

Fall Quarter 2011, Message from the Director

Welcome to the new Fall quarter at CJS!

We have had a great 2011-12 academic year at CJS, and we look forward to more exciting courses and programs for the upcoming 2011-12 school year – including:

- Special **2011-12 Schusterman Visiting Israeli Professorship**,
- Fall 2011 celebration of the completion of the first phase of our Holocaust Memorial Social Action Site,
- Winter 2011-12 **Jewish Texts in Translation** conference, and
- A newly awarded grant from the **Rose Community Foundation** for an amazing series of **Israel programs** with our new programming partner, **AJC**.

Stay-tuned for updates about these and other exciting events for the coming academic year!

As we move into the new year, let's recall just a few highlights from 2010-11:

- This year, CJS welcomed new faculty members **Sari Havis** and **Jonathan Sciarcon**. Prof. Havis has done a phenomenal job in leading our new Hebrew Program and in bringing new courses and expertise in Israeli Culture and Israeli Film to DU, and Prof. Sciarcon has done an amazing job of bringing to DU both his expertise in Iraqi Jewry, as well as a number of important new courses on Israeli and Jewish History
- CJS faculty **Lydia Gil Keff** led an extremely successful travel course to Buenos Aires; DU students learned about Jewish Argentinian history, culture and literature during this intensive one-week Judaic Studies trip. The course was such a hit that another group of student will join Prof. Gil Keff in Buenos Aires again this Winter!
- CJS faculty featured a number of rich **Judaic Studies course offerings** – including a number of brand new courses – in Jewish Literature, History, Philosophy, Religion, Culture, Film and Language to an ever-growing group of DU students (undergraduate and graduate)
- Our Winter Jewish Studies Colloquium featured a number of guest lectures, including authors **Haim Watzman** and **Annie Dawid**
- This year we hosted 3 visiting scholars in Jewish Philosophy: **Dr. Claire Katz** (Texas A&M) delivered our Jewish Perspectives on Social Justice lecture on Levinasian notions of forgiveness; **Dr. Leora Batnitzky** (Princeton University) spoke with us about Rosenzweigian conceptions of Jewish identify; and **Dr. Tzvi Langermann** (Bar Ilan University) spoke on themes of Jewish piety as part of our bi-annual Philosophy in the Abrahamic Traditions conference
- This past year, we hosted two visits with Israeli film expert **Dr. Miri Talmon-Bohm**; Dr. Talmon led students and community members in a number of exciting conversations about Israeli culture through a cinematic lens.

- RMJHS hosted the 2011 Livingston Lecture featuring **Dr. Alan Kraut** on the theme of “Forget Your Past: Advising Jewish Immigrants on Becoming American in the Early Twentieth Century.” RMJHS has also just celebrated the successful opening (at Denver Public Library) of the new **Max Lazarus exhibit**
- We distributed a number of new awards as part of our **Dr. Irwin E. Vinnik Fellowship for Advanced Study in Israel** program. In the Spring, we held a special gathering to celebrate the award-recipients.
- In March 2011, we hosted our annual **Fred Marcus Memorial Holocaust Lecture** with visiting expert **Dr. James Young**, followed by a 7-person expert panel on the theme of memory and memorials; we also worked with the USHMM and Facing History in February to host a successful **Fred Marcus Teacher Training** event with over 50 teachers in attendance.
- In April 2011, we partnered with the **Denver Film Society** to screen award-winning Holocaust documentary *Killing Kasztner*, including a special talk-back with visiting filmmaker **Gaylen Ross**
- In March 2011, we held the 2nd annual **Hamantasch-Latke Debate** with Buntport Theater to a full house of cheering fans, with a table of delicious treats sponsored by Allied Jewish Federation. Team Hamantasch won the evening!
- As part of our dedication to ensuring a vibrant future for the study and teaching of Hebrew in the region, in October 2010, we organized a **Hebrew conference** with the **National Middle East Language Resource Center**. Under the direction of Prof. Sari Havis, we hosted 45 attendees, including visiting Hebrew teachers from around the country and from local Denver Jewish day schools, as well as language teachers from surrounding universities.
- In October 2010, we celebrated **Latino Heritage Month** with a free evening of film and conversation with visiting scholar and documentarian **Dr. Ruth Behar**. Over 100 attendees enjoyed an evening of Jewish-Latino culture and history.
- We co-sponsored with Facing History and Ourselves an afternoon of conversation with renowned Holocaust scholar, **Dr. Daniel Goldhagen**
- We co-sponsored an evening of conversation with visiting Chinese scholar, **Dr. Xu Xin** on the theme of China-Israel Relations
- As part of our ongoing dedication to Holocaust Awareness, in October 2010 we broke ground on our new **Holocaust Memorial Social Action Site**. Local survivors, local community members and local teachers came together alongside middle school, high school, and DU students to ensure that “Never Again” has living meaning for the present and the future.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Best,

Sarah Pessin

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