



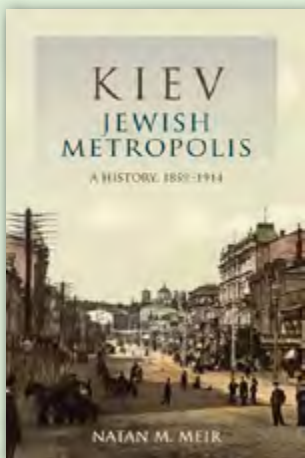
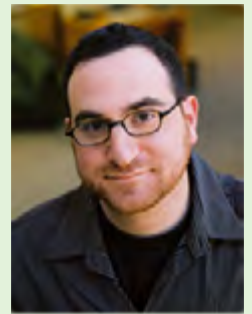
## PSU HIRES PROFESSOR OF CLASSICAL RABBINIC JUDAISM

PSU Judaic Studies has hired its third tenure-line professor. Loren Spielman, who received his Ph.D. from the Jewish Theology Seminary of America this year, is professor of Classical Rabbinic Judaism and Schusterman Teaching Fellow.

The opportunity to create this new position despite the tough university budget situation came when PSU was awarded a Jewish Studies Expansion Project grant from the Foundation for Jewish Culture. The other universities receiving JSEP grants this year are Oberlin, the University of California at Santa Cruz, the University of Arizona, Colgate, and Syracuse. The JSEP grant is funded by the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Foundation, which sup-

ports half the cost of the position for two years. PSU is the first recipient university to take this grant and turn it into a permanent professorship.

Loren wrote his dissertation under the guidance of historian Seth Schwartz and Talmudist Richard Kalmin. The dissertation, funded in part by a Beverly and Arnold C. Greenberg Fellowship from the Foundation for Jewish Culture, explores Jewish attitudes towards Roman spectacle entertainment from the reign of Herod the Great (37 BCE) to the Muslim Conquest of Palestine (640 CE). (Continued on page 8...)



“WALKING AROUND KIEV TODAY, and seeing how many of its Jewish buildings have survived, one might think that it would be relatively easy to reconstruct the history of the Jewish community here. But revolutions, wars, Stalinism, and genocide have taken their toll . . . How does one give honor to what once was, to the people who inhabited these spaces and created something meaningful that is worth reconstructing, to the extent possible, and understanding, without sentimentalizing, without claiming that this picture is a complete one, that we can ever truly know this time and place, its smells, tastes, joys, sorrows?”

From Natan Meir’s new book, *Kiev: Jewish Metropolis, A History, 1859-1914* (Indiana University Press, 2010). [More faculty news on page 7.](#)

### INSIDE:

From the Director	p. 2
David Ehrlich and Dara Horn	p. 2
Stampfer Professorship	p. 3
Upcoming Events	p. 5
Meet Our Students	p. 6
A Letter From Israel	p. 8

AND MORE

# PSU HOSTS ISRAELI WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Author, activist, and café owner David Ehrlich spent two months in fall 2009 as the Schusterman Visiting Israeli Artist-in-Residence at PSU. Ehrlich, the author of two collections of short stories and the owner of Jerusalem's premiere literary café, T'mol Shilshom, taught a course on Israeli literature and gave a series of talks and lectures throughout the city and the region, speaking about topics such as being a gay writer in Israel and running a café during terror attacks. "I really fell in love with Portland," he says. "It was a wonderful experience." Judging from student comments—"having David Ehrlich here was an amazing opportunity," "extraordinarily valuable," "a treat," "it was a pleasure to be challenged by him to think differently," "This class made me want to travel to Israel"—the feeling is mutual! The residency was made possible by the Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Foundation, and supported by the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at PSU.



David with students from his Israeli literature course.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you've seen our previous newsletters, you'll notice a change in the banner on page one. Rather than our usual modern-era triptych of Ellis Island, Berlin's Neue Synagoge, and Tel Aviv's Azrieli Center, we've gone ancient for this issue, reflecting our excitement in welcoming our new colleague, Loren Spielman. Our program will continue to explore the Jewish encounter with modernity, but with the depth and rich connections to pre-modern Jewish history and culture that Loren now provides.

During the last academic year, we taught nearly 450 students, not including our valued community auditors; adding Loren as our third tenure-line professor will increase that number further still. What I am most focused on now is completing fundraising for our fourth position, the Rabbi Joshua Stampfer Professorship in Israel Studies. With four core professors in the program we will not only be able to teach more students in more subject areas, we will also be able to offer a national-quality undergraduate Major Degree in Judaic Studies. Please consider a gift to the Israel Studies fund, knowing that it will be matched, thanks to a generous challenge grant from the Harold Schnitzer family, and that it will not only create the Northwest's only permanent professorship in Israel Studies, but also trigger the launch of a new undergraduate major degree.

You can read about Loren, our wonderful students, faculty news, and recent and forthcoming programming in the pages that follow. Portland has certainly become a center for Judaic Studies!

With best wishes for a happy New Year,

Michael Weingrad



Megan Dyer and Michael Weingrad

## COGAN SCHOLARS CELEBRATE WITH AUTHOR DARA HORN

PSU undergraduate Megan Dyer and graduate student in history Doug Kenck-Crispin were the 2009-2010 recipients of the Sara Glasgow Cogan scholarship. Doug worked with the Oregon Area Jewish Committee to develop teachers' resources on Judaism and Israel for use in Portland area schools, while Megan interned at the Oregon Jewish Museum, helping prepare an upcoming exhibit about Jewish professionals working in Oregon. "Interning at OJM has given me valuable and fascinating insights into Oregon's history, Oregon's Jewish history, and how we have come to understand what Oregon is today," says Megan. "As a first generation college student from Medford, a smaller, rather non-Jewish town in Southern Oregon, I value the insight this internship has given me into my own academic endeavors and how I would like to use my experience and knowledge, both professionally and personally."



Dara Horn at the MJCC

On April 8, Megan and Doug described their work and thanked the many donors who have helped to fund this unique scholarship program, prior to a talk by award-winning novelist Dara Horn. Horn, listed on the "Forward 50" as one of America's most prominent young writers, discussed her third book, *All Other Nights*, a Civil War thriller and profound meditation on the tension between American and Jewish identities. The event was sponsored by Cedar Sinai Park, Congregation Neveh Shalom, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, PDX Hillel, PSU JSU, MJCC, NCJW-Portland Section, OAJC, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, and OJM.

## HELP MAKE ISRAEL STUDIES A PERMANENT PART OF OREGON'S LARGEST UNIVERSITY

What happens when the media want an expert on Israel? Where do students find a mentor who is also a scholar? How does a student, a community leader, or a political figure find accurate, dispassionate information about Middle East issues? With an endowed professorship in Israel Studies, the wisdom would come from the PSU campus and the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies.

We have the intellectual resources to support this professorship. Now we must gather the financial resources from donors who appreciate the value of scholarship and nationally renowned academic programs.

Harold and Arlene Schnitzer have just offered a \$150,000, one-for-one, matching challenge grant toward creating the Rabbi Stampfer Professor of Israel Studies. Our goal is within sight! To make a transformational gift, please contact Jenn Director Knudsen at 503-725-3976 or [jenn.d.knudsen@pdx.edu](mailto:jenn.d.knudsen@pdx.edu).

The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies thanks the following individuals and families who have donated to the creation of the Rabbi Stampfer Professor of Israel Studies, helping to raise \$445,000 toward the program's \$750,000 goal.



*Rabbi Stampfer*

### TODAH RABAH TO OUR RABBI STAMPFER PROFESSOR OF ISRAEL STUDIES DONORS

#### **\$50,000 - \$100,000**

Howard Sohn and the FOHS Foundation  
Jared and Cindi Gellert  
Jerry and Helen Stern and Helen R. Stern Properties

#### **\$20,000 - \$50,000**

Judith and Garry Kahn  
Robert and Rita Philip  
Lois Schnitzer

#### **\$10,000 - \$20,000**

Jewish Community Foundation  
Jerome Katzin  
Jim and Lora Meyer  
Robert and Mara Shlachter  
Rabbi Joshua and Goldie Stampfer

#### **\$5000 - \$10,000**

City Center Parking Fund  
Marjorie and Jack Saltzman Family Fund  
Robert and Rita Philip Family Fund  
Shlachter Family Fund  
The Oregon Community Foundation  
Jerry and Amy Brem  
Prof. Nathan Cogan  
Dr. Anthony and Priscilla Kostiner  
Julie Leuvrey

Dr. Victor and Toinette Menashe  
Larry and Pam Levy  
Barbara and Randy Lovre  
Hon. Dan Saltzman  
Marjorie Saltzman  
James and Susan Winkler  
Merritt Yoelin and Roberta Fields  
Audrey and Morton Zalutsky

#### **\$1000 - \$5000**

Cogan Family Fund  
Givin/Back Fund  
Hannah and Norbert Blechner Memorial Fund, Inc.  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
Stuart & Nikki Director Family Fund  
Dr. Bruce and Jennifer Birk  
Henry and Gerel Blauer  
Monte Bricker and Dr. Cathryn Majeran  
Donna and Richard Brownstein  
Milton and Cissi (z"l) Carl  
Lawrence Cohen  
Stuart and Nikki Director  
Elaine Friedman and Prof. Robert Liebman  
Gershman and Pauline Goldstein  
Rosalie Goodman  
Hans and Marilyn Grunbaum

Helen Herner  
Gene and Gerry Hupp  
Marjorie and Jathan Janove  
Solomon and Rosalyn Menashe  
Jeffrey Mutnick  
Gloria and Michael Olds  
Aaron Pearlman and Sacha Reich  
Jane and Harold Pollin  
Steve Rosenberg and Ellen Lippman  
James and Barbara Sevde  
Arden and Lois Shenker  
Freda Silberman  
Ellyn Sternfield and Alan Blank  
Joseph Thaler and Rabbi Ariel Stone  
Joan and Dr. David Weil

#### **Up to \$1000**

Barbara & Jack Schwartz Fund  
Blauer Family Trust  
Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation  
Intel Foundation  
Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation Board  
Allan and Susan Abravanel  
Prof. Seymour Adler  
Herman Asarnow and Susan Baillet

Anita and David August	Jeffry and Emily Gottfried	Dr. Robert Rosenbaum
Alan Bacharach	Janet and Ray Guggenheim	Mark Rosenberg and Ilene Safyan
Robin Bacon-Shone	Rachel Hall	Steve Rosenberg and Ellen Lippman
Howard and Prof. Martha Balshem	Gloria Halper and Jay Moskovitz	Eric and Tiffany Rosenfeld
Eve and Norman Barnett	Rachel Halupowski	Marjorie and Elden Rosenthal
Cecille and Gary Beyl	Beth Hamon	Ruth Roth
Karen Blauer	Lewis and Lisa Horowitz	Fred and Nora Rothstein
Stanley and Judy Blauer	Lydia Hubbard	Sura Rubenstein
Lynn Bonner	Lesley and Steve Isenstein	Ted Rubenstein
Layton and Eugene Borkan	Amy Jacobs	Jill and Dr. Rich Rubinstein
Roger and Miryam Brewer	Charles Johnson	Richard and Deanne Rubinstein
David Cates	Leatrice Kaplan	Rabbi Laurie Rutenberg and Rabbi Gary Schoenberg
Jane Cates	Jason and Allison Kaufman	Harold and Ruth Saltzman
Carol and Seymour Chestler	Jericho Knight	Faye and Stanley Samuels
Elaine and Arnold Cogan	Dr. Michael Kriss	Jerome Saroff and Irene Hecht
Lawrence Cohen	Bill Kwitman and Monica Moriarty	Donna Schaeffer
Elaine Coughlin-Lietz and Jonathan Lietz	Karen Labinger	Bruce Schafer
Mary Jo Daly	Anne and Steve Lebwohl	Prof. Patricia Schechter and Comm. Nicholas Fish
Carol and Seymour R. Danish	Michael Levine and Hildy Price-Levine	Fern Schlesinger
Tracy Danish-Frankel	Sarah Liebman	Willa Schneberg
Anne Dawid	Scott Liebman	Dr. William and Gayle Schneider
Dr. Richard Dobrow	Dr. Merritt Linn and Susan Korey	Harold and Arlene Schnitzer
Jennifer Dorner	Prof. Cheryl and Prof. Hanoch Livneh	Barbara and Jack Schwartz
Dr. David and Aaron Douglas	Alisha and Gregory Lund-Chaix	Dr. Jonathan Seidel
Dena and George Drasin	Harriet and Richard Maizels	Paul and Joan Sher
Ronald and Susan Dubin	Joseph and Linda Mandinberg	Ethel Shuldman and Dr. Jeffrey Edmundson
Selma and Dr. Larry Duckler	Jay Margulies and Pamela Webb	Gretta Siegel and Walter Stein
Julie Durkheimer and Mark Dohrmann	Gail Maron	Diane and Ailon Solomon
Stuart Durkheimer (z"l)	Richard Meeker and the Hon. Ellen Rosenblum	Harley and Robyn Spring
Rich Eichen	Wendi and Sanford Menashe	Deirdre Steinberg and David Newman
Jordan Epstein	Richard and Dr. Erika Meyer	Jack and Adele Thompson
Miriam and Robert Epstein	Nancy and Meir Minsky	Robert Trachtenberg
Robin and Jim Esterkin	Michael Morris	Eduard and Dr. Luiza Vaynberg
Mary Ellen and Prof. Grant Farr	Gloria Myers and Prof. David Horowitz	Cantor Aaron and Diana Vitells
Gary Fiske	Marvin and Leah Nepom	Prof. Michael Weingrad and Mel Berwin
Judith and Ian Freeman	Robert Nunn and Kandis Brewer Nunn	Carolyn and Gary Weinstein
Prof. Nila Friedberg	Samara Oberlander	Susan and Bruce Winthrop
Jack Friedman	Dr. Dale and Earl Oller	Kathryn and Gary Withers
Laurie Friedman	Ella Ostroff	Patricia and Prof. Craig Wollner
Stanley and Adrienne Geffen	Sharon Pollin Spector	Kathryn and Gary Withers
Bernice Gevurtz	Roger Porter	Maria Wulff
Dr. Edward Glick and Dr. Florence Glick	Zvi Raanan	Alan and Janet Zell
Sidney Gold	Shirley and Alvin Rackner	Marc Zwerling
Jane Goldhamer	Rosalind Roseman	Prof. Martin Zwick and Elinor Langer
Erica Goldman and Jeff Druckman	Dr. James Rosenbaum and Dr. Sandra Lewis	
Phil Goldsmith and Susan Newman		
Dr. Thomas and Alix Goodman		

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Yossi Klein Halevy to Speak at MJCC, PSU, Neveh Shalom on November 14-15

Yossi Klein Halevi, currently a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, is a contributing editor and Israel correspondent of the *New Republic*, and has been a regular contributor on Israeli affairs to the *Los Angeles Times*, and an occasional contributor to the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. He is author of *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land*, which novelist Cynthia Ozick called "a permanent masterwork." The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, called it "extraordinary and heartbreaking, a book full of wonders."

He will be speaking on the evening of Sunday, November 14 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at PSU, the Jewish Student Union at PSU, and the MJCC.

On Monday afternoon, November 15, he will be speaking at PSU on his first book, *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist* (Little, Brown, 1995), the story of his teenage attraction to the radical right-wing politics of Rabbi Meir Kahane and his subsequent break with Jewish militancy. The *New York Times* called *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist* "of burning importance. Mr. Halevi's achievement is to make his own coming of age in marginal Brooklyn seem a drama central to the very soul of Jewish life."

On Monday evening at 5 pm, he will give a dinner talk in Hebrew to the Café v'Ivrit group at Congregation Neveh Shalom on his forthcoming book about the soldiers who captured the Old City of Jerusalem in the Six Day War and their lives and their country afterwards. This event is open to all Hebrew speakers; advance reservations required.

## Café v'Ivrit קפה ועברית

It may seem somewhat improbable to find 40 people on a rainy Monday night in Portland listening to an Israeli author speak—in Hebrew—and following up with lively discussion over coffee, wine, and halvah, but such sights, sounds, and tastes are no longer uncommon thanks to the relaunched Café v'Ivrit program that began last year. Featuring two facilitated groups, one for intermediate speakers who have had at least a year of conversational Hebrew, and one for advanced and fluent speakers who come to hear talks and discussions, the program is sponsored by the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies, Congregation Neveh Shalom Israel Affairs Committee, Kochavim & Notz'tzim: Hebrew Immersion Programs for 0-8 year-olds, Greater Portland Hillel, Portland Chapter of Hadassah, and Friends of the IDF.

This year, the program won a Ma'alot grant of \$2500 that allows it to fund more visiting guest speakers. This fall's guests include (in September) Miryam Kaba-kov, editor of *Keep Your Wives Away From Them*, 14 stories about Orthodox Jewish women coming out as lesbian, bisexual, and transgender; (October) Keren Barbash-Benedek, visiting Israeli Jewish educator who will speak in October on Holocaust Education in Israel; and Yossi Klein Halevy in November. For more information contact Mel Berwin, michaelvmel@gmail.com, 503-246-8831.



## OTHER FALL EVENTS AT PSU

**October 7**

4 pm

**Byron Sherwin** (Spertus College)

"The Challenges of Developments in Biotechnology, Robotics, Neurocomputing, Artificial Life . . . and the Relevance of the Jewish Legend of the Golem"

**November, date TBD**

**Dennis B. Klein** (Kean University)

Professor of history and director of the Jewish Studies program at Kean, Klein will speak on "Victims of Proximate Assault: Re-Reading Post-Traumatic Testimonies," a talk emanating from his current research on the testimonies of Holocaust survivors regarding assault by neighbors, compatriots, and other "proximates." Klein draws from memoirs by Amery, Wiesenthal, and Levi, and draws comparisons to the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

## MEET OUR STUDENTS

**Marcus Dorsen** is majoring in International Studies with a concentration in the Middle East. He has been active in PSU's Jewish Student Union and Hillel, and recently spent a summer in Jordan studying Arabic. In spring term he took the Judaic Studies course "Cities of Modern Jewish Literature: Baghdad." "Reading memoirs and novels that dealt with everything from the day to day life of Jews in Baghdad to the social and political changes that were sweeping the Middle East has been invaluable to my understanding of the region," says Marcus.

**Erin Kurtz** stumbled upon Judaic Studies when she took Linda Maizels' History of Antisemitism course by chance one term because it fit her schedule. "It was amazing," the 26-year-old Liberal Studies major says. "It gave me a totally new perspective, and I was really impressed with the people who took it and the critical thinking that the course demanded." She went on to take one Judaic Studies course after another, including American Jews & Judaism after 1945, Modern Jewish History, Introduction to Judaism, The Holocaust, and History of Zionism. An accomplished musician who played klezmer music as a child and now plays mostly Bulgarian and Greek folk music, Kurtz has managed to bring her music together with her interest in Judaic Studies, as when she integrated a Balkan folk instrument into a presentation on Jewish history in Bulgaria for her Holocaust course. After graduating in late 2010, she plans to do a Masters degree in teaching at PSU's Education School.

## Congratulations To Our Graduates!

Shannon Burlison, Alyssa Buster, Megan Dyer, Garrett Estenson, Leslie O'Donogue, and Kevin Surface graduated in 2010 with the Minor in Judaic Studies. Mazal tov!



Erin Kurtz



Marcus Dorsen

## COURSES 2008-2011

Ancient Jewish History  
Cities of Modern Jewish Literature: Baghdad  
Eastern European Jewish Society & Culture  
Family & Identity Through Film  
First-Year Hebrew  
History of Antisemitism  
History of Israel Through Film  
History of Zionism  
The Holocaust  
Holocaust and Jewish Thought  
Holy Land in Medieval History  
Introduction to Judaism  
Israel in the Eyes of the West  
Israeli Society Through Drama  
Jerusalem in Antiquity  
Jewish American Literature  
Jewish & Israeli Literature  
Jews & Judaism in the U.S. Since 1945  
Making Jews Modern  
Medical Ethics & Jewish Tradition  
Medieval Jewish History  
Messiahs in Modern Jewish Literature  
Modern Israel  
Modern Jewish History  
Postbiblical Jewish Literature  
Psychology of Trauma  
Qumran & the Dead Sea Scrolls  
Rabbinic Culture in the Roman World  
Religion of Ancient Israel  
Religious Community in Modern America  
Retelling the Bible  
Second-Year Hebrew  
The Shtetl  
Third-Year Hebrew  
Writing the Holy Land

## 2009-2010 SPEAKERS AND JUDAIC STUDIES EVENTS AT PSU

### 2009

**FEBRUARY:** **Aomar Boum** (University of Arizona) explored the spaces and communities of memory created by Moroccan Jews on the internet.

**MARCH:** **Beth Wenger** (University of Pennsylvania) delivered the fourth annual Gus & Libby Solomon Lecture, "In Search of American Jewish Heritage."

**Hasia Diner** (NYU) discussed her provocative new book, *We Remember With Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust, 1945-1962*.

**APRIL:** Why didn't Hasidism spread to the West? **Shaul Stampfer** (Hebrew University) posed answers to this question about religion and social history.

**JUNE:** **Jonathan Dekel-Chen** (Hebrew University) inaugurated the annual Lokey lecture with a fascinating exploration of the history of Jewish agriculture in the USSR.

**JULY:** The **Jewish Theatre Collaborative** performed staged readings of three recent plays by Israeli women: Naomi Ragen's *Women's Minyan*, Savyon Liebricht's *Banality of Love*, and Yael Ronen's *Plonter*.

PSU Judaic Studies and the Ernest Bloch Legacy Project commemorated the 50th anniversary of this major composer's death with a series of lectures on Jew-  
(Continued on next page...)

## FACULTY NEWS

**Michael Weingrad's** book *American Hebrew Literature: Writing Jewish National Identity in the United States*, will be published this December by Syracuse University Press. His essay, "Why There Is No Jewish Narnia," in the inaugural issue of the *Jewish Review of Books* discussed the relationship of Jews and Judaism to fantasy literature, and touched off a firestorm of geeky debate around the internet this past spring, getting picked up by bloggers for the *New York Times*, *First Things*, and other venues. Michael spent the month of May in Israel on a faculty development grant, researching the life and work of Hebrew poet Reuven Ben-Yosef.

*Yehudit Ben-Yosef, widow of poet Reuven Ben-Yosef, and Michael Weingrad in Jerusalem*



"THIS BOOK PRESENTS A COUNTER-HISTORY OF AMERICAN JEWISH CULTURE, a road not taken by the majority, yet which did not leave the majority untouched. It is about the literature written by a group of Jews whose core identity was neither American nor Jewish American, but ardently and nationalistically Jewish, and whose overriding linguistic and cultural allegiance was neither to the Yiddish of their immigrant milieu, nor to the English of their new country, but to the Hebrew language."

**Natan Meir** published his first book, a social history of the Jews of Kiev. *Kiev: Jewish Metropolis* won a Cahnman Foundation publication grant, and Jeffrey Veidlinger, director of the Jewish Studies Department at the University of Indiana, calls it "meticulously researched, eminently readable, and rich in detail." Natan has also co-edited the volume *Anti-Jewish Violence: Rethinking the Pogrom in East European History*, to appear in October. In April 2010 he delivered the Bernard Choseed Memorial Lecture at YIVO on "Tales of the Destitute, Orphaned, and Disabled in Jewish Eastern Europe."



**John Ott** designed and taught two new courses this year on Jerusalem and the Holy Land from biblical antiquity until the end of the crusader period, both offered as electives within the Judaic Studies minor. He also presented four papers on aspects of his research on medieval bishops at conferences in Los Angeles, Knoxville, Kalamazoo, and Porec, Croatia.

A new Religious Studies program at PSU was launched in

ish music by London musicologist **Alexander Knapp**.

**AUGUST:** Australian filmmaker **Marsha Emerman** presented footage from her documentary in progress about the Jewish musicians of modern Iraq.

**NOVEMBER:** Three of David Ehrlich's stories were brought to life on the stage in the **Jewish Theatre Collaborative** production "Don't Mess With Savta."

### 2010

**\*FEBRUARY:** The rapidly changing demographic picture of Jewish Portland was analyzed by **Bruce Phillips** (HUC-JIR, Los Angeles), who gave the fifth annual Gus & Libby Solomon lecture, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Author **Joanne Greenberg** drew from the wisdom of a lifetime's work and read wonderful new stories.

**\*APRIL:** Author **Dara Horn** (see page 2) reflected on the tensions between Jewish and American conceptions of time and identity.

**MAY:** **Asya Vaisman**, Hazel Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Washington, discussed the Yiddish songs of Hasidic women.

**JUNE:** Author and intellectual historian **Benjamin Balint** presented material from his new book, *Running Commentary: The Contentious Magazine that Transformed the Jewish Left Into the Neoconservative Right*, in partnership with the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

**JULY:** Staged readings of Moshe Shamir's *He Walked In the Fields*, Shmuel Vilozhny and Arie Segev's *High Noon*, and Shmuel Hasfari's *Milano* made up the **Jewish Theatre Collaborative's** summer series, Israel Onstage: Through the Years.

**\*These events were videotaped for rebroadcast at Cedar Sinai Park, as part of a new initiative to make PSU Judaic Studies programming more easily available to our elders.**

2009 under the direction of **Jennifer Schuberth**. Jennifer received her Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religions from the University of Chicago in 2008, and her research and teaching interests include history of religions, theories of religion, medieval Christianity and mysticism, philosophy of religions, and gender theory. Judaic Studies and Religious Studies are already working together on joint programming and courses.

**Linda Maizels** was selected to participate in the 2009 Summer Institute for Israel Studies, run by the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University and in Israel. She developed and taught a new course entitled "Israel in the Eyes of the West," exploring how the Arab-Israeli conflict is portrayed in Europe and the U.S. She was also invited to participate in a 2010 International Summer Research Workshop for Scholars at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum entitled "Contemporary Antisemitism in Higher Education."

# A LETTER FROM ISRAEL

Andrew Geist, who graduated PSU in 2008 with the minor in Judaic Studies and entered graduate studies in ancient Near East history at Notre Dame, wrote us this summer from Israel about his recent doings:



*Andrew, in the Golan overlooking Banias (Caesarea Philippi), on a hike down from the Castle of Nimrod*

“I spent the first year at Notre Dame doing work on Biblical Hebrew and Classical Greek (mostly reading Philo of Alexandria). My Biblical Studies courses have focused on topics including the Synoptic Gospels, the biblical Dead Sea Scrolls and their contribution to text criticism, a class on the Temple/Tabernacle (primarily the Exodus account), and a class on the Poetics of the Hebrew Bible and Rabbinic Literature. I received grants through Notre Dame to take a class on Christian and Muslim visions of the Holy Land, and then to study Modern Hebrew at the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University. I’ve been able to spend plenty of time exploring and experiencing life here, including the fascinating, vibrant cultures. It has been a wonderful experience, from PSU to South Bend to Jerusalem!”

(...Continued from page 1)

“The project,” says Loren, “stems from my passion for demonstrating that Jewish diversity is not just a modern phenomenon. Jewish interaction with other cultures in antiquity, even when antagonistic, produced a rich range of cultural expression.” Over the past year, he brought his interests in Jewish popular culture to Wesleyan University, where he ran a seminar on Jewish Leisure in Antiquity. In the coming year, he will be taking part in the Klutznik Harris symposium on “Jews in the Gym” at Creighton University.

His expertise in Jewish history during antiquity and his interests in Greco-Jewish and Rabbinic literature complement the modern emphases of his colleagues. In his first year he will be teaching courses on Israelite and Second Temple history, rabbinic culture in the Roman world, and early Jewish biblical interpretation. “I’m thrilled to be able to add this new dimension to the Judaic Studies program and to be able to introduce the richness of the ancient Jewish literature and culture to the diverse and vibrant student body at Portland State University,” Loren says. “I look forward to working with such excellent colleagues and to helping build the profile of Jewish Studies on campus and throughout the city of Portland.”

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Michael Weingrad, Academic Director  
Natan Meir, Lorry I. Lokey Chair in Judaic Studies  
Loren Spielman, Schusterman Teaching Fellow and Assistant Professor  
Linda Maizels, Adjunct Instructor  
Jenn Director Knudsen, Associate Director of Development  
Thanh Tran, Office Coordinator  
Affiliate Faculty: John Ott, Jennifer Schuberth, Ayal Yariv, Lerom Medovoi, Robert Liebman

## WELCOME ABOARD!

We are pleased to welcome PSU alumna Jessica Bettelheim onto the Steering Committee for the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at PSU, where she joins the following members:

Rabbi Alan Berg  
Henry Blauer  
Professor Nathan Cogan  
Jared Gellert  
Judith Kahn  
Larry Levy  
Professor Robert Liebman  
Jim Meyer  
Bob Philip  
Paul Schlesinger  
Jordan Schnitzer  
Rob Shlachter  
Dick Solomon  
Rabbi Joshua Stampfer



The Harold Schnitzer  
Family Program  
in Judaic Studies

(P) 503-725-3976  
(F) 503-725-3953

[www.pdx.edu/judaic](http://www.pdx.edu/judaic)  
[Judaicst@pdx.edu](mailto:Judaicst@pdx.edu)