

# ‘Should Jews be alarmed?’

& other topics

The University of Minnesota Center for Jewish Studies is pleased to present its Eighth Annual Community Lecture Series, in cooperation with synagogues, community centers, and sponsoring partners across Minneapolis and St. Paul. Join us as writers and thinkers from varied fields address intriguing questions relevant to the Jewish experience today.

This series is made possible by a generous gift in memory of Julia K. & Harold Segall.

**Events are free and open to the public. A reception follows each.**

The Center for Jewish Studies is a premier center for scholarship, education, and dialogue about Jewish history and culture. With 21 faculty members, the center is an intellectual hub for scholars from diverse fields. Home to an undergraduate program in Jewish studies, the center sponsors classes and conferences, promotes research, supports emerging scholars, partners with the community on cultural activities, and creates bridges for community dialogue.

## AN INTIMATE RIVALRY

### How Jews Thought of Muslims in the Middle Ages

ROSS BRANN, Cornell University



In popular circles, the pre-modern history of Jewish-Muslim relations is sometimes seen as informing in straightforward ways the modern political conflict in the Middle East. Ross Brann will share the historian's view: that pre-modern Jewish-Muslim relations are characterized by an exceedingly rich and complex dynamic of minority-majority interaction.

Ross Brann is Milton R. Konvitz Professor of Judeo-Islamic Studies and a Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow at Cornell University. His publications include *The Compunctious Poet: Cultural Ambiguity and Hebrew Poetry in*

*Muslim Spain*, which received the National Jewish Book Award in Sephardic Studies, as well as four edited volumes on the intersection of Jewish and Islamic cultures.

**Special post-lecture performance: Voices of Sepharad**

**November 6, 2011 | 7:30 p.m., Mount Zion Congregation**

1300 Summit Ave., St. Paul; 651-698-3881

Co-sponsors: U of M Center for Medieval Studies, IAS Mediterranean Collaborative, and Depts. of Religious Studies and Spanish and Portuguese; Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning, Mount Zion Congregation

## ISRAELI JEWS, LIBYAN JEWS

### The Paradox of Ethnic Identity in Contemporary Israel

HARVEY E. GOLDBERG, Hebrew University



The 35,000–40,000 Jews in Libya in 1948 were the smallest of the North African Jewish communities. Most of them immigrated to Israel over the next few years. Besides facing the hardships of all newcomers, they were a group barely noticed. In recent years, they have established an attractive cultural center and museum to call attention to their Libyan heritage, and the media has begun to pay attention to their history. Harvey Goldberg will explore the paradox of Israelis who feel a special tie to Libya.

Harvey E. Goldberg is the emeritus Sarah Allen Shaine Chair in Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University. His research concerns Jews in the Middle East, ethnic and religious identities in Israeli society, and the overlap between anthropology and Jewish studies. He is the author of *Jewish Life in Muslim Libya: Rivals and Relatives* and *Jewish Passages: Cycles of Jewish Life* and editor of *Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewries* and *The Life of Judaism*.

**November 20, 2011 | 7:30 p.m., Adath Jeshurun Congregation**  
10500 Hillside Lane W., Minnetonka; 952-545-2424

Co-sponsors: U of M Center for Medieval Studies, IAS Mediterranean Collaborative, U of M Dept. of Anthropology, Minneapolis Chapter of Hadassah, Adath Jeshurun Congregation

## ERNST LUBITSCH

### Jewish Comedy from Berlin to Hollywood

RICK MCCORMICK, University of Minnesota



When Ernst Lubitsch left Berlin for Hollywood at the end of 1922 to direct a film with Mary Pickford, he was the most successful German film director. He became famous in America in the 1920s for suggestive, “sophisticated” comedy that got past the censors. During the mid-1930s, strict enforcement of film censorship guidelines made it difficult for Lubitsch. By the late 1930s, he was making comedies set in Europe that were more overtly political. His most famous comedy, *To Be or Not to Be*, was an anti-Nazi comedy that was controversial in 1942 but has since inspired many filmmakers, including Mel Brooks.

Rick McCormick, a professor of German at the University of Minnesota, is a scholar of German film and culture whose work focuses on the intersection of art, culture, and politics, with a special emphasis on gender, sexuality, and ethnic/national identity. His work has explored how postwar German film has represented the legacy of the Holocaust and Nazism as well as the complex political and cultural dynamics of Germany's Weimar Republic (1918–1933). He is working on a book on Lubitsch.

**December 8, 2011 | 7:30 p.m., Shir Tikvah Congregation**

1360 W. Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis; 612-822-1440

Co-sponsors: U of M Dept. of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch; Shir Tikvah Congregation

## GOETHE AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### Germans and the Myth of Jewish Exclusiveness

BERNARD LEVINSON, University of Minnesota



In a study of the Decalogue (Ten Commandments), Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the greatest figure in 18th–19th century German literature, advanced a particular view of German cultural identity and its relation to Judaism. Bernard Levinson shows how Goethe creates a myth of the Jew as culturally “other” in contrast to the German “self” as exclusively universal. Goethe's biblical interpretation lay at the root of German thinking about Jews, anticipating the difficulties of modern German-Jewish relations.

Bernard M. Levinson is professor of classical and Near Eastern studies and of law at the University of Minnesota, where he holds the Berman Family Chair in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible. His research focuses on biblical and cuneiform law, textual reinterpretation in the Second Temple period, and the relation of the Bible to Western intellectual history. He was named a 2010–13 Scholar of the College by the College of Liberal Arts and recently was Henry Luce Senior Fellow in Religious Studies at the National Humanities Center.

**March 1, 2012 | 7:30 p.m., Bet Shalom Congregation**

13613 Orchard Road, Minnetonka; 952-933-8525

Co-sponsors: U of M Dept. of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, Bet Shalom Congregation, Hillel at the University of Minnesota, Beth Jacob Congregation

## NO GENERATION OF SILENCE

### American Jews and the Holocaust in the Postwar Era

HASIA DINER, New York University



American Jews in the two decades after the end of World War II found many ways to make the tragedy that had engulfed their people in Europe at the hands of the German Nazis a part of their communal culture. The Holocaust loomed large for them. How did postwar American Jews experiment with language and ideas to keep alive the memories of those who had perished in Europe—and use their memories to effect changes in the world of the late 1940s through the early 1960s?

Hasia Diner is Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History at New York University and director of the Goldstein Goren Center for American Jewish History. Her many books include *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence After the Holocaust, 1945–1962*, winner of the 2010 National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies. She was the recipient of a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship.

**March 21, 2012 | 7:30 p.m., Temple Israel**

2324 Emerson Ave S, Minneapolis; 612-377-8680

Co-sponsors: U of M Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Immigration History Research Center, and Dept. of History; Temple Israel, Mount Zion Congregation, National Council of Jewish Women-St. Paul Section

[More Events ▶](#)

## SHOULD JEWS BE ALARMED? Rethinking the 'New Anti-Semitism'

JONATHAN JUDAKEN, Rhodes College



The rhetorical and political battle about contemporary anti-Semitism is often portrayed in the media as “alarmists” vs. “deniers.” Jonathan Judaken sees this debate as a dialogue of the deaf waged as a war to the death, which can only stoke the fires of global anti-Semitism and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He will lay out 10 commandments for how we should think about the growing attacks against Jewish individuals and institutions of the past decade.

Jonathan Judaken will assume the Spence L. Wilson Chair in Humanities at Rhodes College in 2012 after serving as Dunavant Professor of Modern European Cultural and Intellectual History at the University of Memphis. His work focuses on representations of Jews and Judaism and blacks and racism as a prism for exploring modernity, tolerance, and identity. He is the author of *Jean-Paul Sartre and the Jewish Question* and editor of *Naming Race, Naming Racisms*. He recently lectured in Israel as a Fulbright Senior Specialist.

April 26, 2012 | 7:30 p.m., Beth El Synagogue  
5224 W. 26th St, St. Louis Park, 952-920-3512

Co-sponsors: U of M Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Dept. Of History,  
Beth El Synagogue, JCRC of Minnesota and the Dakotas

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We are seeking major gifts for endowments to make possible a Visiting Chair in Israel Studies, undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and an ongoing Community Lecture Series. To discuss how you can play a role, contact Daniel Schroeter, center director (612-624-4914 or [schro800@umn.edu](mailto:schro800@umn.edu)), or Bruce Forstein, development director (763-545-8821 or [forst006@umn.edu](mailto:forst006@umn.edu)). Thank you for your vital support.

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COMMUNITY  
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IN MEMORY OF JULIA K. & HAROLD SEGALL