FROM THE DIRECTORS

American University’s Jewish Studies Program and Center for Israel Studies explore, inside the classroom and out, the critical issues facing the Jewish people in a historical and contemporary context. We are advancing scholarship, teaching students, and serving our community, especially by shining a spotlight on Israeli culture and society. While we invite you to take note of our activities of the past year, please join us in the coming year for lectures, concerts, symposia, film screenings, and conferences.

Our sincere thanks go to those of you who have sustained our teaching, our students, and our scholarship with your generosity. And, again, we ask you to consider a gift to the Jewish Studies Program, Center for Israel Studies, or Seymour and Lilian Abensohn Endowment to support all that we do to advance learning on our campus and in our community about the Jewish people and Israel.

AU Museum Receives Contemporary Israeli Art

Adapted from article on AU’s Web site by Maggie Barrett

Donald Rothfeld, of New York City, has given the Rothfeld Collection of Contemporary Israeli Art to the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center. The collection—151 pieces of contemporary, mixed-media Israeli art—comes with the Rothfeld Fund, a $50,000 endowed gift to support maintenance and exhibition costs.

Chronicling Israel’s history, the collection includes the works of numerous prominent and emerging Israeli artists, including works by Sigalit Landau.

See Art Collection p. 2

Sigalit Landau, DeadSee, 2004. Photograph

Sigalit Landau, DeadSee, 2005. Photograph
media outlets, including the New York Times, Jerusalem Post, and CNCB, ran stories on the 101-page report, coauthored by AU history professor Richard Breitman. Based on newly declassified government documents, Hitler’s Shadow reveals how after 1945 Western intelligence agencies declined to prosecute major war criminals—men responsible for the deaths of thousands, including captured Allied soldiers. Instead, the men, implicated in monstrous crimes, became pawns on the global Cold War chessboard.

CIS Annual Conference

In May 2011 CIS hosted its third annual Israel studies academic conference co-sponsored by the American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. This year’s theme, “Furrowed in the Middle East: Israel’s Challenges and Opportunities,” drew more than 200 faculty, students and members of the public to hear AICE scholars address research topics such as “Is Democracy or Economics Driving Upheaval in the Middle East?” and “Cyber Space and Security in the Knowledge Society.”

“When I learned about AU’s Israel Studies Program and met the staff, I was convinced that this was the right venue for the work. The beauty of the Katzen Arts Center and the Washington, D.C. location made it a ‘slam dunk.’”

university-affiliated art museum in the Washington, D.C., area to inspire dialogue about Israel, a natural fit given AU’s Center for Israel Studies (CIS) and undergraduate minor in Israel studies. The center—one of the premier centers of its kind in the nation—presents the creative and intellectual contributions of modern Israel in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. Its programs highlight Israel’s history, unique political democracy, multicultural society, economic development, immigrant absorption, and international contributions.

“When I decided to gift the collection, I felt that the work should be gifted to a non-Jewish Israeli-affiliated institution. I wanted the artist’s work ‘out there,’ to be seen, discussed, and compared with that of their peers across the globe,” Rothfeld said. “When I learned about AU’s Israel studies program and met the staff, I was convinced that this was the right venue for the work. The beauty of the Katzen Arts Center and the Washington, D.C. location made it a ‘slam dunk.’”

Works from the collection will be exhibited at the Katzen, coinciding with events co-sponsored by the American University Museum and the Center for Israel Studies. The gift also honors Michael Oren, Israel’s ambassador to the United States, whom Rothfeld knows personally.

HITLER’S SHADOW EVENTS

Within days of the release of “Hitler’s Shadow: Nazi War Criminals, U.S. Intelligence, and the Cold War,” hundreds of media outlets, including the New York Times, Jerusalem Post, and CNCB, ran stories on the 101-page report, coauthored by AU history professor Richard Breitman. Based on newly declassified government documents, Hitler’s Shadow reveals how after 1945 Western intelligence agencies declined to prosecute major war criminals—men responsible for the deaths of thousands, including captured Allied soldiers. Instead, the men, implicated in monstrous crimes, became pawns on the global Cold War chessboard.

CIS Annual Conference

In May 2011 CIS hosted its third annual Israel studies academic conference co-sponsored by the American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. This year’s theme, “Furrowed in the Middle East: Israel’s Challenges and Opportunities,” drew more than 200 faculty, students and members of the public to hear AICE scholars address research topics such as “Is Democracy or Economics Driving Upheaval in the Middle East?” and “Cyber Space and Security in the Knowledge Society.”

“When I learned about AU’s Israel Studies Program and met the staff, I was convinced that this was the right venue for the work. The beauty of the Katzen Arts Center and the Washington, D.C. location made it a ‘slam dunk.’”

university-affiliated art museum in the Washington, D.C., area to inspire dialogue about Israel, a natural fit given AU’s Center for Israel Studies (CIS) and undergraduate minor in Israel studies. The center—one of the premier centers of its kind in the nation—presents the creative and intellectual contributions of modern Israel in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. Its programs highlight Israel’s history, unique political democracy, multicultural society, economic development, immigrant absorption, and international contributions.

“When I decided to gift the collection, I felt that the work should be gifted to a non-Jewish Israeli-affiliated institution. I wanted the artist’s work ‘out there,’ to be seen, discussed, and compared with that of their peers across the globe,” Rothfeld said. “When I learned about AU’s Israel studies program and met the staff, I was convinced that this was the right venue for the work. The beauty of the Katzen Arts Center and the Washington, D.C. location made it a ‘slam dunk.’”

Works from the collection will be exhibited at the Katzen, coinciding with events co-sponsored by the American University Museum and the Center for Israel Studies. The gift also honors Michael Oren, Israel’s ambassador to the United States, whom Rothfeld knows personally.
FOCUS ON ARTS, CULTURE, AND POLITICS

SheshBesh Promotes Cultural Respect through Music

The Arab-Israeli musical ensemble SheshBesh brought its message of peace around the world to American University last April, thanks to the CIS and its supporters: the AU Department of Performing Arts Music Program, Embassy of Israel, American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Susan and Samuel Lehrman, and the Spieler Endowment Fund. SheshBesh, with musicians from the Israel Philharmonic and talented Arab Israeli musicians, was founded by Israel Philharmonic Orchestra flautist Yoasi Arneheim, to show how music can help transcend cultural and religious conflict.

The name SheshBesh, which is Turkish for the board game Backgammon, symbolizes the ensemble’s role as a kind of cultural ambassador. Backgammon, says Arneheim, “is a game everyone plays in the Middle East, regardless of background or race or religion or age. It is a game that brings people together.”

“The multicultural nature of the band and its music fit with the multicultu- ral environment at AU,” said Laura Cutter, CIS director. “In finding bridges to units people, the ensemble meshes with the cooperative spirit I feel at American University.”

Standing ovations greeted both of the group’s performances, a public performance and one for 100 students in the Department of Performing Arts’ Live Performance Lab.

Peter Beinart Delivers Amos Perlmutter Memorial Lecture

In February before a large crowd, Peter Beinart presented the annual Amos Perlmutter Memorial Lecture discussing his provocative New York Review of Books essay “The Failure of the American Jewish Establishment.” Beinart, a fellow at the New America Foundation, senior political writer for the Daily Beast, and associate professor of journalism and political science at City University of New York, touched off a national debate with his essay about the values central to young liberal Jews in America and their implications for the fate of Israel. Beinart, an observant Jew, criticized a Jewish establishment he said is out of touch with young, nonorthodox Jews who want to support Israel but are unwilling to remain silent about certain Israeli policies, such as those concerning settlements. “Young American Jews have essentially been asked to make a choice between their liberal values and Zionism, and for better and for worse, I very much mean it for better and for worse,” he said. “I think they’re by and large chosen liberalism over Zionism.” Beinart said he wrote the piece because he wants his children “to love Israel for its declaration of independence, which envisions a nation of freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the Hebrew Prophets.”

That experience paved the way for her current job as program manager for the Human Rights Campaign’s (HRC) Jewish Organization Equality Index.

Renée Best, Jewish studies, CAS ’11, also interned at the Embassy of Israel. Now in her last semester at AU, she is finishing her senior thesis and working at the embassy: “My internship turned into a job in the Cultural Affairs Department of the embassy. In my job I work to arrange venues for Israeli artists, musicians, [and] performers…I couldn’t have asked for a better job right out of school that combines my passion for Israel and my passion for the arts.”

Tammy Schwartz, Jewish studies, CAS ’11, interned at B’nai B’rith International’s Center for Human Rights and Public Policy: “Most of my daily tasks involved researching and writing about issues important to the Jewish community, such as Iran sanctions, the Jonathan Pollard case, workplace religious freedom, foreign aid appropriations, and America’s dependency on foreign oil. I also tracked votes regarding Israel at the UN.” Of her study abroad experience at Hebrew University, she said: “Studying abroad allowed me to gain more independence and connect to Judaism in my daily life.”

Steph Schey, Jewish studies, CAS ’11, studied abroad twice, at the CET Jewish Studies Enclave Program in Prague and at Tel Aviv University. “This experience was eye-opening and life-changing for me. I made new friends, strengthened my Jewish identity, and formed educated opinions about critical issues in the world,” Schey also interned for the American Jewish International Relations Institute (AJIR), Project Interchange, and the OneVoice Movement and babysat regularly. “Through the combination of these experiences, I learned that I enjoy educating others and loved working with children.” Currently in an accelerated teacher-certification program while working toward a master’s in education and a D.C. teaching license, she also teaches pre-K/Kindergarten at a local charter school.

Study Abroad and Internship Experiences Shape Jewish Studies and Israel Studies Grads

Dafna Kaffeman: What Could Be Sweeter Than Going to Paradise? Two Artists in Conversation

American artist Mindy Weisel and Israeli artist Dafna Kaffeman discussed the connections between inspiration and the poetic and humanitarian possibilities of art at an event at the AU Museum. The discussion coincided with Kaffeman’s exhibit, What Could Be Sweeter Than Going to Paradise? which was guest- curated by Weisel. Kaffeman is head of glass studies at Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem.

Artists Lillian Abensohn, Mindy Weisel, Dafna Kaffeman, and Dalya Luttwak

Renee Best with Tal Efraty, academic affairs officer, Embassy of Israel

Tammy Schwartz

Steph Schey

Dafna Kaffeman, Tactual Stimulation. Glass

Elizabeth Leibowitz with Israeli Ambassador Liz Leibowitz at an event at the AU Museum. The discussion addressed and the poetic and humanitarian possibilities of art at an event at the AU Museum. The discussion coincided with Kaffeman’s exhibit, What Could Be Sweeter Than Going to Paradise? which was guest-cured by Weisel. Kaffeman is head of glass studies at Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem.
NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Lynn Addington, School of Public Affairs (SPA), continues her collaboration with Yaaqov Yablon-Barak on the examin- ing school violence cross-nationally, espe- cially in the United States and Israel. Their most recent publication, "John Coward in the American Journal of Education and Victims & Offenders," Boaz Atzili, SIS, published his article "State Weakness and Vacuum of Power in Lebanon" in Studies in Confront and Terrorism. Lecturing on the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict at the Foreign Service Institute, he also wrote an article for the Huffington Post on the 1967 border and appeared on the Radio Voice of Russia. Richard Breitman, Department of History (CAS), continues work on her book "Hitler’s Shadow: Nazi War Criminals, U.S. Intelligence, and the Cold War." Enarr Carmel, Department of Information Technology (KSB), continues to research Israeli technology firms. His most recent publication, "Public Outsourcing: Delivering ITO and BPO Services from Remote Domestic Locations," was inspired by his collaboration with Carmel. An academic year, continues as editor in chief of The Cartoon & Caricature. Alan Levine, Department of Government (SPS), who is going to look for a publisher, a book on the 1962 publication of "The Power of Apprenticeship in Israel." at the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem on the need for an expanded role of apprenticeship in Israeli-Tel Aviv, BAC, has been appointed director of the BAC. Richard Linowes, Department of Management (KSB), recently lived in Japan researching how international business culture can be adapted to local cultures. He met with Israeli businesses in Japan, Thailand, and India promoting cooperation between companies in Japan and U.S. companies and academics. Eric Lober, Department of History (CAS), published an article, "1915 and the War Pogrom Pamukryan in the Russian Empire" in Anti- Jewish Violence: Rethinking the Pogrom in East European History. Gail Humphries Mardirian, Department of Performing Arts (CAS), pioneer of AU’s Voices of Terezin Project, continues to teach about the Holocaust through performing arts. During the last academic year, the library community saw DPA performances of the woman play on Anne Frank. Fred Lazin, Department of History, which opened on Philadelphia’s 12th annual Professor John C. Livingston Lecture in American Jewish History. Saul Newman, Department of Government (SPA), finished a comparative study on the impact of religious beliefs and terror on the willingness of Israeli Jews and Northern Irish Protestants to make concessions for peace. Newman was recently appointed director of the Hillen board of directors and served on the search committee that hired the new Hillen executive director, Jason Benkendorf. Yossi Olmert, SIS, published "Syria and Israel—The Elusive Peace" in the Digest of Middle East Studies and "One Person, One Vote in Syria" in the Cario Review. He presented "Jabotinsky, Begin, Lieberman: The Evolution of Right-Wing Thinking on the Status of Arabs in Israel" at the Association of Israeli Studies annual conference at Brandeis University. Maina Singh, Department of History (CAS), was appointed senior associate fellow of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University. She published "The Indian Jewish in Israel-A Forgotten Diaspora?" in the Foreign Policy Research Centre Journal. Myra Sklarew, professor emerita, Department of Literature (CAS), continues to publish poetry and essays on Jewish themes. Jeffrey Sosland, Washington Semester Program and KSB, presented his research to the St. Paul-Minneapolis Community on Foreign Relations in Minneapolis on the Palestinian-Israeli water negotiations and presented his paper “Economic Interdependence and the Arab-Israeli Conflict” at the 2011 Midwest Political Science Association Chicago in Chicago. Howard M. Wachtel, professor emeritus, Department of Economics (CAS), is a member of the board of directors of the Association for Israel Studies and chairs the association's Task Force on Israel Studies Centers and Professors. He is also a member of the advisory board of the American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise’s Israeli Scholar Development Fund. Guy Zv, SIS, new director of the SIS Summer Abroad Program in Jerusalem, published a book on the Israeli education system entitled "Non-Jewish Minorities and the Question of Military Service in the Israel Defense Forces, 1948-1998." Calvin Goldscheider returns this year as scholar in residence for Jewish studies and Israel studies. "A Typical Extraordinary Jew: From Tarnow to Jerusalem is his new book, coauthored with Jeffrey Green. Goldscheider continues to write and lecture on Israeli society and Jewish identity. Fred Labin, Department of Sociology (CAS), continues his research on the Soviet Jewry movement in the U.S. In the past year, he lectured widely on Israeli society and politics, giving more than 40 lectures in venues such as the Institute of Sociology in Prague and delivering a keynote address on immigrant absorption in Israel at the Israeli embassy. Alain Michel, was scholar in residence at AU in fall 2010. Founder and director of Elkanah Publishing and former editor of the French daily for seminars and education at the VAD, Vahem, Michel has written about the history of the French Jewish scouting movement and the experiences of French Jews during WWII. Michel writes, "AU provided me with the tools to move forward with my work on military service in the Israeli army. I am particularly grateful to AU colleagues Lisa Leff and Richard Breitman for their assistance in my research." Michel’s new book will be published this November under the title Vichy and the Shoah. ■

STUDENT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Lauren Barr received CSIs award for the best paper or poem related to Israel for her paper “Understanding the Role of the OneVoice Movement.” “I was always involved with Jewish community life in high school and, when I began studying international relations at American University, my Jewish roots and values compelled me to become involved in issues that affect Israel. I quickly develop- ed a passion for learning all I could about the region and finding ways to sup- port the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. These interests led me to found the OneVoice Movement at AU, a forum for students of all backgrounds to have thoughtful, informed discussion about the conflict, and I led two student delega- tions to Israel and the West Bank through the Alternative Breaks Program. The paper I wrote for the Israel Writing Competition was inspired by my experi- ences working with OneVoice… and was my effort to understand the role and impact of such peacebuilding work. It is my hope that positive initiatives like OneVoice continue to gain support and work for a better future.” Barr is currently a master’s candidate in the International Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) Program. Our annual award was established by professor emerita of literature Myra Sklarew in memory of her uncle Benjamin Reinkel and aunt Eva Wolpers Reinkel and in honor of her uncle Harry Reinkel. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Randall Geller, Department of History (CAS), joins the history and Jewish Studies faculty, having recently earned his doctorate in Israeli studies and Middle Eastern history at Brandeis University. Prior to beginning his doctoral work, he lived in Israel and worked as a journalist, lecturer, and tour guide. Geller is currently revising a manuscript entitled "Non-Jewish Minorities and the Question of Military Service in the Israel Defense Forces, 1948-1998." Thanks to our generous supporters, more than 40 students have received scholarships and awards this year.

Kris Berenson, Jane and Jerrold Goodman Scholarship
Lisa Paquette, Jane and Jerrold Goodman Scholarship
Eleanor Rose, Jane and Jerrold Goodman Scholarship
Rebecca Levy, Stephen and Lynn Greenfield Family Scholarship
Reene Best, Everett and Marion Gordon Scholarship
Einar Bar Shira received the Ben and Esther Rosenboom Foundation Scholarship for an Israeli student studying at AU.

CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES American University’s Center for Israel Studies is one of the nation’s premier centers for edu- cating about today’s Israel—its achieve- ments and its challenges. Our approach is multidisciplinary, going beyond the Arab-Israeli conflict to study modern Israeli history, vibrant society, culture, multilingual democracy, and complex geopolitical issues. The center’s goal is to enhance scholarship and knowledge in the university and the wider community about a multicultural Israel. Using AU’s expertise in global education, and its central location in Washington, D.C., CIFS seeks to bring all of Israel to the next gen- eration of young leaders and to serve as a national and international hub for nur- turing and catalyzing Israeli studies.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM American University’s commitment to the Jewish Studies Program dates back to the early 1970s. Since AU’s Jewish Studies Program has included a major and a minor and offered courses across the cur- riculum, including in our General Education Program, for all AU students. The program takes great pride in being the first in the nation to offer a minor in Israeli studies.

RSVP: 202-885-2590 or jspprogram@american.edu
The Center for Israel Studies and the Jewish Studies Program thank the following donors for their generous contributions. We count on donor support to ensure the vibrancy of our programs.

**Donors to CIS and JSP**

(*President’s Circle Donor*)

**April 30, 2010–September 1, 2011**

- Lillian Klein Abensohn*
- Marilyn Armel*
- Charles and Ruth Bartfeld
- Leonard and Gabriela Bebchick
- Susan J. Becker
- Jason Benkendorf
- Dava Berkman
- Benjamin Brown*
- Rick and Pamela Brown*
- Ronald Brown
- Theodore Brown*
- Richard and Amara Chadwick
- Alan Cohen
- Arthur and Lyn Cohen
- Herbert and Linda Cohen
- Morris and Dorothy Cohen
- Janis Colton
- Laura Katz Cutler
- Lisa Dick
- Mark Dorf
- Keith Eig
- Richard and Lois England*
- Jack and Trudy Exelbert
- Israel Feldman and Sharon Doner-Feldman*
- Norma Fenzes
- Robert Finfer*
- Barry Forman*
- J. R. Franzen and Sandra Kloner
- Judith H. Friedman
- Craig Gardy
- Carl Gewirz
- Jonah and Sallie Gitlitz
- Stanley Goldberg
- Jane and Jerold Goodman
- Isidore and Helen Goren
- Ada Green
- Bonnie Genkin Green
- Daniel Hirsch and Brenda Gruss
- Jerry and Linda Herman
- Kenneth and Rhoda Herman*
- Louise Klein Hodin
- Gisela Huberman*
- Judy Ramoy Johnstone
- Lauren Kart
- Robert and Karen Keats*
- Lori Lyons Kramer
- Amy Lampert
- Fred Levin
- Mark Levitt*
- Randall Levitt*
- David Manchester
- Daniel and Elaine Mann
- Renee Marlin-Bennett
- Sander and Irene Mendelson
- Jennifer Meyerhoff
- Annette Moshman
- Sid and Linda Moskowitz
- Pamela Nadell and Edward Farber
- Andrew Neft
- Sylvia Olivetti
- David Osnow
- Ronald and Toni Paul*
- Mindy Portnoy
- Anita Reiner
- Leon and Harriet Reiter
- Marian Rocker
- Joanne Rosendorn
- Irving Rosenthal
- Irwin and Sylvia Rosenthal
- Jerry and Michelle Rosenthal
- Donald and Susan Rothfeld*
- Jess Sadick
- Loretta Schaefker
- Stephen Shapiro
- Roberta Schneidman
- Herman and Mary Schwartz
- Bruce Sklarew
- Myra Sklarew
- Stuart Sloane
- Jean Soman*
- Peter Starr*
- Russell and Rala Stone
- Norma Tucker
- Diane Abelman Wattenberg
- Matthew and Robin Weinberg
- Henry and Nicole Weiner
- Carey Weiss and Karen Pearce
- Stanley and Joan Weiss
- David Wexler
- Esther Wilner
- Paul Wolff and Rhea Schwartz*
- American Associates Ben Gurion University of the Negev
- American Friends of Hebrew University
- American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra
- American-Israel Cooperative Enterprise
- American Jewish Committee
- Baxt Family Foundation*
- Berman Family Foundation
- Gary and Carol Berman Family Foundation*
- Hyman S. and Freda Bernstein Jewish Literary Festival
- Ralph S. and Frances R. Dweck Family Foundation

**Embassy of Israel**
- Samuel and Grace Gorlitz Foundation
- Jewish Agency for Israel
- The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- Eleanor M. and Herbert D. Katz Family Foundation*
- Samuel and Susan Lehrman
- The Joseph and Rebecca Myerhoff Awards Committee*
- Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning
- Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation*
- The Ben and Esther Rosenbloom Foundation Inc.*
- Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation*
- The Joseph and Rebecca Myerhoff Awards Committee*
- The Ben and Esther Rosenbloom Foundation Inc.*
- Partnership for Jewish Literacy and Learning
- Howard Wachtel

**American Associates Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- Maurice and Flora Atkin
- Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation*
- Marc and Nancy Duber*
- Herbert and Ruby Halperin*
- Bernard Hyams
- Robert and Arlene Kogod*
- Stuart Kurlander
- Alan and Amy Meltzer*
- Andrea Nordell
- Bruce and Amy Pascal
- Barry and Linda Perlis
- Sandra Pollen
- Richard and Monica Sussman
- Howard Wachtel

**Abensohn Fund Donations**

- Lillian Klein Abensohn*
- Gary and Pennie Abramson*
- Maurice and Flora Atkin
- Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation*
- Marc and Nancy Duber*
- Herbert and Ruby Halperin*
- Bernard Hyams
- Robert and Arlene Kogod*
- Stuart Kurlander
- Alan and Amy Meltzer*
- Andrea Nordell
- Bruce and Amy Pascal
- Barry and Linda Perlis
- Sandra Pollen
- Richard and Monica Sussman
- Howard Wachtel

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**

For more information or to contribute to our programs, please contact:

**Center for Israel Studies**
- 202-885-9780
cutler@american.edu
www.american.edu/cas/israelstudies

**Jewish Studies Program**
- 202-885-2425
pnadell@american.edu
www.american.edu/cas/js/

---

Thank You!