Survival in Sarajevo: Jews, Muslims and Christians working together during the Bosnian war

The Initiative for Moral Courage Symposium, sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, focused on stories of courage during the Bosnia war that raged in the early 1990’s. The 3-day event featured a slate of award-winning films, lectures and a concert, all of which were free and open to the public.

A photography exhibition in Love Library was based on reporter Edward Serotta’s book, “Survival in Sarajevo” which highlighted the aid society based in Sarajevo’s Jewish community center, La Benevolnecija. The exhibition documented the story of these members, and showed how and why these people came together.

La Benevolnecija’s President, Jakob Finci recounted how its members, Christians, Muslims and Jews worked side by side during the most harrowing days of the war.

Two film screenings were included in the Symposium: “I Came to Testify” told the moving story of 16 women imprisoned by Serb-led forces who courageously broke the silence about systematic rapes of women during the war. “Grbavica: Land of My Dreams” winner of the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival explored the long-term effects of war on a Bosnian woman and her daughter.

The Symposium concluded with a rousing musical performance entitled “Music of the Jews Muslims and Christians” and featured selections in many languages, led by violinist and composer Yale Strom.
This past December, Ambassador Ido Aharoni, the Israeli Consul General of New York was a guest lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies.

The ambassador spoke about general misconceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process as well as Israeli-Iranian relationships and international diplomacy.

Aharoni stressed that it was unrealistic to expect major changes in a year or two. Rather, change may require several generations. He also discussed the theory of democratic peace in which democracies do not display aggression against one another and are not destroyed by tyrannies.

“A more democratic Middle East, by definition, is a safer Middle East for Israel, which is why Israel whole-heartedly supports those forces who call for more freedoms and more democracy in the region,” Aharoni said.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Aztec, Aharoni discussed recent events between the Israelis and Palestinians as well as Israel’s outward image. One of the key topics from the Ambassador’s discussion was the worldwide misconception of Israel and the Middle East. He said one of the biggest challenges is to share the image of Israel as a beautiful country filled with history, art and culture in a time when most people around the world are only exposed to images of violence and conflict.
An Evening with Author Meir Shalev

Bestselling Israeli Novelist, Writer and Columnist for Yediot Ahronot.
In Partnership with Ohr Shalom Synagogue

“Between Antiquity and Modernity: Can the Hebrew Language Survive its Revival?”

Meir Shalev, one of Israel’s most celebrated writers, was born in 1948 in Nahalal, Israel’s first moshav. He is the recipient of the Juliet Club Prize (Italy); The Prime Minister’s Prize (Israel); The Chiavari (Italy); Entomological Prize (Israel); The Wizo Prize in France, Israel and Italy; and The Brenner Prize of 2006 - the highest Israeli literary recognition awarded for his novel, A Pigeon and a Boy. Mr. Shalev is a bestselling author in Israel, Holland, and Germany and his work has been translated into more than twenty languages. His books include A Pigeon and a Boy, The Loves of Judith (Four Meals), Fontanelle, Alone In the Desert, But A Few Days, and Esau. Russian Romance (The Blue Mountain) is one of the top five bestsellers in Israeli publishing history. He has written twelve children’s books, as well as four collections of essays. Shalev is also a columnist with the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot and has given lectures on literature and the Hebrew language at Judaic Studies programs nationwide. He studied Psychology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and produced and hosted several radio and television programs in Israel.

Friday April 12, 2013
at 5:30 pm

Ohr Shalom Synagogue
2512 3rd Avenue
San Diego, 92103

Emeritus Professor
Lawrence Baron

Workshop sponsored by the University of Hartford in December.
He also chaired the Jewish Film Festival held in conjunction with the annual Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Chicago in December.

Baron has continued his scholarly writing and authors the column “The Wandering Review” for the San Diego Jewish World. Most recently he introduced and then facilitated a discussion on the Yiddish film “A Letter to Mother” at Congregation Beth El in La Jolla.

This April, Baron will be honored at the Western Jewish Studies Association Conference in Los Angeles.
Before the Jewish Emancipation, virtually all Jewish music in Europe was sacred music (with the exception of performances by klezmorim during weddings and other functional occasions). Though the Jewish musical tradition is among the earliest in Europe, there was a notable dearth of Jewish influence on European classical music until the 19th century. While music remained an integral aspect of Jewish religious services, Jewish musicians played a small role in European musical development. This changed dramatically in the 19th century, when many Jewish composers and performers began to crossover to the classical music world, forever changing it. Virtuoso violinist Rachel Barton Pine will present a program of Jewish classical music ranging from Bloch’s “Baal Shem Suite” to Achron’s “Hebrew Melody.” She will also premiere Yale Strom’s suite for solo violin “Bessarabia.”

Barton Pine was a child prodigy who made her solo debut at age seven, made her earliest appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age ten and fifteen and won numerous national and international competitions while still in her teens. The youngest person (at age seventeen) and first American to win a gold medal at the prestigious 1992 J.S. Bach International Competition in Leipzig, Germany, she also won top prizes in the Szigeti (Budapest), Paganini (Genoa), Queen Elisabeth (Brussels), Kreisler (Vienna), and Montreal international violin competitions.

Rachel has been a soloist with orchestras from around the world, including Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta, St. Louis, Dallas, Montreal, Vienna, New Zealand and Budapest, among others. She has worked with numerous famous conductors - Zubin Mehta, Erich Leinsdorf, Placido Domingo and Charles Dutoit, to name a few. Hailed as “the most charismatic, the most virtuosic, and the most compelling American violinist of her generation,” her instrument is one of the most important in the world, the “ex-Soldat” violin made in 1742 by Guarneri del Gesu.

The Jewish Studies Program at SDSU is delighted to host Rachel Barton Pine in a rare appearance to San Diego. Don’t miss this opportunity to see and hear one of the world’s greatest virtuosi up close.
Israel in the 21st Century: New Hopes, New Challenges: Four Master Lectures

Monday, April 8, 7:00 pm
“The Threat to Israel’s Existence - Why It’s Back, How to Deal with It” with Dr. Daniel Pipes, Director Middle East Forum

Daniel Pipes is director of the Middle East Forum and a prize-winning columnist for the New York Post and The Jerusalem Post. He received his A.B. and Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. He has taught at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and the U.S. Naval War College.

He has served in various capacities at the Departments of State and Defense, including vice chairman of the presidentially appointed Fulbright Board of Foreign Scholarships. Dr. Pipes has published in the Atlantic Monthly, Commentary, National Review, New Republic, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Washington Post, among others, and is the author of twelve books. Dr. Pipes serves on the “Special Task Force on Terrorism and Technology” at the Department of Defense. He has testified before many congressional committees, and worked on four presidential campaigns. He is or has been listed in Who’s Who in America and Who’s Who in the World.

Monday, April 15, 7:00 pm
“Nationalism, Ethnicity and Tradition: Jewish-Israeli Secularism and Its Limits” Dr. Yaacov Yadgar, Lisa & Douglas Goldman - Visiting Israeli Professor, UC Berkeley

Dr. Yaacov Yadgar, who is a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University, received his Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University and has served as a visiting scholar at Columbia University (2001) and a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Hebrew University (2004). Professor Yadgar has received numerous grants and awards, such as the prestigious Menachem Begin Heritage Center’s award for his outstanding Ph.D. dissertation. His publications include Our Story: The National Narratives in the Israeli Press (Haifa University Press, 2004, in Hebrew), and numerous articles on nationalism and ethnicity; culture and collective identity; Jewish identity in Israel; and media and politics.

Tuesday April 23, 7:00 pm
“Between East and West: Middle Eastern Jews and the Arab-Israeli Conflict” with Dr. Moshe Naor, Leichtag Meyerhoff - Visiting Israeli Professor at San Diego State University

Dr. Moshe Naor received his Ph.D. in History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He received awards for his dissertation on the history of Zionism from organizations such as the Jewish National Fund and Haifa University’s Forum for the History of the Jewish People and the Land of Israel. Dr. Naor has also received several important fellowships.

Continued on page 6
such as the Ray D. Wolfe Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto where he served as a Visiting Professor. Dr. Naor’s research mainly focuses on Israeli History, War and Society, History of the Jewish community in Palestine, and Jewish-Muslim Relations in the Middle East. His most recent article is entitled “The 1948 War Veterans and Postwar Reconstruction in Israel”, Journal of Israeli History (2010). His appointment at SDSU is made possible through a generous grant from the Leichtag Family Foundation.

Monday April 29, 7:00 pm

The Robert Siegel Memorial Lecture: “The Power of Orthodoxy in Israel and Its Implication on Women’s Rights” with Dr. Anat Maor, Schusterman - Visiting Israeli Professor, UC Irvine

Dr. Anat Maor, who served as a commander in the Israel Defense Forces, is a professor in the fields of Israeli politics, the social and economic policies of Israel, and women in Israel. Dr. Maor also served as a member of the Knesset from 1992 to 2003. She worked on various committees such as the Committee of Science and Technology as well as the Labor and Social Welfare Committee. She has been a lecturer at Open University and the Academic College in Ruppin. Dr. Maor has written five books and has attended twelve academic conferences in countries outside of Israel.

Israel in the 21st Century is a Partnership with Congregation Beth Israel 9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

All Lectures are Free and Open to the public. For more information contact Program Director Bonnie Graff 858 535-1111, ext. 3800.
Prof. Yale Strom presented a music program for the 2012 fall semester in collaboration with the Institute for Moral Courage Symposium. “The Music of Sarajevo” featured his band, Hot Pstromi, and three guests: Norbert Stachel (reeds) and Peter Stan (accordion) from New York City and Jamie Papish (percussion) from Los Angeles. Strom’s concerto for two accordions, “Nexus,” exploring the variety of folk music found in former Yugoslavia, had its west coast premiere during the event.

Strom concluded his eighth documentary, which was an official selection of several film festivals around the world. “A Letter to Wedgwood: The Life of Gabriella Hartstein Auspitz” details how Christian Zionist Lord Josiah Wedgwood saved the life of Gabriella, a Holocaust survivor from Mukacevo, Czechoslovakia.

Strom also saw his thirteenth book published by Scarecrow Press called “Shpil: The Art of Playing Klezmer,” an authoritative how-to book, in which each member of his band wrote a chapter on how to play klezmer on their specific instrument. Strom edited and wrote the historical and violin chapters.

This spring, Strom brings violin virtuoso Rachel Barton Pine to SDSU for a program called “Jews in Classical Music.” Barton Pine solos with orchestras all over the world and will premiere the composer’s suite for solo violin “Bessarabia” on May 2, at 7pm, in Rhapsody Hall on campus.

In the broader community, Strom is conducting workshops for his dance musical “Chagall” (in collaboration with choreographer John Malashock and writer-director Tom Dugdale) which will be presented at the La Jolla Playhouse from May 13 to June 9, 2013.

Please contact us for more information on how you can help.
jsprogram@projects.sdsu.edu
Upcoming Events

“Between Antiquity and Modernity: Can the Hebrew Language Survive its Revival?” Don’t miss ‘An Evening with Author Meir Shalev,’ one of Israel’s most celebrated writers.

Ohr Shalom Synagogue, Friday April 12, 2013 at 5:30pm.
2512 3rd Avenue, San Diego, 92103

Israel In the 21st Century: New Hopes, New Challenges - A series of four master lectures covering such topics as present-day Israel, Women’s Rights, the future of Israeli secularism and renewed threats to Israel’s existence.
April 8, 15, 23 & 29 at Congregation Beth Israel.


For information please contact: jsprogram@projects.sdsu.edu