

THE HAROLD SCHNITZER FAMILY PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES AT PSU PRESENTS

The Third Annual Gus & Libby Solomon Lecture

Dedicated to exploring the American Jewish experience and the ideals of social justice promoted by the Solomons throughout their lifetime.

Owning Our Culture: How Jews Can Thrive in 21st-Century America

Professor Alan Mintz, Chana Kekst Professor in Hebrew Literature and Chair of the Department of Hebrew Language at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Thursday, April 10, 2007, 7 pm, Admission Free

The Native American Student and Community Center
PSU Campus, 710 SW Jackson Street

For more information or to discuss group seating,
contact Linda Maizels at lmaizels@pdx.edu or call 503-725-4023



Alan Mintz

Debbie Friedman in Portland

Join us in honoring the Sara Glasgow Cogan Scholarship recipients at the

Debbie Friedman Lecture

Inside & Outside: The Challenge of Jewish Prayer

Monday, May 19, 7 pm, SMSU Ballroom, PSU
\$10 (free for students)—for info call 503-725-4023

And don't miss

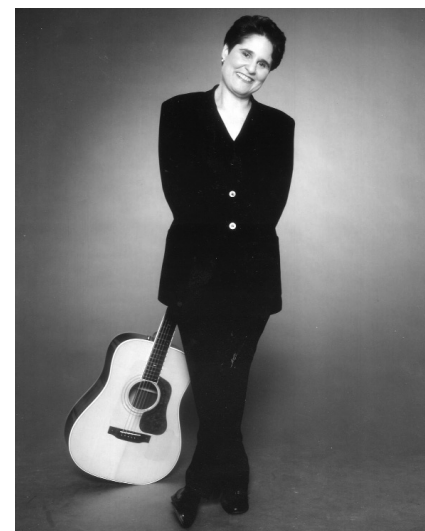
Debbie Friedman Live in Concert

Sunday, May 18, 3 pm, MJCC

For tickets call 503-244-0111

Presale \$25 adults, \$10 children/students

After May 9, \$30 adults, \$15 children/students



Debbie Friedman

Proceeds benefit the Cogan Scholarship and MJCC social and cultural programming. Co-presented by the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center with special thanks to Cindi and Jared Gellert.

Israel at 60 Events

May 21: *The Economic and Demographic Background to the Hasidic Movement*. Lecture by Professor Shaul Stampfer from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 12 pm, location TBA.

June 2: *Writing Israeli Selfhood: Reflections on Modern Hebrew Autobiography on the Occasion of Israel's 60th Birthday*. Lecture by Hannah Pressman, The Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Washington. 12 pm, location TBA.

The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies
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Community Outreach: 503-725-4023
www.judaic.pdx.edu

Michael Weingrad, *Academic Director*
Aaron Pearlman, *Community Outreach Director*
Linda Maizels, *Community Outreach Coordinator*
Bob Liebman, *Director Emeritus*
Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, *Honorary Chair*



The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies

Focusing on Jews & Judaism in Modernity

MARCH 2008

The Lokey Chair: Dreams Coming True at PSU

PROFESSOR MICHAEL WEINGRAD



I arrived in Portland three years ago, as the first ever full-time professor of Judaic Studies at Portland State University. I dreamed at the time of creating a nationally recognized Judaic Studies program.

Through the generosity of our community, the mentoring of Professor Robert Liebman, the commitment of PSU and the support of the Schnitzer Family, we developed a vision for this program. As I outlined in this newsletter one year ago, our ambition was to

expand the core faculty of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies to four full-time professors.

I never doubted that we would achieve our goal, but I could not have hoped for us to have come so far in such a short period of time. Just a few months after we announced our vision, Business Wire founder and Portland native Lorry Lokey granted \$1.5 million, through the Lorry I. Lokey Supporting Foundation of the San Francisco Jewish Community Endowment Fund, to establish the Lorry I. Lokey Chair in Judaic Studies at Portland State University.

This gift is absolutely transformative; it meets student interest in the often glorious, often tragic story of modern Jewish experience in Europe. And it brings us a giant step closer to our vision of four full-time faculty in Judaic Studies, teaching about Jewish life and culture in modern Europe, America, the State of Israel and the pre-modern world.

The Lokey Chair will join our faculty this fall. This scholar will have expertise in the history and culture of modern European Jewry. As of this printing we are in the midst of campus visits with three outstanding finalists for the position.



Lorry I. Lokey

This extraordinary gift from Mr. Lokey also allows us to commence ahead of schedule our search for the third faculty position, a professor of Judaism in the pre-modern period, whom we expect to hire in 2010.

That leaves the fourth position: the Rabbi Joshua Stampfer Professorship in Israel Studies, which will make accurate, meaningful education about the richness and challenges of life in the Jewish State a permanent feature of the educational landscape at PSU. Although we have made a promising start toward creating the Stampfer Professorship, we are still raising funds toward the realization of this dream and hope to hire the Stampfer Professor by 2011.

With a core faculty of four scholars, we will be able to offer an undergraduate major in Judaic Studies and contribute exponentially to the intellectual and cultural life of our city and region. We will be a powerful link in the chain of major Jewish Studies programs in the universities of the West Coast, ranging from Los Angeles to Seattle.

I am also delighted to announce that PSU is hosting the third annual Gus & Libby Solomon Lecture, which has become a showcase for some of the most dynamic and intelligent voices on the American Jewish scene today. Alan Mintz's lecture promises to be both erudite and inspiring.

In May, the Schnitzer Program is proud to co-host with the MJCC a visit to Portland by the legendary singer/songwriter Debbie Friedman. On Sunday, May 18, Debbie and her band will perform in a concert that will raise funds for both the Cogan Scholarship and social and cultural programming at the MJCC. The next evening, Ms. Friedman, a musician who has exerted perhaps the most far-reaching influence of our times on Jewish music and the role of women in Jewish music, will deliver a lecture entitled *Inside & Outside: The Challenge of Jewish Prayer*.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to this community for its warm support. Our goal has always been to create a top-flight academic Judaic Studies program in which Portland's Jewish community can participate and take pride. I am extremely grateful to Lorry Lokey and the Schnitzer family for providing the funds to start and build this program, and to the Solomon and the Cogan families for their leadership and support. I would also like to thank the "Friends of Judaic Studies" and other donors, and the participants in our Hebrew and Judaic Studies courses, individuals who support our mission to increase intercultural and interreligious understanding in our world and to deepen the intellectual and scholarly resources of our campus, city, and community.



Sara Glasgow Cogan Scholarship

A NOTE FROM MICHAEL WEINGRAD

This year is the inaugural year for the Sara Glasgow Cogan Scholarship at PSU. I am proud to oversee a scholarship program of such unique potential that honors Sara Cogan's passion for service learning and communal involvement. I want to thank the Cogan family and the many supporters who have brought us an impressive two-thirds of the way towards permanently endowing this scholarship program.

Recipients Selected

Two outstanding PSU students, Andrew Geist and Sarah Wheeler, have been selected as the inaugural recipients of the Sara Glasgow Cogan Endowed Scholarship. This unique scholarship will be awarded each year to full-time PSU undergraduate and graduate students who undertake research and service-learning projects in partnership with a Jewish cultural or communal organization. The scholarship is open to academically distinguished students of all backgrounds.

Andrew Geist is an intern at the Oregon Jewish Museum, where he is helping to catalogue the recently acquired archival holdings of the National Council of Jewish Women. He is also developing an annotated bibliography of scholarly sources for student researchers who wish to further explore this collection. OJM Director Judy Margles tells us that the National Council volunteers love working with Andrew, and that he "has quickly proved himself indispensable, showing a natural affinity for archival work and an ability to

recognize the most important papers in the Council collection."

Andrew will graduate PSU this spring with a BA in History and a minor in Judaic Studies. He intends to pursue graduate studies in history at PSU, with an emphasis on the ancient Near East. He explains that, while his work at



OJM is a bit far afield from his intended graduate focus, the opportunity to arrange an archival collection has given him insights on how to conduct future research. He also expressed his appreciation for the chance to examine, in the OJM archives, how Jewish immigrants struggled to retain their Jewishness while undergoing the process of Americanization. Andrew sees this struggle "as part of the overall American experience and part of the Jewish experience."

Sarah Wheeler is a Masters student in the School of Social Work. She is working at Cedar Sinai Park (CSP) with David Fuks, who describes Sarah's project as the development of an individualized learning tool that will train the staff of CSP about "Jewish culture, history and the care needs of Jewish elders." The goal of the project is to improve the cross-cultural competence of the CSP staff, the majority of whom are not Jewish. The final product, which will utilize a PowerPoint format, will encourage self-guided study by staff members and may eventually become a permanent part of the CSP website.



Sarah notes that the project has been personally rewarding because she has had the opportunity "to learn so much about Jewish culture and ethnicity." Sarah credits Fuks with inspiring her to move forward on this project and in her career. She also acknowledges her pride in receiving the

Sara Glasgow Cogan scholarship: "I definitely feel honored that this is in her name." Fuks concurs, adding, "I think that my friend Sara Cogan would have been pleased to see this work undertaken by such an able young woman."

Studying Hebrew at PSU

The Hebrew program at PSU has grown and flourished along with the Judaic Studies Program. Today, PSU offers three different levels of Hebrew instruction each academic year. The classes attract a diverse population of students from a wide variety of backgrounds and skill levels. There is also an intensive summer course in which students can complete the equivalent of the first year of Hebrew in nine weeks. Hebrew instructor Ayal Yariv, a native of Jerusalem, is enthusiastic about the intensive format. "Meeting everyday gives students the opportunity to develop fluency in a shorter amount of time," Yariv emphasizes. "It is also fun because students get to know one another and to develop a deeper understanding of Israeli culture."

Thanks to the generosity of the Aspen Mitzvah Fund, we offer scholarships to qualified students taking second or third-year Hebrew. Interested students should contact Michael Weingrad (weingrad@pdx.edu) or check the Judaic Studies website at <http://www.judaic.pdx.edu>.

There is Still Work to be Done...

The transformational gift from Lorry Lokey changes the landscape for the future of the Schnitzer Program at PSU. Due to the support from Mr. Lokey and many others, we have had an extraordinary year, and yet we still have much to build in the future to ensure a complete and well-rounded program.

- We must fund the remainder of the Stampfer Professorship, and thereby honor a visionary in our community who has been associated with PSU for over 45 years.
- We must maintain and expand our library's Judaic Studies holdings, and provide support for faculty research and development so that our teaching stays fresh and cutting-edge.

PSU Judaic Studies Hosts MacArthur "Genius" Fellow

Peter Cole, the luminous translator of medieval Hebrew poetry, spoke at Portland State University on October 14, 2007 as the lead-off speaker in this year's Writers and Scholars lecture series sponsored by the Northwest Institute for Judaic Studies. His talk, attended by more than 80, was cosponsored by the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies and the PSU Middle East Studies Center.

Just a few weeks before his talk, Cole was named as one of the year's recipients of the MacArthur Fellowship, popularly known as the "Genius Grant," which carries an award of \$500,000. He was honored for his prizewinning translations, which vividly conjure for an American readership the dazzling literary production of Jews living in the culturally hybrid milieu of Muslim Spain.

Introduced by Professor Michael Weingrad as "the finest translator of medieval Hebrew poetry, ever," Cole read with orchestral precision and passion from his latest anthology, *The Dream of the Poem*, which covers Hebrew poetry written in Spain from the tenth to the fifteenth centuries.

THREE THINGS

All who'd live by
risk and resistance
manage three things:

high-sea commerce,
excellent enemies,
and the company of kings.

—Shmuel HaNagid (993-1056)
translation, Peter Cole



Peter Cole photo: Carol Isaak

- We must offer additional scholarship opportunities so that more students of all backgrounds can learn about the Jewish story and its lessons for living and thriving in the modern world.
- We must permanently endow the annual Solomon Lecture, continuing the exciting exploration of the American Jewish experience and the ideals of social justice promoted by the Solomons throughout their lifetime.

For information on how to support our program, please contact Aaron Pearlman at 503-725-8449 or email pearlmana@pdx.edu.

JUDAIC STUDIES COURSES AT PSU

Full course descriptions at www.judaic.pdx.edu

SPRING 2008, MARCH 31–JUNE 8

Psy 410/510 *Psychology of Trauma*
M 5:30–9:10 pm, CRN 63169/63165, A. Lovenstein

Hst 344U *Jews and Judaism in the United States from World War II to the Present*
T & Th 2–3:50 pm, CRN 64993, L. Maizels

Hst 407/507 *Medieval Iberia*
M & W 10:00–11:50 am, CRN 64994/65021, J. Ott

Eng 410/510 *Writing the Holy Land*
M & W 10:15 am–12:05 pm, CRN 65755/65756,
M. Weingrad

Heb 103 *First-year Modern Hebrew*
MWF 9–10:05 am, CRN 61433, A. Yariv
Third in a three-course introductory sequence.

Heb 203 *Second-year Modern Hebrew*
MWF 11:30 am–12:35 pm, SB2 104, CRN 41609, A. Yariv
Third in a three-course intermediate sequence.

Heb 399 *Third-year Modern Hebrew*
T & Th 6:40–8:30 pm, CRN 65636, A. Yariv

Courses are generally available on a non-credit basis at reduced fees. Courses are also available tuition-free for seniors through the Senior Adult Learning Center: call 503-725-4739 on Tuesday and Thursdays between 11 and 2 for more information.

For Judaic Studies program and placement information, and for information about the undergraduate Minor Degree in Judaic Studies, please contact Professor Michael Weingrad (weingrad@pdx.edu, 503-725-3085).