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19th Annual AAJS Conference Call For Papers

The 19th annual AAJS conference will be convened at the University of Sydney, Australia on Sunday 11 to Monday 12 February 2007, at:

*Mandelbaum House
University of Sydney
385 Abercrombie Street
Darlington NSW 2008*

The conference theme: *Jewish Leadership throughout the Ages* may include any variation on this theme from ancient times to the present day. This is an interdisciplinary conference and papers relating to history, literature, the arts and political science are welcomed. Papers on other topics will be considered, but preference will be given to those bearing directly on the chosen theme.

Submissions to present papers must be made by 11 September 2006.

Acceptance of papers will be by

Email, no later than 30 September.

Abstracts should not exceed three hundred words and must include title, author's name, postal and email address. The program committee will referee all abstracts.

Papers of particular merit and significance may be selected for publication in the conference proceedings.

The AAJS encourages students who are engaged in academic research to submit proposals based on their work to the program committee. Authors should clearly indicate their student status with their submission. Proposals should be sent either electronically or by post to:

A/Prof Suzanne Rutland
Department of Hebrew, Jewish and
Biblical Studies, Mungo MacCallum
Building
University of Sydney 2006 AUSTRALIA
Email: Suzanne.rutland@arts.usyd.edu.au

**PROPOSALS MUST ARRIVE BY
11 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Registration information

Two days including lunch: \$170/\$140
AAJS Members/\$85 Students

One day including lunch: \$90/\$80 AAJS
Members/\$45 Students

Presenters and conference attendees
should pay their conference fees no later
than 8 December 2006.

Payments can be made by cheque or
international money order made out to
THE AAJS CONFERENCE. Payment by
credit cards to Mandelbaum House.

Questions about the conference should be
made directly to:

A/ Professor Suzanne Rutland
Tel: 61-2- 9351-6662
Fax: 61 – 2-9351-2319
suzanne.rutland@arts.usyd.edu.au
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mariannedacy@gmail.com

Feasts and Fasts!

A short Sabbatical in Israel

Last November 25th I picked up my bags and headed for Jerusalem for four months to work on a book and to do some writing of texts for teachers of religion on the Jewish and Christian feasts. The beginning of my stay was inauspicious. I arrived, but my bags remained behind at Hong Kong, so an early visit to Mahane Yehuda in the rain, to buy some necessities, till my bags would be delivered, was my first tripout into Jerusalem. However, it was good to be back.

If one goes to Israel in the winter, it can be quite cold, but then one witnesses the miracle of spring, with the almond blossom already beginning to flower in December, although in its full glory in February. Again, the orchard citrus trees were full of grapefruit, oranges, and mandarines. As the weeks passed, the greenness of spring, with its carpet of wild flowers and red anemones daily greeted me. I stayed in Ein Karem at Notre Dame de Sion, set in the foothills of Jerusalem, with the Hadassah hospital opposite, and Yad Vashem at the top of the hill at Mount Hertzl.

In January 2005, I had followed the Yad Vashem. course. During my stay, this time, I was able to explore the site more thoroughly, and came to appreciate the many sculptures in the grounds, and visit the new museum, which was opened in March 2006.



Shaped like a giant prism, it straddles the site, opening out on to a vista of modern Israel, surrounded by hills. Inside, the displays are extremely moving, depicting the history of the Sho'ah, with numerous video interviews with survivors and photographic images of these dark events.

During my time in Israel, I also worked in the Central Zionist Archives, for a few days, and copied some more of those early letters from Australian zionists to members of the Central Zizonist Bureau. One senses the feeling of isolation sometimes felt and the frustration of early zionist emissaries, who found they could not raise all the funds they had anticipated from the impoverished Australian Jewish community. I returned to my work in the Archive of Australian Judaica on April 3rd.

Marianne Dacy

2006 REPORT

Department of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies

Suzanne D. Rutland, Head of Department

A/Professor Suzanne Rutland has just returned from seven weeks overseas in Israel and Russia. In Israel she presented a paper on 'Australian multiculturalism: immigration, race and religion: The changing contours of Australian society: development of multi-ethnic and multi-cultural policies and the Jewish community', co-authored by Professor Sol Encel. This is part of the research associated with their ARC/Linkage Grant on the 'Political Sociology of Australian Jewry'. The conference was convened by Professor Robert Wistrich, director of the Vidal Sasson Center for Research into Antisemitism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This international conference had about 150 participants and covered the recent problems of antisemitism, with a particular focus on Europe.

She then continued with her research and writing in Jerusalem before flying on to Moscow where she attended the European Association of Jewish Studies annual conference. Her paper there was on 'Let My People Go: Australian Jewry's Campaign for Soviet Jewry'. Through her research on the treatment of Jews during the Soviet period, she was aware of the importance of holding such a Jewish Studies conference in Moscow, where open study of anything related to Judaism was prohibited under the Soviet regime. The conference opening took place in the Moscow Choral Synagogue, the only synagogue in Moscow permitted to remain open during the communist era. Issues of security facing Jews throughout the world were reinforced when it took about an hour for the 300 odd conference participants to pass through the security procedures at the synagogue!

Congratulations are due to two students of A/Professor Rutland, Racheline Barda and Rachel Freilich, who submitted their doctoral theses in March. Their examiners recommended that they

both be awarded the degree, subject to some minor emendations.

Racheline Barda's thesis topic was: 'The Migration Experience of the Jews of Egypt to Australia, 1948-1967: A Model of Acculturation'.

Rachel Freilich wrote on: 'Song as the Spiritual Elevation of the Soul: Habad Women's Song Repertoire in Australia'. Her associate supervisor was Dr Aline Maxwell-Scott, from the Department of Music who now works in the Centre for Jewish Music at Monash University.

VISITING SCHOLARS

The department has just hosted two leading Jewish scholars — Professor Yom Tov Assis and Professor Fu Youde. Professor Assis is one of the leading authorities on Sephardi Jewry and the Jews of Provence in the medieval period. He was head of the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for five years and presently heads the International Centre for the Teaching of Jewish Civilisation from Abroad. His visit to the University of Sydney was sponsored by the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund, which supports the exchange of students and of academics between the two universities.

Professor Fu Youde, from the University of Shandong is the 2007 Mandelbaum House Scholar. He is the Director of the Center for Judaic and Inter-Faith Studies of Shandong University (one of the Key Research Institutes of Humanities of Chinese Universities recognized by the Ministry of Education, China); Professor

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of Philosophy; Dean of the School of Philosophy and Sociology of Shandong University; and Head of the Department of Religion, President of the Philosophy Society of Shandong Province. He gave a series of lectures at Mandelbaum House, focusing on the contrasts and comparisons between Judaism and Confucianism as follows:

Sunday July 23 Confucius – His Life thoughts and Sunday July 30

Between Tradition and Modernity: The Jewish Reform and its Value Today
Referential Value to the Reconstruction of Chinese Culture Today

Sunday August 6

God-Man in Judaism and Heaven-Man in Confucianism

In September, Professor Sylvia Barrack Fishman will be another visiting scholar at Mandelbaum House, and will be teaching in the Department. Professor Fishman is Professor of Contemporary Jewish Life/ Sociology of American Jews in the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department at Brandeis University, Boston, from 1993 to the present. She has published on Jewish feminism in the United States and on issues relating to mixed marriages in America. Her latest book, *Double or Nothing? Jewish Families and Mixed Marriage*, Dartmouth, N.H.: Brandeis University Press, University Press of New England, 2004, explores the continuous process of revising and renegotiating the construction of ethno-religious identity in mixed-married families.

The construction of ethno-religious identity in mixed-married families.

Analysing transcriptions of an original research project, which consisted of in-depth interviews with 254 husbands and wives in New England, New Jersey, Atlanta and Denver, the book places original interview data into the context of recent research on ethno-religious identity as a fluid social construct.

ELECTED TO OFFICE AT 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President: Dr Dvir Abramovich
Secretary/ Treasurer Dr Marianne Dacy
Vice-presidents: A/Prof Danny Ben- Moshe (VIC);
Michael Abrahams-Sprod (NSW)
Journal Editors: A/Prof Ziva Shavitsky & Dr Dvir Abramovich

REMINDER

Have you paid your membership subscription for 2006? Our Association depends on members paying their annual dues.

Many have not paid, yet.

\$50 AU regular membership
\$60 AU institutional and overseas
\$15 AU full-time student/pensioner

Send fees to: Dr Marianne Dacy:
PO Box 233, Holme Building, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006.

We're on the Web!

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www.geocities.com/aaajssite/

