

Newsletter No

48

April

2011

Australian Association of Jewish Studies

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Pesach sameach!

23rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH STUDIES 'RELIGION AND POLITICS

Welcome to our first AAJS Newsletter for 2011. We hope that the New Year, which had just begun its run, will be as successful as last year. However, before we look ahead, we should reflect on the 23rd Annual Conference on 'Religion and Politics'.

The conference took place in Canberra on 13th and 14th February 2011. All who participated in it will agree that it was outstanding. The range of topics spanned the wide spectrum of Biblical, Hebrew and Jewish studies. From ancient Jewish history to the role of Jews in the modern era, from the impact on politics to our identity in the world, on the fallout of the negative image of Jews that influenced art, on interfaith relationships, on the Holocaust and its global implications, on the Jewish experience in the United States, on the awakening of

Soviet Jewry, on the impact of social relationships in South Africa, the United States and Australia, on the Australian Jewish experience, on the Holocaust and its response in Yiddish poetry, on antisemitism and its consequences for Jews throughout history and its present day impact on Israel and the Jewish Diaspora



**L-R. Back. Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod, Professor Clive Kessler, Dr Anna Hueneke
Manny Waks. Front Professor Suzanne Rutland, David Knoll**

The presentations of Australian and overseas academics embraced all these issues widening inroads into Jewish and non-Jewish consciousness. Importantly, they demonstrated the vibrant chords that resound throughout Jewish academia in Australia and overseas and the impact thereof on the world that surrounds us. The conference was a showcase of excellence in Jewish learning.

Our appreciation goes to the organizers – to Dr. Anna Hueneke for her tireless efforts to make this conference an exceptional success, to Professor Suzanne Rutland, Dr. Michael Abrahams-Sprod, Sr. Dr. Marianne Dacy, Dr. Myer Samra, Associate Professor Philip Mendes and Manny Waks. Our appreciation also goes to the Jewish Memorial Centre in Canberra for providing the venue for the conference and to Mark Dreyfus QC, MP for his presentation on the impact of climate change and policies adopted by the Federal Government.

The next conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies will take place at Monash University, Caulfield Campus on 12 – 13 February

2012. The tentative title of the conference is *The Future of the Jews*. Conference details will be published in full in the near future.

Congratulations to Dr. Anna Hueneke and Dr. Miriam Munz on being elected Vice-Presidents of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies

Dr Anna Hueneke is lecturer in Counselling at the University of Canberra. She also has a private psychotherapy practice in Canberra. She was awarded her PhD (Psychology) from the University of Western Sydney in 2009. Her doctorate was a poetic work focusing on the integration of trauma after the Shoah. Anna completed training as a psychotherapist with ANZAP (NSW) in 2007. Earlier in her career Anna spent many years working as a full time visual artist and teaching from her art studio.

Dr. Miriam Munz is a research associate of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization at Monash University in Melbourne. An experienced teacher and principal of Leibler Yavneh College, she has also been involved with Limmud Oz in the past decade. Her doctoral thesis focused on the influence of culture and religion in schools.

Anna Rosenbaum

University of Sydney
Mandelbaum Trust
 with the
Department of Hebrew, Biblical, and Jewish Studies
Dead Sea Scrolls Conference in Memory of Emeritus Professor Alan
Crown
CALL FOR PAPERS
October 31–November 1, 2011

In memory of the late Emeritus Professor Alan Crown, the University of Sydney is convening a conference on the Dead Sea Scrolls to be held October 31–November 1, 2011. The occasion will also mark the purchase of the facsimile edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls by Fisher Library, an acquisition that came about at the initiative of Emeritus Professor Crown. (See <http://www.facsimile-editions.com/en/ds/>).

The keynote speaker will be Emeritus Professor Emanuel Tov of the Hebrew University.

Papers exploring any aspect of the Dead Sea Scrolls are welcome. Priority consideration will be given to papers that address those scrolls that are included in the facsimile edition, that is, the first 7 scrolls from Qumran Cave 1, currently at the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem, and the texts of *Testimonia* (4Q175), *Pesher Isaiah^b* (4Q162), and *Qohelet* (4Q109)

Length of presentation: 30 minutes

Deadline for proposals: All abstracts and participation forms must arrive by **15 May** via email as a **Word document** addressed to Associate Professor Ian Young ian.young@sydney.edu.au. Acceptance of papers will be notified by email no later than 1 July 2011. Submissions must include author's name, postal and email address, institutional

affiliation, abstract of the paper to be presented and short biographical note. The abstract must be 200-300 words and the biographical note no more than 50 words.

This conference is being held in conjunction with the Symposium being held on 31 October 2011:

**University of Sydney - Israel Research Partnership Forum:
Shared Challenges, Future Solutions**

An exhibition of the facsimile edition and other rare items of Judaica held by the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney will be displayed in conjunction with the conference.

Return to Broken Hill

Suzanne D. Rutland, OAM

Over two hundred members of the Jewish community gathered in Broken Hill over the weekend of 26 – 29 November to celebrate the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the synagogue there. Attendees came from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, and even from Netanya, Israel. The beautiful old synagogue, which has been lovingly restored by the Broken Hill Historical Society, was filled to the rafters for the first Shabbat services held there in almost fifty years. The rain bucketed down and it was freezing cold, but everyone still came. On Saturday afternoon, the synagogue filled again as people came to view the exhibition, prepared by Margaret Price and Professor Rutland, assisted by Bruce Tindall of the Broken Hill Art Gallery. The Salvation Army Hall across the road was open, so that families could meet – often with cousins enjoying a reunion together for the first time. The exhibition was funded through a grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society.



Professor Colin Tatz

Plans made for walks through the Broken Hill Jewish cemetery on the Saturday morning went awash because of the pouring rain, but luckily the weather was kinder on the Sunday morning. Tours every half hour – the area is tiny – were led by Professor Mann and Robyn Dryen, a descendent of the well-known Dryen family. The first burial was in 1892, the young son of Rebecca and Isaac Joseph, and the first with a headstone in 1895, of Lewis (Louis) Dias, who was killed in the mine by a runaway cart.



Authors Leon Mann, Margaret Price, Professor Suzanne Rutland and Kate Mannix

The book, *Jews of the Outback*, edited by Suzanne Rutland, Leon Mann and Margaret Price, was launched at the Broken Hill Art Gallery, by Professor Colin Tatz. He spoke about the challenges of survivalism and fragmentation, of migration and assimilation – key elements of the Jewish experience, which he noted were so well illustrated by the history of the Jews of Broken Hill. He complimented the four authors, Rutland, Mann, Price and Kate Mannix, on the book. The launch took place surrounded by the magnificent artworks of Hanna Kay of the Maitland Jewish cemetery, the other small New South Wales Jewish community where the cemetery and synagogue are the only reminders of its past history. Professor Rutland and Mrs Price responded.



The Book Launch

In the afternoon the actual celebration event was held at the synagogue. It started with a welcome to country and traditional smoking ceremony by an indigenous Australian, followed by the playing of the didgeridoo by Anthony Haywood. Robyn Dryen, a descendant of the Dryen family, spoke in the name of all the descendants of the city's Jewish community followed by Professor Mann, who was born in Broken Hill in 1937. The president of the Broken Hill Historical Society, Ross Mawby, addressed the gathering, as did the city's mayor, Wincen Cuy. The Broken Hill Community singers included some Jewish favourites, Havenu Shalom Aleichem and Hava Nagilah, which they had practised for months, and the crowd enthusiastically joined in. There was then a re-enactment of the original ceremony, with Sam Moshinsky Professor Mann and Howard Goldenberg from Melbourne, Colin Tatz from Sydney, playing key roles. The one female role was taken by a local resident, Ellen Francis. Members of the Krantz, Dryen and Edelman families placed corn, symbol of plenty, poured wine, symbol of joy, salt, preservation and oil, peace, as was done in the original ceremony. The young journalist of the *Barrier Daily Truth*, played the role of the *Truth's* journalist in 1910.

The ceremony finished with the blowing of the *shofar* and was followed by the mayor's reception at the Broken Hill Art Gallery. As the *Barrier Daily Truth* reported, organiser Margaret Price said: 'never in my wildest dreams did I think this many would come'.

Academic Colloquium

The Israeli Nation State: Political, Constitutional and Cultural Challenges

Hosted by the Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies
Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation
Monash University

Friday 1st April 2011
9:00am-2:00pm

ACJC Seminar Room
Level 8, Building H
Monash University
Caulfield East

In this Academic Colloquium; a top-up to the three day International Academic Conference of August 3-5, 2010, new guests will present papers on the topic
The Israeli Nation State: Political, Constitutional and Cultural Challenges.

Professor Yaffa Zilbershats

Deputy President Bar Ilan University, Tikvah Centre for Law & Jewish Civilisation

Yaffa Zilbershats is one of Israel's most prominent scholars of constitutional, international and human rights law. Prof. Zilbershats is on the frontlines of Israel's debate with the world community, and is a prominent commentator for the Israeli and global media. Prof. Zilbershats also serves as the first deputy president of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, and as an expert member of several parliamentary committees.

Professor David Passig

Graduate Program in Information and Communication Technology and Virtual Reality
Laboratory
School of Education, Bar-Ilan University Israel

David Passig, Ph.D., is a futurist, lecturer and consultant who specializes in technological, social and educational futures. David Passig holds a Ph.D. degree in Future Studies from University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA. He has published several books about the future -one titled: 'The Future Code'. In this book that was in the best seller list for 25 weeks and received the Gold Prize he has developed 16 predictions about Israel in four categories: Social, national security, economics and national identity.

Dr Ayman Agbaria

Lecturer, Department of Policy and Leadership in Education, Haifa University

Ayman K. Agbaria: A poet and playwright. His poetry is widely anthologized, and has appeared in several prestigious literary periodicals in several languages. Agbaria completed his PhD in Educational Theory and Policy and International and Comparative Education at Penn State. He has worked for the Israeli Association for Community Centres and the New Israel Fund. He also founded and chaired the Informal Education Program for Arab students at Beit Berl College. He also leads The Arab Centre for Law campaign to reform Arab Teacher training in Israel.

Co-Hosted by Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger,

Leon Liberman Chair In Modern Israel Studies, Monash University
& Professor Yedidia Stern,

Louis Matheson Visiting Professor, Monash University ,
Vice President Research Israel Democracy Institute.

REGISTRATION**INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM****THE ISRAELI NATION STATE:
POLITICAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND CULTURAL
CHALLENGES****FRIDAY 1 APRIL****09:30-14:30****ACJC, Level 8, Building H,
Monash University, Caulfield Campus**

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Mobile	
Email	

Currently enrolled	(Institution)	(Course)
Looking to enrol	(Institution)	(Course)

Particular areas of interest	
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Please email back the completed to tammy.reznik@monash.edu or by mail to
 Tammy Reznik, ACJC Level 8 Building H Monash University
 900 Dandenong Rd. Caulfield East, Vic 3145

AFTERMATH: THE POLITICS OF MEMORY

*THE 2nd DR JAN RANDA CONFERENCE
IN HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES*

Sunday 5-Monday 6 June 2011

Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University, Caulfield Campus, Melbourne

in association with the USC Shoah Foundation, Yad Vashem and Jewish Holocaust Centre Melbourne

About the Conference – Aftermath: The Politics of Memory

Memory is contested in all of the nations that have experienced genocide.

At times, memories of the Holocaust seem permanent and monumental but in some European locations, Holocaust memory is under threat from a collective amnesia and ultra nationalism that refuses historical responsibility.

In Australia, the "culture of forgetting" has delayed apologies, reparations, and land rights. Australia's indigenous population retains a fragile grasp on survival and struggles with inherited trauma.

In Rwanda, national memory of the Tutsi genocide is fractured by accusations of a "double genocide" (against Hutu), and the sporadic elimination of eyewitnesses during genocide trials.

This interdisciplinary conference explores the politics of genocide remembrance and its impact on society.

It asks:

- What are the political uses of genocide remembrance?
- How is collective memory constructed?
- After political violence, is politicised memory inevitable?
- Who authorises the truth of a nation?
- Can memories of genocide survive the survivors?
-

To find out more or to register for the Conference go to:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/acjc>

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Jan T Gross

Jan Gross of Princeton University is the author of *Neighbors* (2001), which reconstructs the events that took place in July 1941 in the small Polish town of Jedwabne, where virtually every one of the town's 1,600 Jewish residents was killed in a single day. He has also written *Fear* (2006) about Polish-Jewish Relations after the Holocaust, and in August this year his new book, *Golden Harvest* will be released on the controversial topic of the exploitation of Jewish property after the Holocaust.

Father Patrick Desbois

Father Desbois has devoted his life to researching the Holocaust, fighting anti-Semitism, and furthering the relations between Catholic and Jews. He is the president of Yahad - In Unum foundation, the Director of the French Conference of Bishops for relations with Judaism, Advisor to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris, and Advisor to the Vatican on the Jewish religion. He is the author of *The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews*.

Professor Dovid Katz

Dovid Katz is an American-born, Vilnius based Judaic Studies professor, Yiddish specialist and Holocaust scholar. Professor Katz is at the forefront of the struggle to expose how the history of the elimination of Lithuanian Jews has become embroiled in political efforts to obscure and distort the truth of the Holocaust in the Baltics.

Dr Stephen Smith

Stephen Smith is Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. He is Director of the UK Holocaust Centre and co-founded the Aegis Trust, the agency engaged in the prevention of crimes against humanity and genocide. He is Chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, the body which runs the national Holocaust commemoration in the UK, which included over five hundred public memorial events in 2009. Dr Smith is in Australia as the ADC Gandel Orator.

Professor Laura Levitt

Laura Levitt is a Professor of Religion, Jewish studies and Gender at Temple University where she directs the Women's Studies Program. She is the author of books including *American Jewish Loss after the Holocaust* (2007) and *Impossible Images: Contemporary Art after the Holocaust* (2003). Her work examines the different ways memory is preserved after the Holocaust.

Professor Na'ama Sheffi

Na'ama Sheffi is Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Communications at Sapir College, and a member of the College's research authority. Her recent publications include *The Ring of Myths: The Israelis, Wagner and the Nazis* (Tel-Aviv, 1999) [Hebrew]; (Brighton, 2001) [English]. She is a regular columnist in Ha'aretz daily, and has experience in teaching on wars, and the role of media.

THE SHALOM INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Shalom Institute will host several excellent visiting scholars from around the world this year. Starting close to home, Assoc Prof Danny Ben-Moshe is a Senior Research Fellow at Victoria University and specialist in diaspora communities. He is also a documentary filmmaker, whose productions *The Buchenwald Ball* and *The End of the Rainbow* screened on SBS and ABC TV respectively. Merging his areas of expertise, Ben-Moshe is delivering courses on Israel, Jewish identity and film.

In May, Shalom will host Edwin Black, award-winning NY Times investigative journalist, historian and author. Black's research interests include the historical interplay between economics and politics in the Middle East, oil addiction and alternative energy, the Holocaust, genocide and hate. He is the author of a number of award-winning bestselling books, including: *IBM and the Holocaust* (2001), *British Petroleum and the Redline Agreement* (2011), *The Farhud* (2010), *Nazi Nexus* (2009), *The Plan* (2008), *Internal Combustion* (2006), *Banking on Baghdad* (2004), *War Against the Weak* (2003), and *The Transfer Agreement* (1984).

In August, Shalom will welcome Dr Bryna Jocheved Levy, a most esteemed Bible teacher from Israel and the first woman to be awarded a doctoral degree in Biblical Studies by Yeshiva University. She is the founder and Dean of the Joint Graduate Program in Bible and Biblical Interpretation at Matan, the Women's Institute for Torah Studies in Jerusalem, and Hebrew University's Melton School of Jewish Education. Dr Levy has developed an illuminating program exploring the art of Rembrandt and biblical stories.

Shalom's final scholar for 2011 is Professor Moshe Ma'oz, professor emeritus and former Chair of the Hebrew University's Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. An expert in Arab and Middle East Affairs, Prof. Maoz is a previous director of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. In addition to major academic postings, he served Israel's Knesset as an advisor on Arab Affairs, and was a member of official advisory committees that counseled Prime Ministers' Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin on Arab-Israeli relations.

LIMMUD OZ IS COMING TO SYDNEY

AND WILL TAKE PLACE 11 – 13 JUNE 2011

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Membership Fees

Fees are current from 1 January 2011–31 December 2011, include the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* published annually (early in the next year), AAJS Newsletter (online) book discounts, and discounted registration fee for the AAJS annual February conference). Conference registration includes the membership fee.

Benefactor : \$250

Regular: \$60 (Aus)

Pensioner/ Full-time Student: \$25 (Aus)

Institutional: \$70 (Aus)

Overseas: \$80 (Aus) **All correspondence to: PO Box 233, Holme Building, University of Sydney NSW 2006**

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Post your cheque to the above address/ or access and print and fill in the webform at : <http://www.aajs.org.au> and send us your credit card details for payment to our NAB account.

Newsletter edited by Anna Rosenbaum