From Our Director’s Desk:

Last fall, our Center hosted a somewhat belated Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner. In fact, we’re now embarking on our thirty-second year. To apply our rabbis’ favorite practice of “gematria,” the numbers thirty and two correspond to the letters “lamed” and “bet,” which together make up the noun “lev,” heart. I’d like to suggest that for over three decades, the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn, Stamford, has been at the heart of local intellectual and cultural life. The Center has gathered around itself a learning community of accomplished professionals from all walks of life who had the opportunity to meet and engage in stimulating discourse with some of the best and brightest in contemporary scholarship, politics, and letters, such as Irving Howe, Amos Oz, Chayim Potok, Howard Sachar, Shibley Telhami, and Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, to mention a few.

The Center has also continued to respond to the changing population and needs of UConn, Stamford’s undergraduate students, who appreciate the uniqueness and originality of our courses. One student remarked recently: “Together with the outreach programs I have attended, these [course] offerings enhance a deeper understanding of Judaic civilization to multicultural groups and shatter popular misconceptions about Jews and Israel.” Another said: “Our class [in Middle Eastern literature] was diverse and dynamic, with people from different ethnic and educational backgrounds, but due to [our professor’s] balanced approach, everyone was open-minded and respectful toward both Israeli and Arab cultures.”
Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

Professor of Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies and Founding Director of the Center, Aschkenasy taught last year graduate and undergraduate courses in Middle Eastern literature and in Bible, and presented a lecture on Israeli fiction at an invited Symposium at Florida Atlantic University (book to be published by NYU Press). Author of four books and numerous articles, she published most recently a chapter in The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism, an article in Modern Drama on Shaffer’s Amadeus, and a chapter in a book based on an invited International Symposium at Heidelberg University; forthcoming is a chapter in Global Dickens.

Dr. Fred Roden

Professor of English, Roden regularly teaches a popular course on Holocaust literature and integrates Jewish texts into his courses on literary and cultural history. He recently brought several Jewish memoirists to speak to his spiritual autobiographies class and he also mentors Honors students in Judaic Studies. Editor of a volume of scholarly essays on Jewish/Christian intersections, he is currently writing a book on the borders of Jewish identity from the 19th century to the present. He also participated in two faculty seminars at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Study at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Dr. Jeffrey Lefebvre

Professor of Political Science, Lefebvre teaches a variety of courses in Middle East politics. Next fall he will offer “International Politics of the Middle East” at the Stamford campus and a graduate/undergraduate seminar at UConn Storrs. He is also scheduled to present papers at the American Political Science conference and the African Studies Association. Among his upcoming publications are “Iran in the Horn of Africa: Outflanking U.S. Allies,” in the Middle East Policy Journal (Summer 2012) and “From CENTCOM to AFRICOM: Rethinking U.S. Strategy in the Horn of Africa,” in the Armed Forces & Society Journal.

Dr. Sharmishta Roy Chowdhury

Adjunct professor of History, Roy Chowdhury teaches courses in Modern European History, the Modern Middle East, and Modern India. Last spring she taught “The Middle East Crucible”, where she looked closely at the Middle East during the turbulent twentieth century and also introduced the culture of the region through literature and cinema. She is currently working on a scholarly manuscript that examines the historical rhetoric of the twentieth-century French military. She is also the author of a forthcoming historical novel titled, The Communist Cookbook.

Dr. Nechama Tec

Professor Emerita of Sociology, Tec recently completed her seventh book, on Jewish and non-Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, to be published by Oxford University Press next year. An internationally acclaimed Holocaust scholar, her book Defiance was made into a movie in 2008, and Resilience and Courage won the 2002/3 National Book Award and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Since her retirement, Professor Tec has returned to our campus several times to teach, with Professor Blatt, the course on the Holocaust, which she and Dr. Blatt pioneered over thirty years ago and had offered regularly at the Stamford campus.

Dr. Joy Land

Adjunct Professor of History, Land taught courses in the History of the Middle East and in Ancient Near East last year. Among her recent publications is a chapter titled “Corresponding Women: Female Educators of the Alliance Israélite Universelle (AIU) in Tunisia, 1882-1914,” in a book published by University of Indiana Press, as well as fourteen entries in Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World. She also chaired a panel at the Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies and received an Honorable Mention by the Women’s Caucus of the Association.

Dr. Blaine Edele

Adjunct Professor of Bible, The Reverend Edele, Pastor at the Union Memorial Church in Stamford, co-taught last year, with Dr. Aschkenasy, the course in Bible which they offer regularly to large classes. He has also been a frequent speaker at the Center’s outreach programs, his topics including “Jesus as Rabbinic Storyteller,” “Josephus: Traitor or Opportunist,” and “Christ Figures in Contemporary Film.” Last Fall’s title was “Folklorist Tradition in the Book of Tobit.” He also serves on the Center’s Interfaith Committee.
**REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2012 LUNCH & LEARN**

*Thursdays, Oct. 11 & 18, Nov. 1 & 8 • 12 noon–1:30 p.m.*

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.

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Please indicate your choice: [ ] Veggie Wrap [ ] Tuna on Rye [ ] Bagel with Cream Cheese

Dietary Laws observed.

Registration is for the entire series only! Please register by Thursday, October 4, 2012.

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

For information call our office at (203) 251-9525/0184 or write to stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.

**REGISTRATION FOR 2012 LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Wednesday, October 24, 7:15–9:30 p.m.*

Pre-conference Community Reception / Supper: 5:30–7:00 p.m.

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.

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Dietary Laws observed. Please respond by Monday, October 15, 2012.

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

For information call our office at (203) 251-9525/0184 or write to stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.
Dr. Susannah Heschel holds the Eli Black Professorship in Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish-Christian relations in Germany during the 19th and 20th centuries, the history of biblical scholarship, and the history of anti-Semitism. Her numerous publications include Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus (University of Chicago Press), which won the National Jewish Book Award, and The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany (Princeton University Press).

Currently, Dr. Heschel is writing a book on the history of European Jewish scholarship on Islam from the 1830s to the 1930s. For that project, she received a Scholar’s Grant in Islamic Studies from the Carnegie Foundation, and was given a fellowship in 2011-12 to the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin, an institute for advanced study.

Dr. Heschel has also published over a hundred and twenty articles and has edited and co-edited several books, including On Being a Jewish Feminist: A Reader; Redefining First-Century Jewish and Christian Identities: A Festschrift for E.P. Sanders; Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust; Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: Essays of Abraham Joshua Heschel; and Insider/Outsider: American Jews and Multiculturalism.

The recipient of many grants and awards, she has been a fellow at the National Humanities Center, and is the recipient of honorary doctorates from Colorado College, Trinity College, the University of St. Michael’s College (the graduate faculty in Catholic Theology at the University of Toronto), and the Augustana Theologische Hochschule, a Protestant seminary in Bavaria.

Prof. Heschel has held visiting professorships at Princeton, the University of Cape Town, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Frankfurt. From 1999-2008 she served on the Academic Advisory Committee of the Research Center of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and on its subcommittees on fellowships, archival materials, and publications. At Dartmouth, she is on the faculty of the Jewish Studies Program, the Department of Religion, and the Women and Gender Studies Program.
THE FALL 2012 LUNCH & LEARN SERIES
Thursdays / 12:00 Noon — 1:30 p.m. / In the MPR on the 1st floor at UConn, Stamford

A Kaleidoscope of the Jewish Experience in History and Literature

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

The Hyacinthe Hoffman Lecture

“Fallen Women” and Fatherless Children: Secrets in the Early-Modern Jewish Life

Dr. Elisheva Carlebach
Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society
Columbia University

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

The Nina & Norman Lotstein Lecture

Snyder’s Bloodlands and the Uniqueness of the Jewish Holocaust

Dr. Joel Blatt
Professor of History
UConn, Stamford

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

The Linda G. Spilka Lecture

Jewish Women on the Elizabethan Stage

Dr. Michelle Ephraim
Professor of English
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

The Barbara & Joe Field Lecture

Internal Voices Amid Geopolitical Strife
(Amos Oz, Scenes from Village Life and Yehudith Katzir, Closing the Sea)

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy
Professor of Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies
UConn, Stamford

For more information about the Center, the Lunch & Learn Lecture Series, the Annual Kuriansky Conference, our credit course offerings, and/or our Certificate Program, please contact us at: (203) 251-9525/0184 or stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu
Or visit our website at www.stamford.uconn.edu/cjmes.
The Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn, Stamford,
now in its thirty-second 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.

The following credit courses will be open to community audits in Fall 2012:

• JUDS 1103 / HEB 1103 – *Literature and Civilization of the Jewish People*
  Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy,
  Wednesdays, 2:35 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

• POLS 3777 – *American Diplomacy in the Middle East*
  Dr. Jeffrey Lefebvre
  Tuesdays, 2:35 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Members of the community who wish to audit these courses should register beginning Monday, August 20th through the Office of the Registrar at (203) 251-8555. Seats are limited.

For more information on our credit courses or Certificate Program, please call the Center at (203) 251-9525/0184 or email us at stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.