From Our Director’s Desk:

This fall our Center has reached an important milestone, marking thirty-six years since a group of visionary community leaders embarked on a collaborative effort with the local campus of the University of Connecticut. The number 36 has a very unique meaning in Jewish heritage; it’s “Double Chai” – double life. Indeed, since its inception our Center has had a dual mission: to develop and expand credit courses in all areas of Judaic Studies within the undergraduate curriculum and establish a forum for public discourse, in courses, seminars, and conferences, where both our regular students and community members would learn and discuss topics of current issues or of Jewish scholarship with the best and the brightest of today's scholars, writers, and policy analysts.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of working with some of the finest individuals who pleaded our case before the University’s central administration and made it financially possible for us to accomplish our phenomenal success. Reviewing the breadth of our offerings through the years and the caliber of guest speakers who addressed our groups, I am proud and also awed! Some of these speakers were already well known at the time, such as the late CHAIM POTOK and DR. IRVING HOWE, but I dare say that we also “discovered” junior scholars who then went on to brilliant careers, such as Political Scientist DR. SHIBLEY TELHAMI, (now the Anwar Sadaat chair at the University of Maryland, but then a young scholar only beginning to make his mark in the academic community), DR. FAWAZ GERGES (currently at the London School of Economics, who recently published a study of ISIS), and RON CHERNOW, the prominent, best-selling biographer (currently of “Hamilton” fame, who discussed at the time his book on the Jewish banking family, the Warburgs). We were fortunate to study with the brilliant orator, historian DR. HOWARD SA-CHAR, who was our guest speaker several times; we had the pleasure of learning from the internationally-acclaimed Israeli writer AMOS OZ, the renowned theologian DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL of Dartmouth College, and, recently, DR. BRUCE HOFFMAN of Georgetown University, one of the foremost experts of contemporary terrorism. We also hosted twice the MOST REV. DR. DAVID JAEGGER, member of the Roman Rota, the Vatican’s Supreme Court, who shared with us his vast knowledge as a theologian and unparalleled experience as peace maker. Our topics have been varied and fascinating, from interfaith dialogues on women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, or on the meaning of “A Just War” in the three Abrahamic religions, to various issues related to the Middle East and contemporary Israel, to discussions of “Jews and Capitalism,” Jewish mysticism, and a variety of themes in history, from Jewish revolts in ancient Palestine to life in the East European Shtetl, to episodes of resistance and heroism during the Holocaust.

This year we are looking forward to the pleasure of learning with an acclaimed expert, AMB. DR. DANIEL KURTZER, Professor of Middle East policy studies at Princeton University and former U.S. Ambassador to both Israel and Egypt. We are fortunate that Amb. Kurtzer, who was here in 2009 and spoke to an auditorium packed to capacity, has again accepted our invitation. We hope to see the same large and enthusiastic crowd of community members, faculty, and students coming to hear the highly respected and much admired Ambassador once again.
2016 Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference
Wednesday, October 26, 2016 • 7:00-9:30PM • GenRe Auditorium, UConn-Stamford

Ambassador Dr. Daniel Kurtzer
Our World Today: Coping with Terrorism, Humanitarian Crisis, and State Collapse

Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Daniel Weiner, Vice President for Global Affairs, UConn
Nina Lotstein, Chair, Community Advisory Board
Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Center Director, UConn-Stamford

Impact of Judaic Studies
Featuring former UConn-Stamford students
Shayna Levin, Michael O'Toole, and Farida Rokadia

Keynote Address
Ambassador Dr. Daniel Kurtzer

Daniel C. Kurtzer is the S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Middle East policy studies at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Following a 29-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service, Kurtzer retired in 2005 with the rank of Career-Minister. From 2001-2005 he served as the United States Ambassador to Israel and from 1997-2001 as the United States Ambassador to Egypt. He served as a political officer at the American embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv, Deputy Director of the Office of Egyptian Affairs, speechwriter on the Policy Planning Staff, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. Throughout his career, Kurtzer was instrumental in formulating and executing U.S. policy toward the Middle East peace process. He remains active in Track II diplomacy related to the Middle East. Secretary of State John Kerry has appointed Kurtzer to the Secretary’s Foreign Affairs Policy Board. Governor Chris Christie has appointed Kurtzer to serve on the New Jersey-Israel State Commission. Previously, Kurtzer served as an advisor to the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, and as a member of the Advisory Council of the American Bar Association’s Middle East Rule of Law Initiative. In 2007, he was named as the first Commissioner of the professional Israel Baseball League. He is the co-author of Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East; co-author of The Peace Puzzle: America’s Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace, 1989-2011; and editor of Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

Q&A
Moderator, Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

Please register in advance by using the included registration card or by contacting the Center at (203) 251-9525 or stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.
Sponsor: CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
University of Connecticut, Stamford

Anniversary Dinner
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
The 36th Anniversary Dinner
“Double Chai”
OF THE CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, STAMFORD
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26TH AT 5:00 PM
KURIANSKY CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW AT 7:00 PM
MEET & GREET OUR LOUIS J. KURIANSKY KEYNOTE SPEAKER
AMBASSADOR DR. DANIEL KURTZER

Tickets: $75 per person (including lecture) • Dietary Laws Observed
Reservations Required • RSVP by October 17th
203-251-9525 OR stamfordcjmes@uconn.edu
Please mail your check to: Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies,
UConn-Stamford, One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901

Spotlight on Our 36th Anniversary Student Speakers

Shayna Levin was born in Stamford, the oldest of five sisters and the daughter of two political refugees from the USSR. She graduated from UConn in 2015 with a double major in Mathematics and Statistics and is currently teaching science at Rippowam Middle School in Stamford and pursuing her goal of becoming a dentist. While at UConn-Stamford, she was a recipient of a scholarship provided by the Center and was one of two delegates from UConn-Stamford, sent by the Center through funding from a local gift, to attend the AIPAC Policy Conference in March 2014, which she described as “an amazing and life-enriching experience.” She is grateful to the Center for fueling her continued interest in Israel’s prosperity and international affairs.

Michael O’Toole is from Westport, CT. He worked as the Program Associate for the Center from 2006-2011 and graduated Magna Cum Laude from UConn in 2007, having majored in English with a Women’s Studies minor. He is currently a Doctor of Nursing Practice candidate at Fairfield University and Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar 2014-2016, working at Veterans Affairs Healthcare. Michael recalls “it was during the course of my study under Professor Aschkenasy when I learned the merits of true scholarship. I feel the model of excellence I strive for in my daily pursuits continues to be greatly influence by what I learned while with Nehama. In many ways, I see this intellectual community, that has persevered for 36-years, as a school within a school, which inspires a great devotion to life long learning.”

Farida Rokadia studied at St. Joseph’s Convent in Karachi, Pakistan and received a Bachelor’s degree from Karachi University. She entered into Judaic Studies as a response to 9/11, wanting to learn more about other religions. She earned a BGS in Cultural Studies from UConn-Stamford in 2004, with a Certificate in Judaic Studies and in Women’s Studies. She went on to earn a Masters in Conflict Resolution from American University. She has worked on women’s issues and education in Pakistan and has edited a book of stories about women’s successful careers in traditional Pakistani society. She also co-chairs a chapter of the Sisterhood of Shalom/Salam, a group of Jewish and Muslim women who gather to learn about and from each other.

For more information please contact us at (203) 251-9525 or stamfordcjmes@uconn.edu
Or visit our website at cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu
The Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford, now in its thirty-sixth 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 our region.

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 2016:

**Jewish American Literature & Culture, ENG 3220W / HEJS 3401W**
Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Tues/Thurs, 2:00-3:15 PM, R 3.40

With a special guest lecture by Dr. Eric Goldman: Early Jewish Moguls, Producers, & Directors who contributed to the Hollywood Film Industry.
September 29th at 2:00 PM at UConn-Stamford, R. 3.40

**Religion & Politics, POLS 2998W**
Dr. Beth Ginsberg, Wednesdays, 2:35-5:15 PM, R. TBD

Classes begin August 29th. Seats are limited.

Senior audits should register through the Office of the Registrar, (203) 251-8555, beginning on September 12th. For more information on our credit courses or Certificate program, please contact the Center at stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu or (203) 251-9525.

CONGRATULATIONS

To DR. NEHAMA ASCHKENASY, whose award-winning book, Eve’s Journey: Feminine Images in Hebraic Literary Tradition, was selected by the University of Pennsylvania Press for republishing as part of its “Anniversary Collection,” in celebration of the Press’s 125th Anniversary. The book is now available in hardcopy and as eBook.

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