Please contact weingrad@pdx.edu for more information.

$30/day community members, $15/day community educators

March 18–19, 2007
Native American Student and Community Center, PSU
Association Conference

To RSVP call 503-244-4473

Co-sponsored by the Institute for Judaic Studies

same for Jews and American liberalism.

Conservatism: Quests for Inclusion and Impossible Dreams
Jews and American Liberalism, Jews and American

310 SW Lincoln Street
Columbia Falls Ballroom, University Place
Free to students or Writers & Scholars Subscribers
$15 Admission for Keynote Talk
Sunday, March 18, 7pm
Keynote Talk
Rabbi Steven Greenberg
The Second Annual Gus & Libby Solomon Lecture Series
Dedicated to exploring the American Jewish experience and the ideals of social justice promoted by the Solomons throughout their lifetime.

Featuring Rabbi Steven Greenberg, the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi.

Wrestling with God and Men
Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition

Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 7pm
Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom (3rd floor)
Portland State University
FREE ADMISSION
Complimentary parking available.
SW 6th Avenue, between SW Harrison and Hall
For more information or to discuss group seating, contact Ann Usher at ushera@pdx.edu or call 503-725-5057

Featuring Rabbi Steven Greenberg
The New Synagogue, Berlin
Building, Ellis Island, New York

The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies
Focusing on Jews & Judaism in Modernity
JANUARY 2007

Jews and American Liberalism, Jews and American
Conservatism: Quests for Inclusion and Impossible Dreams

In this joint keynote talk, Prof. Edward S. Shapiro (Stern Hall U, Emeritus) will discuss the history and contemporary dynamics of Jews and conservatism in modern U.S. politics, and Prof. Marc Dollinger (San Francisco State U) will do the same for Jews and American liberalism.

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SAVE THE DATE
Sara Glasgow Cogan Scholarship
Inaugural Evening
Join us to launch a scholarship for PSU students with academic internships at local Jewish organizations.

Ruth Messinger, a mentor of Sara’s, will speak on tikkun olam.
Thursday, April 19, 7 pm
Portland State University
For sponsorship information please contact Aaron Pearlman at 503-725-8449 or email pearlman@pdx.edu.

The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies
Portland State University
PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207
503-725-8449
www.judaic.pdx.edu

Michael Weingrad, Academic Director
Aaron Pearlman, Community Outreach Director
Bob Liebman, Director Emeritus
Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, Honorary Chair

STRENGTHEN HEBREW AND ISRAEL STUDIES
I am convinced that a Judaic Studies program is only as strong as the Hebrew it offers. In just two years PSU has expanded Hebrew offerings from one course a year, to three full years of Hebrew, plus an intensive summer course. Hiring a permanent instructor in Hebrew, who can oversee degree concentrations in the language and be a permanent resource on campus, is key to our expansion.

The professorship in Israel Studies will help ensure the serious and objective study of Israel and the Middle East as a part of the regular PSU curriculum.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
We will continue to develop the community partnerships that are the backbone of this program. For example, we will launch a scholarship in memory of Sara Cogan to support distinguished PSU students’ scholarly service learning projects within Portland’s Jewish community.

The Future of Judaic Studies at PSU
PROFESSOR MICHAEL WEINGRAD

It is a great honor to follow in the footsteps of my colleague Professor Robert Liebman as the Academic Director of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies.

Our central goal is to create a top-notch academic program in Judaic Studies that can be a resource for the community, and in which the community can take pride. In November, we made significant progress toward reaching our goal when the Undergraduate Minor Degree in Judaic Studies was unanimously approved by the faculty senate.

The three primary areas for future development of the program are:

GROWTH OF THE CORE FACULTY
To achieve this goal I will direct the program and serve as a professor of modern Jewish literature. We will seek three additional Judaic Studies professors in the following areas of concentration:

• European Jewish history, focusing on modern European Jewish experience, anti-semitism, and the Holocaust;
• Classical or rabbinic Judaism to guide students in the analysis of classical texts and the history and culture of Jewish antiquity;
• Israel Studies to provide education in the richness and the challenges of life in the Jewish State.

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In my years as a rabbi in Portland, I have been deeply impressed by the commitment to excellence demonstrated by Portland State University’s faculty and students. This is the reason I was initially drawn to Portland State University, and why I am now so committed to it. I am profoundly grateful that at PSU I have had the opportunity to work with such exceptional people. As a rabbi, I can say in all candor, that I regard my decades-long association with Portland State University as one of the great highlights of my life. I have taught many hundreds of students about Israel, Jewish history, and literature. I have reason to believe that they completed their studies with a far better understanding of the significant role that Judaism has played in world history.

In 1983 the university shut down the MESC due to financial exigencies. I then created the Institute for Judaic Studies to continue the presence of Judaic Studies on the campus. Eventually, through the generous support of Harold Schnitzer, an organized Judaic Studies Program emerged, led by Dr. Michael Weingrad, a brilliant and articulate scholar.

I recently saw for the first time the long-range plan for the expansion of the program, and I was overwhelmed by the breadth and quality of the vision. I am profoundly grateful that PSU has chosen to recognize my initial efforts by establishing a Professorship bearing my name. This is an unexpected honor that I deeply appreciate. More importantly, the university has pledged that when the funding for this chair is completed, the university will establish two more chairs in Judaic Studies. This means there will be four full-time faculty in Judaic Studies. Portland will become a national, even international, leader in Jewish Studies. This is truly a dream come true for all of us who treasure our heritage and want to hand it on to the next generation.

Reflections on PSU
I have served as a rabbi in Portland for the past 53 years and have spent 40 of those years as an adjunct professor at Portland State University. First, I was a member of the faculty of the Middle East Center (MESC), and more recently I taught a series of courses on various aspects of Spirituality and American Life.

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RABBI JOSHUA STAMPFER
& Aaron Pearlman

These plans will be the legacy of those who have worked to create this program: Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, Professor Nathan Cogan, Libby Solomon, Dean Marvin Kaiser, Professor Robert Liebman, and Harold, Atlene and Jordan Schnitzer—without their support this vision would not be possible.

13th Annual Western Jewish Studies Association Conference
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Dr. Robert Liebman was toasted repeatedly, and slightly roasted as well, for what a colleague of his from the University of Oregon characterized as almost a second full-time job.

Dr. Judith Basken, who heads the Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at UO, said, “He has done most of what he has done as overload,” meaning in addition to his responsibilities as a professor of sociology. “For him to take this on year after year is truly an act of love.”

“He and I have worked together as colleagues. There has only been harmony between us,” she said. “I think the Schnitzers saw our two programs as collaborative.”

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Executive Vice President Charles R. Schiffman described Liebman as “a visionary,” “a mensch,” as well as “an activist,” who “gets out of the ivory tower and leads people into the world.”

Garry Kahn, who, with his wife Judith, has long been a force for the creation of a Judaic Studies program here, said Liebman “has the ability to put into effect what is in his mind. His efforts have benefited the entire community.”

Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, who, in addition to his long career as a religious leader and, like Rabbi Stampfer, a leader in Jewish education at higher levels, “Bob Philip, Harold and Jordan Schnitzer, Kandis Nunn, Nathan Cogan, and Rabbi Stamper. He also expressed special gratitude to his wife Elaine Friedman. Like others throughout the evening, Liebman also paid tribute to the memory of Peter Nathan, Libby Solomon, and Sara Cogan for their contributions to the program.

Stampfer Receives Thomas Lamb Eliot Award

Rabbi Stamper was recently honored at the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Philanthropy Awards for his ability to see needs in the community and work tirelessly to develop an organization to meet those needs, and for his extensive work with interfaith dialogue and support of Palestinian rights as a piece of a pro-Israel platform.

Rabbi Stamper helped establish and raise funds for Congregation Nevah Shalom, its Foundation School and USY Chapter, Camp Solomon Schechter, Oregon Jewish Historical Society, Oregon Jewish Museum, Oregon Holocaust Resources Center, and the Institute for Judaic Studies. The Institute for Judaic Studies has been his crowning achievement and his passion since his retirement from Nevah Shalom in 1993. His work has led to chairs of Judaic Studies at Reed College and PSU, and he continues to help shape the future of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at PSU as the Honorary Chair.

Aaron Pearlman, Community Outreach Director for PSU’s Judaic Studies Program, chaired the event, and Marvin Kaiser, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at PSU, presented the award. Kaiser remarked that, “Thomas Lamb Eliot was an amazing individual who both was a religious leader and, like Rabbi Stamper, a leader in the broader community. The organizations that Eliot founded a century before Stamper’s time are mainstays of our community. Now, many of the organizations Rabbi Stamper founded intend to build on his foundation by embarking on capital campaigns of their own. It gives me great pleasure to present the Thomas Lamb Eliot Award for Service to Philanthropy to just its fourth recipient—a leader, a visionary, a learner, and a teacher—to our Rabbi, Joshua Stamper.”

A Brief History of Judaic Studies at PSU

1961 Rabbi Joshua Stamper begins teaching Hebrew and later Hebraic Civilization in the Middle East Studies program

1970s Rabbi Stamper leads a term-long PSU student trip to Israel and Dina Feuer joins faculty

1983 Budget cuts in the Oregon University System end jobs for Stamper and Feuer

1986 Professor Nathan Cogan begins literature of the Holocaust course and produces “Last Remnants of Lithuanian Jewry” in 1994

1998 Libby Solomon’s Israeli Judaism gift supports courses and lectures. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences invites donors to launch Jewish Studies

1999 Professor Bob Liebman meets with University leadership and organizes faculty committee

2000 Liebman begins listserve, lectures, and faculty workshops and partners with UO, Reed College, Lewis & Clark, and Willamette to create the Oregon School of Judaic Studies

2002 PSU receives $1 million challenge grant to found the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies

2005 Professor Michael Weingrad hired as first full-time faculty in Judaic Studies

2006 Michael Weingrad succeeds Liebman as Director after a joint visioning and strategic planning process with Aaron Pearlman

The Minor Degree in Judaic Studies & Course Offerings

Judaic Studies offers the opportunity for students of all backgrounds to explore a rich civilization that is both nourished by ancient traditions and transformed through creative encounters and ongoing interactions with other cultures.

Students completing the minor will have gained exposure to the study of Jewish history, religion, and culture in a variety of contexts. Since the primary focus of the Judaic Studies program at PSU is on the encounter of Jews and Judaism with modernity, students completing the minor are required to take an overview of modern Jewish history and culture, as well as coursework dealing with Jews and Judaism in the United States and Israel.

Students undertaking the Minor Degree in Judaic Studies may also gain credit through academic internships with community and cultural institutions such as the Oregon Jewish Museum.