

'Why Germany Loves Jews' & OTHER INTRIGUING TOPICS

The University of Minnesota Center for Jewish Studies is pleased to present its Sixth 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 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 at the University of Minnesota is a premier center for scholarship, education, and dialogue about Jewish history and culture. With 26 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.

SIBLING RIVALS: Israel's Chosenness & Jewish/Christian Understanding

JOEL S. KAMINSKY, Smith College

Chosenness, or God's tendency to favor certain individuals or groups over others, is a central and recurring biblical theme—as in many stories of sibling rivalry within Genesis. Yet today it is a much-misunderstood and maligned biblical concept. Joel Kaminsky will explore the meaning of *chosenness* within the Hebrew Bible, illuminating the distinct ways in which followers of Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity each came to see themselves as God's chosen people.



Joel Kaminsky is a professor of Hebrew Bible and director of the Program in Jewish Studies at Smith College. He has published widely on narrative and theological analysis of the Bible, including the books *Yet I Loved Jacob: Reclaiming the Biblical Concept of Election* and *Corporate Responsibility in the Hebrew Bible*.

October 12, 2009 ■ 7:30 p.m., Temple Israel
2324 Emerson Avenue S., Minneapolis ■ 612-377-8680

Co-sponsors: Jay Phillips Center for Jewish Christian Learning, Sabes Jewish Community Center, Jewish Community Relations Council, Temple Israel

BETWEEN THE TORAH SCROLL & THE SWORD: Religion and Military Service in Israel

STUART COHEN, Bar-Ilan University

Over the past decade, the numbers of national-religious soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces have grown dramatically. The percentage of front-line personnel who wear a *kippah serugah* (knitted skullcap) is estimated at three times their proportion in the Jewish Israeli population. What might be the causes? What are the possible consequences? Stuart Cohen will address these issues while also conveying something of the 'inner world' of national-religious soldiers and their attitudes toward military service.



Stuart A. Cohen is professor of political studies and a senior fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar Ilan University (Israel). He is currently a visiting fellow at the Center for Peace and Security Studies at Georgetown University. A leading expert on the Israel Defense Forces and its relationship with Israeli society, he is the author of the recent *Israel and its Army: From Cohesion to Collusion*, as well as four other books and many articles.

November 1, 2009 ■ 7:30 p.m., Adath Jeshurun Congregation
10500 Hillside Lane W., Minnetonka ■ 952-545-2424

Co-sponsors: Sabes Jewish Community Center, Darchei Noam Congregation, Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Upper Midwest Region Hadassah, U of M Department of Political Science

FUGITIVE VIRGINS & HEBREW MAIDENS: Why Jewish Women Became Radicals in Czarist Russia

DEBORAH HERTZ, University of California

In 1881, a bomb thrown by a radical group killed Russian Czar Alexander II. A 29-year old Jewish woman, Gesia Gelfman, was condemned to death for the crime; her sentence was commuted to hard labor because she was pregnant. Her baby died within months; Gelfman died a year later. Popular anger at Gelfman intensified the pogroms that devastated Russian Jewry following the czar's killing. Deborah Hertz explores Gesia Gelfman's life story as a window into the world of Jewish radical populism in 1870s Russia.



Deborah Hertz holds the Herman Wouk Chair in Modern Jewish Studies at the University of California at San Diego. A Ph.D. graduate of the University of Minnesota, she is the author of *Jewish High Society in Old Regime Berlin* and *How Jews Became Germans: The History of Conversion and Assimilation in Berlin*. Her talk is taken from the first chapter of her book in progress, "Why Jewish Women Became Radicals in Russia and Beyond."

November 24, 2009 ■ 7:30 p.m., Beth Jacob Congregation
1179 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights ■ 651-452-2226

Co-sponsors: St. Paul Jewish Community Center, Temple of Aaron, National Council of Jewish Women St. Paul Section, Beth Jacob Congregation, U of M Department of History

MYSTERIES REVEALED: The Dead Sea Scrolls

ALEX JASSEN, University of Minnesota

Have you ever wondered what the Dead Sea Scrolls are and why there is so much controversy surrounding them? Alex Jassen reveals what exactly the scrolls are, where they come from, when they were composed, why they have become scandalous—and what they really contribute to our understanding of the Bible, Judaism, and Christianity. He will also provide background information on manuscripts to be featured in the Science Museum of Minnesota's upcoming exhibition on the Dead Sea Scrolls.



Alex Jassen is assistant professor of early Judaism in the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies and a member of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota. A member of the international editorial team for the Dead Sea Scrolls, he is the author of *Mediating the Divine: Prophecy and Revelation in the Dead Sea Scrolls* and *Second Temple Judaism*, winner of the 2009 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise. He is at work on a book on religious violence in the scrolls.

January 28, 2010 ■ 7:30 p.m., B'nai Emet Congregation
115 Ottawa Avenue S., Louis Park ■ 952-927-7309

Co-sponsors: Sabes Jewish Community Center, B'nai Emet Congregation, Upper Midwest Region Hadassah, Shari Chesed Congregation

ISRAEL'S WAR ON TERROR: Ethical and Legal Perspectives

OREN GROSS, University of Minnesota

Is assassination a permissible tactic in war? Is the killing of civilians ever justified? Is torture? How should we think about proportionality in an era of asymmetric warfare between states and terrorist organizations? Oren Gross will focus on these questions—some of the most important, complex, and controversial legal and moral issues facing Israel (and more recently the United States).



Oren Gross is the Irving Younger Professor of Law and director of the Institute for International Legal & Security Studies at the University of Minnesota Law School. He is a widely recognized scholar and policy adviser on national security law, international law, international trade, and the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict. His 2006 book *Law in Times of Crisis: Emergency Powers in Theory and Practice* (with Fionnuala Ní Aoláin) was awarded the prestigious Certificate of Merit for Preeminent Contribution to Creative Scholarship by the American Society of International Law.

March 23, 2010 ■ 7:30 p.m., Beth El Synagogue
5224 West 26th Street, St. Louis Park ■ 952-920-3512

Co-sponsors: Sabes Jewish Community Center, Twin Cities Cardozo Society, Beth El Synagogue

WHY GERMANY LOVES JEWS: Jewish Life in Berlin Today

LESLIE MORRIS, University of Minnesota

How is it that Berlin now has the world's fastest growing Jewish population? For decades after World War II, Germany had a small Jewish population and little Jewish cultural life; it was also difficult for Jews worldwide to separate Germany from the Holocaust. Leslie Morris will explore the enormous changes that have taken place since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, including the vital role of the American Jewish community in the rebuilding of Jewish life in Germany. Included is a photographic tour of Jewish Berlin.



Leslie Morris, associate professor of German literature at the University of Minnesota, directed the Center for Jewish Studies from 2002 to 2009. She is the author of a book on history and memory in postwar Austrian poetry and co-editor of two volumes on contemporary Jewish writing in Germany and the German-Jewish relationship. She is completing a book on Jewish memory in Germany.

April 13, 2010 ■ 7:30 p.m., Mount Zion Temple
1300 Summit Avenue, St. Paul ■ 651-698-3881

Co-sponsors: St. Paul Jewish Community Center; Jay Phillips Center for Jewish-Christian Learning; Jewish Community Relations Council; Mount Zion Congregation; U of M Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch

TOWARD THE EXPULSION OF THE SPANISH JEWS: Coexistence as Threat

BARBARA WEISSBERGER, University of Minnesota

The Edict of Expulsion by the Spanish monarchs in 1492 ended over a millennium of co-existence between Jews and Christians on the Iberian peninsula. In 1487-88, the Inquisition falsely accused a group of Jewish and New Christian neighbors near Toledo of committing ritual murder on a Christian child. The sensational trial was instrumental in the royal decision to expel the Jews. Trial documents reveal the complex daily interaction of Christians and Jews under the Inquisition—and how the Inquisition read that coexistence as a threat to the nation's integrity and security.



SPECIAL PERFORMANCE: Musical selections by the Voices of Sepharad.

Barbara F. Weissberger is an emerita professor of Spanish and Portuguese studies at the University of Minnesota. She has published extensively on gender and ethnic ideology in late medieval and early modern Spanish literature. Her book *Isabel Rules: Constructing Queenship, Wielding Power* won the 2006 La Corónica International Book Award.

May 6, 2010 ■ 7:30 p.m., Shir Tikvah Congregation
5000 Girard Avenue South, Minneapolis ■ 612-822-1440

Co-sponsors: Sabes Jewish Community Center, Minnesota Cantor's Association, Shir Tikvah Congregation, U of M Center for Medieval Studies, Shari Chesed Congregation

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IN MEMORY OF JULIA K. & HAROLD SEGALL

'Why Germany Loves Jews'

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