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## Calls For Papers

### *Yidische dertsjung*/Yiddish Education **2<sup>nd</sup> International Yiddish Conference** **26–27 June 2005** **Mandelbaum House, University of Sydney**

In celebration of the acceptance of Yiddish as a VCE subject, the Yiddish programme at the University of Sydney will host an international conference, the focus of which will be Yiddish education at all its various levels: community/adult, secular, religious, on-line, primary, secondary and tertiary. This is an interdisciplinary conference: papers relating to pedagogy, history, literature, sociology, and the arts are welcomed. Other topics will be considered, but preference will be given to those bearing directly upon Yiddish language, culture and education.

Postgraduate students are encouraged to submit proposals based on their research.

Papers can be presented in English, Yiddish or bi-lingually.

Deadline for abstracts: **April 30 2005**

Abstracts should not exceed three hundred words and must include title, author's name, postal and email address.

Please send abstracts either electronically or by post to:

Dr Jennifer Dowling, Lecturer in Yiddish  
Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies (A17)  
University of Sydney  
Sydney NSW 2006  
or email [jennifer.dowling@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.dowling@arts.usyd.edu.au)

### *Limmud Oz* **2–6- July 2005** **University of New South Wales**

*Limmud-Oz* is a dynamic festival of Jewish learning and culture held annually in Australia. This year the event will be held at the University of NSW in Sydney from July 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Its purpose is to provide members of the Jewish community with the largest and most diverse Jewish educational experience possible.

Local and visiting scholars are invited to make presentations at *Limmud-Oz* in their areas of interest or expertise.

Sessions may be presented in a wide range of styles from lectures to workshops, forums, debates or text study.

Topics should be suitable for one or more of the following streams:

Jewish lifestyle; Jewish Story and Literature; Relationships; Hebrew or Yiddish Language; Jewish History; Jewish Film Studies; Judaism and the Environment; Social Justice; Ethics; Torah; Spirituality; Jewish Philosophy; Jewish Music, Dance, Drama, or Art; Contemporary Issues; Israel; Holocaust Studies.

Deadline for abstracts: **April 21, 2005**

Please submit a 50 word proposal/abstract and a brief CV, including relevant contact details, through our web-site [www.limmudoz.com.au](http://www.limmudoz.com.au).

## University Reports

### UNSW Program in Jewish Studies

The UNSW JS Program farewelled two of its stalwarts last year — Professor Clive Kessler and Associate Professor Ian Bickerton — and wishes them well in their retirement. The Program eagerly awaits the filling of a new lecturership in Modern Jewish History in 2005. Even so, the challenges are formidable. This year is the first time the 8 year-old Program has been unable to offer enough courses to constitute a major sequence in Jewish Studies. Even with the new lecturer in place, it is unclear whether a major sequence in Jewish Studies can be offered, given our recent retirements and the full-time appointment of Dr Geoffrey Brahm Levey, the present co-ordinator of the Program, to the School of Politics and International Relations. Whether the Jewish Studies Program can remain a program in anything but name is the challenge for all those concerned about the place of Jewish Studies at UNSW.

Otherwise, it is pleasing to report that a significant collaborative work on the Australian Jewish experience has recently been released: Geoffrey Brahm Levey and Philip Mendes, eds, *Jews and Australian Politics* (Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2004). In addition, Dr Levey's essay "Judaism and the Obligation to Die for the State" is to be reprinted in an important collection, *Jewish Political Ethics: Civil Society, Pluralism and Conflict*, edited by Michael Walzer, and published

by Princeton University Press later this year. Originally presented at the inaugural conference of the AAJS in 1987 and published in the USA the same year, this is the second time the essay has been reprinted, the first being in *Essential Papers on the Talmud*, ed. Michael Chernick (New York University Press, 1994). Dr Levey also contributed the essay on "Judaism" for the forthcoming *Oxford Companion to Australian Politics*. In July 2004, Dr Levey convened an Academy of Social Sciences in Australia workshop at UNSW on "Australian Multiculturalism and Political Theory: Balancing Rights and Responsibilities in a Diverse Society". The workshop, which brought together a group of leading scholars from around Australia and abroad, was also sponsored by the Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, and the UNSW Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and of Law. This upcoming July, Dr Levey is co-organizing an international symposium, "Religion and Multicultural Citizenship", sponsored by UNSW, the Centre for Cultural Research at the University of Western Sydney, and the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship at the University of Bristol in the UK.

—Geoffrey Brahm Levey

### University of Sydney Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies

#### Curriculum Review

In 2006 the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney is moving to a different system of credit points. This has required a change to the number of credit points required for a major, and a revision of all units of study, particularly in regard to assessment tasks. This change has enabled us to completely restructure our Hebrew programs, as instead of offering beginners and advanced strands, we shall be offering a graded program across twelve units of study. This new program — to operate for both Classical and Modern Hebrew — will be more flexible and will enable a number of different entry points into the program

depending on the student's level of knowledge as determined by a placement test.

#### Move of Department

In the middle of 2004 the department moved from the Main Quadrangle where it has been located for the last 25 years to newly renovated premises on the sixth floor of the Mungo MacCallum building. This means that the whole department is now housed on the same floor and is physically located with other departments of the School of Languages and Cultures, our school within the Faculty of Arts.

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## Visiting Scholars

Last year the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund sponsored Professor Michael Stone as the visiting academic under the University of Sydney exchange agreement. Professor Stone gave two post-graduate seminars and a public lecture co-sponsored with the NSW Friends of Hebrew University. He also spent a month in Melbourne where he presented a number of lectures, including at the University of Melbourne, working with Associate Professor Ziva Shavitsky.

Professor Gad Freudenthal, Paris, gave a lecture on Maimonides to the Medieval Jewish Civilisation unit of study.

In July, Professor Joseph Sherman, the Woolf Corob Fellow in Yiddish Studies at Oxford University, attended the Yiddish conference, where he presented a paper on South African Yiddish literature. In addition, Professor Sherman gave lectures on the history of South African Jewry and a lecture in commemoration of Isaac Bashevis Singer's 100th birthday.

In July/August Professor Gary Rendsburg, now head of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, USA, previously professor of Biblical Studies at Cornell University for 18 years was a visiting scholar at Mandelbaum House. Professor Rendsburg taught in the department in Classical Hebrew and Biblical Studies and proved to be an outstanding lecturer. Another Mandelbaum scholar, Rabbi Dr Norman Solomon also gave some guest lectures in the Jewish Civilisation program.

The Yad Vashem team, which came for the ZFA/JEN conference in Melbourne, gave an intensive and very successful full day seminar on the Holocaust to our Holocaust students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, this day being coordinated by Professor Konrad Kwiet and held at Mandelbaum House.

Dr Wolfgang Benz ran an outstanding seminar for our graduate students on the new anti-Semitism, also coordinated by Professor Konrad Kwiet and held at Mandelbaum House.

## Jewish Education Coordinator, School of Policy and Practice, Faculty of Education

Following the failure to find a suitable applicant to fill the position of Jewish Studies Method lecturer, it was decided to advertise a three year scholarship

for a graduate student to undertake a doctorate who would be responsible at the same time for Jewish Studies in the Faculty. Bryan Conyer was the successful applicant and his research supervisors are Professor Tony Welch, head of the School of Policy and Practice, and A/Prof Suzanne Rutland. At the same time, Professor Gerard Sullivan, Dean of the Faculty of Education, agreed to re-introduce the Jewish Studies Education program, which Bryan will be responsible for coordinating and teaching.

## Australian Research Council Linkage Grant

In June 2004 the ARC announced the successful allocation of a research grant of \$85,000 over the next three years to Associate Professor Suzanne Rutland and Emeritus Professor Sol Encel, with the ECAJ, JCA and Leibler Investments as Linkage Partners. A/Prof Rutland has been granted study leave for the second half of 2005 to undertake research in Jerusalem (Leibler and AJDC archives) and New York (YIVO, HIAS archives).

## Yad Vashem Winter Course

A/Prof Rutland continues to be the academic adviser for the Yad Vashem Winter Institute for Educators from Abroad. In 2004/2005 a total of 15 Australians participated in different programs, three Victorian Jewish teachers supported by the Besen Foundation, 3 non-Jewish teachers from Victoria supported by the Raoul Wallenberg unit, 8 teachers and students from Sydney and one academic from ANU. Steve Denenberg, ADU chair and representative of Yad Vashem assisted with co-ordination and fundraising. An exciting offshoot of this program is that Mr Paul Kiem, one of the participants, who is president of the NSW History Teachers' Association, is planning to publish an issue of the HTA's Journal, Teaching History, focusing on the teaching of the Holocaust, provided that there is some community sponsorship of this publication. Susi Brieger, chair of the NSW Education Sub-Committee of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, is supporting this program.

—Suzanne D. Rutland



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## Membership Fees For 2005

**Membership fees** for the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (ABN 16535824946) are current from 1 January – 31 December 2005.

### Fees for 2005 (AU\$)

Regular: \$50  
Full-time Student/  
Pensioner: \$15  
Institutional: \$60  
Overseas: \$60

Membership includes the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* published annually, the AAJS Newsletter, book discounts, and discounted registration fee for the AAJS annual conference.

Send fees to:

Dr Marianne Dacy  
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The Association is dependent on its subscriptions to defray current expenses, so it is vital that membership fees be paid. Please support our Association.

The AAJS does not pay GST due to insufficient income.

## AAJS Journal ~ Past Issues

While available! Past issues of the AAJS journals are available at \$10 per copy.

All purchases and inquiries are to be directed to:

Dr Marianne Dacy  
PO Box 233  
Holme Building  
University of Sydney  
Sydney NSW 2006

## Appeal For New Members

If you have not joined the association or know of potential members, please encourage them to join. We rely on your support.