the Twentieth Century.



Professor Fred Roden

has just completed co-editing *Uranism and Unisexuality*, an edition/translation of a groundbreaking 1896 work by Jewish sexologist Marc-Andre Raffalovich. It will be published in November 2015 by Palgrave Macmillan. He spent the summer finishing his book entitled *Recovering Jewishness: Modern Identities Reclaimed*, which will be published in 2016. This Fall he is teaching his popular seminar on spiritual autobiography, which will include a guest lecture by poet and Yeshiva University professor Joy Ladin, author of *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders*. This fall he received the Faculty Recognition Award for the UConn-Stamford campus.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ron Goldstein, an MBA from Wharton with a career in Finance, has audited several courses at UConn-Stamford since retiring, including many with Professors Aschkenasy and Blatt, as well as attended the Center's various outreach programs.

Cheryl May, an MBA in Finance, retired from a career in Insurance and has been a loyal student of the Center's Lunch and Learn and Annual Conference, while also serving in many volunteer capacities for the Center's various activities.

Marina Sapir, a native of Moscow, is a recipient of the Center's Certificate in Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies and a long-time volunteer. She was also presented with the Frances and Irving Seliger Memorial Award for her paper in the Holocaust course.

We are sad to inform you that **Mark Sternlicht**, who had recently rejoined our Community Advisory Committee along with his wife, **Harriet Sternlicht**, passed away as our newsletter was going to print. Mark was a pillar of the Stamford Jewish community for many years, serving on the Board of Trustees of Bi-Cultural Day School and as President of Congregation Agudath Shalom. Mark and Harriet spent many hours volunteering at Agudath Shalom and Bi-Cultural, and they were both on the Founding Board of the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford in 1980. May his memory be a blessing.



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THE FALL 2015 LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Thursdays / 12:00 Noon — 1:30 PM / In the MPR on the 1st floor at UConn-Stamford

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

THE NORMA & MILTON MANN MEMORIAL LECTURE



Counterhistory:
Anti-Semitism
in Contemporary
British Drama

Dr. Liora Brosh

*Professor of English
University of Connecticut, Stamford*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

THE HYACINTHE HOFFMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE



**From the Brink of
Christianity to the
Renewal of Judaism:**

Franz Rosenzweig and
the Reinvention of Jewish
Life and Thought in
Pre-War Germany

Dr. Paul Franks

*Professor of Philosophy
Yale University*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

THE BARBARA & JOSEPH FIELD LECTURE



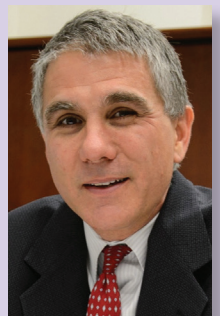
**Home and
Homelessness:**
Paradigms of the
Jewish Experience
in Literature

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

*Director, Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern
Studies, UConn-Stamford
Professor of Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies
University of Connecticut*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

THE NINA & NORMAN LOTSTEIN LECTURE



**Prayer for the
Government:**
Jews and Citizenship

Dr. Jeffrey Shoulson

*Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies
Director, Center for Judaic Studies & Contemporary Jewish Life
Professor of Literatures, Cultures & Languages and English
University of Connecticut*

For more information please contact us at (203) 251-9525 or stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu
Or visit our website at cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu



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 One University Place
 Stamford, CT 06901-2315

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Please open for registration forms!!

THE FALL 2015
LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
and
LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

At the University of Connecticut
 in Downtown Stamford
 Washington Blvd. & Broad St.

Parking is available in the UCONN garage
 on Washington Blvd.

The Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford,

now in its thirty-fifth year, offers credit courses within the academic curriculum in the Humanities as well as outreach programs for the community at large in all areas of Judaic culture, literature, and history, from antiquity to modern times, Israel, Middle Eastern literature and politics, and interfaith studies.

For over three decades, the Center has established a learning community around itself which gathers for intellectual discussions of scholarly and contemporary issues. The Center's outreach programs are attended by diverse groups from the local communities.

The Center has been recognized for its innovative programs in the areas of traditional academic education and particularly outreach projects. Since its inception, the Center has enjoyed broad community recognition and has been financially supported by individuals, foundations, corporate gifts, and matching grants.

THE CENTER IS A RECIPIENT AGENCY OF THE UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN.

CREDIT COURSES

The following credit courses will be open to community audits in the FALL 2015:

Politics, Society and Gender in Contemporary

Middle Eastern Writings, ENG 3318

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Thursdays, 2:35-5:15 PM

With a special guest lecture by Dr. Eric Goldman of Yeshiva University, an expert on Jewish film and recent co-host of the series *The Jewish Experience on Film* on the Turner Classic Movies network.

October 29th at 2:35 PM at UConn-Stamford

Religion & Politics, POLS 2998W

Dr. Beth Ginsberg, Wednesdays, 2:35-5:15 PM

Spiritual Autobiography, ENGS 4600W

Dr. Fred Roden, Tuesdays, 5:30-8:10 PM

With a special guest lecture by Dr. Joy Ladin of Yeshiva University, author of *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders*.

October 20th at 7:00 PM in the MPR at UConn-Stamford

Co-sponsored by the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies; the Center for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and the Program Committee.

Classes begin **August 31st**. Seats are limited.

Senior audits should register through the Office of the Registrar, (203) 251-8555, beginning on **September 14th**.

For more information on our credit courses or Certificate program, please contact the Center at **stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu** or **(203) 251-9525**.

INTERFAITH COMMITTEE *In Formation*

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy
 Sary Backer
 Beth Boyer
 Dr. Joel Blatt
 Sharon Brozozowski
 Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni
 Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele
 Dr. Beth Ginsberg
 Debra Goldberg
 Ronald Goldstein
 Dr. June-Ann Greeley

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman
 Rev. Kate Heichler
 Naomi Hessel
 Rebecca Isenstein
 Rev. Dr. Tommie Jackson
 Robert Kahn
 Suzanne Kahn
 Rita Koenig
 Ruth Kwartin
 Lorraine Kweskin
 Cantor Marcia Lane

Nina Lotstein
 Cheryl May
 Erin O'Malley
 Dr. Fred Roden
 Farida Rokadia
 Charles Sahlia, Esq.
 Edith Samers
 Marina Sapir
 Mark Sternlicht
 Dr. Sharon White
 Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nina Lotstein, *Chair*
 Edward Backer**
 Sary Backer
 Beth Boyer
 Naomi Hessel
 Robert Kahn
 Suzanne Kahn
 Ruth Kwartin**
 Lorraine Kweskin
 Cheryl May
 Edith Samers

Marina Sapir
 Harriet Sternlicht

Dr. Sharon White
Campus Director

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy
Center Director

Rebecca Isenstein
Program Manager

** Past Chair