



# CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

University of Connecticut, Stamford

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, *Director*

One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901-2315  
203-251-9525 • [cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu](http://cjmes.stamford.uconn.edu)

**FALL 2014**

## The 2014 Louis J. Kuriansky ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, October 28, 2014  
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

7:10 PM • KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
**DR. BRUCE HOFFMAN**

*A TIME OF TERROR:*

*The Middle East and the Future of Terrorism*

8:00 PM

**DR. MICHAEL RUBIN**

*DANCING WITH THE DEVIL:*

*Why Diplomacy Will Never Resolve  
Middle Eastern Threats*

8:50 PM • RESPONDENT & MODERATOR:

**DR. JEREMY PRESSMAN**

*REPERCUSSIONS FOR ISRAEL*

## THE FALL 2014 LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Thursdays 12 noon - 1:30 PM  
Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 6, Nov. 13

## From Our Director's Desk:



Our Center's annual Louis J. Kuriansky conferences have displayed, in their topics and guest speakers, the broad spectrum of the Center's interests and areas of scholarly engagements. For over three decades, the Center's conferences have provided a forum for our students and the local community to meet and learn from guest scholars and specialists who are renowned in their specific fields. Our students have had the opportunity to exchange ideas and

discourse with experts in Jewish culture and literature, in theological and interfaith issues, and other areas pertaining to the Jewish experience in history and relationship with other cultures and religions. This year we are turning our attention to one of the most turbulent and unstable zones in the world, the Middle East, specifically, to the myriad strategic, military, political, and humanitarian issues that have arisen in the region. We will further explore the implications of recent unsettling developments for the international community, for the USA, and for Israel's security and its prospects for peace. We are very proud of the distinguished experts who are scheduled to address our students and community on October 28, 2014. They are accomplished scholars with a thorough, first-hand knowledge of today's Middle East. Please join us for this timely and thought-provoking learning experience.

PLEASE OPEN FOR MORE INFORMATION!



**TOP LEFT:** The Most Reverend Monsignor David Jaeger (seated), keynote speaker at the 2013 Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference, with Ed Backer and Sary Backer, Kuriansky Foundation trustees; Nina Lotstein, Board Chair; Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Center Director; and Dr. Sharon White, Campus Director.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Msgr. Jaeger is joined by Dr. Aschkenasy and fellow panelists. **BACK ROW:** Dr. James Jones, Manhattanville College; Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford; Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, Center Director; Dr. Fred Roden, UConn-Stamford. **FRONT ROW:** Rev. Kate Heichler, Church of Christ the Healer, Stamford; Msgr. Jaeger; and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Temple Beth El, Stamford.

**ABOVE:** UConn-Stamford students enthusiastically conversed with Msgr. Jaeger when he spent time with them in a "Lunch and Conversation" session following the Conference.





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University of Connecticut, Stamford

## 2014 LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, October 28, 2014 • 7:00-9:30PM • GenRe Auditorium, UConn-Stamford

### *THE DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MIDDLE EAST*

7:00 PM

Introduction:

**DR. NEHAMA ASCHKENASY**



7:10 — 8:00 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

**DR. BRUCE HOFFMAN**

*A Time of Terror:*

*The Middle East and the Future of Terrorism*

8:00 — 8:50 PM

**DR. MICHAEL RUBIN**

*Dancing with the Devil:*

*Why Diplomacy Will Never Resolve Middle Eastern Threats*



8:50 — 9:30 PM

RESPONDENT and Q&A MODERATOR:

**DR. JEREMY PRESSMAN**

*Director of Middle East Studies & Professor of Political Science, UConn*

*Repercussions for Israel*

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

*In Formation*

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy  
Sary Backer  
Dr. Joel Blatt  
Peter Cawley  
Carrie Dinella  
Dr. Paul Franks  
Dr. Beth Ginsberg  
Zahava Gordon

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman  
The Rev. Kate Heichler  
Rebecca Isenstein  
Rita Koenig  
Rep. Steven Kolenberg  
Dr. Joy Land  
Dr. Jeffrey Lefebvre  
Maggie Levy

Nina Lotstein  
Cheryl May  
Dr. Fred Roden  
Farida Rokadia  
Charles Sahlia, Esq.  
Edith Samers  
Marina Sapir  
Mark Sternlicht  
Dr. Sharon White

Please register in advance by using the included registration card or by contacting the Center at (203) 251-9525 or [stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu).



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University of Connecticut, Stamford

## REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2014 LUNCH & LEARN

Thursdays: Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 6, Nov. 13 • 12 noon–1:30 PM

Please make your check of **\$50 for the entire four-session series (including lunch)**  
payable to: **Judaic Studies, UConn, Stamford**, and mail to: **Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies, UConn, Stamford, One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901-2315.**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS  
LUNCH & LEARN Only  
(\$50 per person)

ENCLOSED CHECK FOR \$

Please indicate your choice:  Veggie Wrap  Tuna on Rye  Bagel with Lox and Cream Cheese

Dietary Laws observed.

**Registration is for the entire series only! Please register by THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014.**

Discounts for local students and educators and non-profit professionals, but advance registration is required.

For more information call our office at (203) 251-9525 or write to [stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu).

The Louis J. Kuriansky Annual Conference is **FREE** for our Lunch and Learn students, but advance registration is required.

## REGISTRATION FOR 2014 LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, October 28 • 7:00—9:30PM

Please make your check payable to: **Judaic Studies, UConn, Stamford**,  
and mail to: **Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies, UConn, Stamford, One University Place, Stamford, CT 06901-2315.**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

NUMBER OF CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS  
Suggested donation of \$10 per person

ENCLOSED CHECK FOR \$

**To help us better plan the event, please respond by THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014.**

Free admission for the UConn community, other local students and educators, and non-profit professionals, but advance registration is required.

For more information call our office at (203) 251-9525 or write to [stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu).



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2014 LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014 • 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

### THE LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014 • 7:00 — 9:30 PM • GENRE AUDITORIUM, UCONN-STAMFORD

## *The Dangerous Neighborhood of the Middle East*

**Dr. Bruce Hoffman** is one of today's leading experts on Al Qaeda and international terrorism and has been studying terrorism and insurgency for nearly four decades; in this capacity, he has served on numerous government committees and agencies. A tenured professor in Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, he is also the university's Director of both the Center for Security Studies and of the Security Studies Program. He was recently appointed by the U.S. Congress to serve as a commissioner on the Independent Commission to Review the FBI's Post-9/11 Response to Terrorism and Radicalization.

Professor Hoffman was Scholar-in-Residence for Counterterrorism at the Central Intelligence Agency between

**Dr. Michael Rubin** is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and senior lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Civil-Military Relations. He is also senior editor (previously chief editor) of the *Middle East Quarterly*. He has also worked as a staff advisor for Iran and Iraq in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, in which capacity he was seconded to Iraq.

Rubin holds an M.A. in biology and a Ph.D. in history, both from Yale University, where he was previously a lecturer in history. He taught at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC, and at three

2004 and 2006; an adviser on counterterrorism to the Office of National Security Affairs, Coalition Provisional Authority, Baghdad, Iraq in 2004; and from 2004-2005 an adviser on counterinsurgency to the Strategy, Plans, and Analysis Office at Multi-National Forces-Iraq Headquarters, Baghdad. Professor Hoffman was also an adviser to the Iraq Study Group.

He is the author of the acclaimed *Inside Terrorism*, which the Washington Post described as "brilliant" and the "best one volume introduction to the phenomenon." His forthcoming books are *The Evolving Global Terrorist Threat: Cases From 9/11 to Osama bin Laden's Death* (2014) and *Anonymous Soldiers: The Struggle for Israel, 1918-1947* (2015).

different universities in northern Iraq. Dr. Rubin has first-hand knowledge of the Middle East, since he had lived and conducted research in Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and with the Taliban in Afghanistan pre-9/11. Rubin instructs senior U.S. army officers deploying to the Middle East and Afghanistan and teaches classes aboard deploying U.S. carrier strike groups and Marine Expeditionary Units.

Rubin is author of *Dancing with the Devil: The Perils of Engagement* (Encounter, 2014), a history of a half-century of American diplomacy with rogue regimes and terrorist groups, and two earlier books examining Iranian history.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI



**STEVEN KOLENBERG** is currently a junior at UConn-Stamford, majoring in History. He attended the Spring 2014 AIPAC Conference in Washington, DC, having been selected by his professor, Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, after demonstrating an interest in Judaic Studies, Israel, and public service. Steven is

also a candidate for the Certificate in Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford. In the fall of 2013, he was elected to serve on the Stamford Board of Representatives for the 16th District. We congratulate Steven on his recent acceptance into the State Department's fall 2014 internship program at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Germany.



**RYAN EVANS** graduated summa cum laude from UConn-Stamford in the spring of 2012 with a major in English. While at UConn, Ryan took several courses in Judaic Studies and was selected by his professor, Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy, to attend the Spring 2012 AIPAC Conference. He also dedicated his time to the Stamford

Mentoring Program of the Stamford Public Schools. He was named a 2011 New England Scholar and was inducted into the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. Currently Ryan is a teacher's assistant at The Bridge Academy in Bridgeport. We congratulate Ryan on having been recently accepted to the prestigious Teachers College at Columbia University.



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## THE FALL 2014 LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Thursdays / 12:00 Noon — 1:30 PM / In the MPR on the 1st floor at UConn-Stamford

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

THE BARBARA & JOE FIELD LECTURE



**Early Christian  
Commentaries & Art  
on the  
“Sacrifice of Isaac”**

*The Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele*  
Adjunct Professor of Bible  
University of Connecticut, Stamford  
Pastor, Union Memorial Church, Stamford

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

SPONSORED BY AN ANONYMOUS DONOR



**Hiding in Plain  
Sight:  
Italian Jews  
and the Film Industry  
from Mussolini to  
the Present**

*Dr. Philip Balma*  
Professor of Italian Literary & Cultural Studies  
University of Connecticut

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

THE NORMA MANN MEMORIAL LECTURE



**What Can Jewish  
Law Mean to  
Jewish Citizens of a  
Non-Jewish State?**  
*“To the Jews as a nation,  
everything should be refused.  
To the Jews as individuals  
everything should  
be granted.”*

*Dr. Paul Franks*  
Professor of Philosophy  
Yale University

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

THE HYACINTHE HOFFMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE



**Rewriting the  
‘Binding of Isaac’:  
The Literary Odyssey  
of the Tale of the  
Aqedah (Gen. 22)**

*Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy*  
Professor of Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies  
University of Connecticut



University of Connecticut, Stamford  
**CENTER FOR JUDAIC & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES**  
 One University Place  
 Stamford, CT 06901-2315

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**Please open for registration forms!!**

**THE FALL 2014**  
**LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**and**  
**LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

At the University of Connecticut  
 in Downtown Stamford  
 Washington Blvd & Broad St.

Free Parking on the 2nd floor  
 of the UCONN garage on Washington Blvd.

**The Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford,**

now in its thirty-fourth year, offers credit courses within the academic curriculum in the Humanities as well as outreach programs for the community at large in all areas of Judaic culture, literature, and history, from antiquity to modern times, Israel, Middle Eastern literature and politics, and interfaith studies.

For over three decades, the Center has established a learning community around itself which gathers for intellectual discussions of scholarly and contemporary issues. The Center's outreach programs are attended by diverse groups from the local communities.

The Center has been recognized for its innovative programs in the areas of traditional academic education and particularly outreach projects. Since its inception, the Center has enjoyed broad community recognition and has been financially supported by individuals, foundations, corporate gifts, and matching grants.

**THE CENTER IS A RECIPIENT AGENCY OF THE UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN.**

**CREDIT COURSES**

The following credit courses will be open to community audits in the FALL 2014:

*The Bible As/In Literature*, ENG 4600W  
 Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy — Tuesdays, 2:35-5:15 PM

*The Holocaust*, HIST 3418/HEJS 3203  
 Dr. Joel Blatt — Tuesdays, 5:30-8:10 PM

*Modern Middle East from 1700-Present*, HIST 3705  
 Dr. Joy Land — Mon/Wed, 11:20-12:35PM

*Political Issues: Religion & Politics*, POLS 2998  
 Dr. Beth Ginsberg — Mon/Wed, 1:10-2:25 PM

*American Diplomacy in the Middle East*, POLS 3447  
 Dr. Jeffrey Lefebvre — Tues/Thurs, 1:10-2:25 PM

*Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar*, UNIV 3784  
 Dr. Richard Watnick — Wednesdays, 2:35-5:15 PM  
 2 sessions related to Judaic Studies:

- Sept. 10: *Uncovering the Ideas & Actions of Carlo Rosselli*  
 Dr. Joel Blatt
- Nov. 19: *A Post Modern Reading of the Bible: The Case of the Book of Ruth*  
 Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

Classes begin **August 25th**. Seats are limited.  
 Community audits should register through the Office of the Registrar (203) 251-8555. For more information on our credit courses or Certificate Program, please call the Center at (203) 251-9525 or email us at [stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu).

*Lunch and Conversation:*

**A Follow-up Dialogue on the Annual Conference**  
 A special free luncheon session for local students & community  
**Moderated by Dr. Beth Ginsberg**, UConn-Stamford  
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2014 • 12:00 NOON — 1:30 PM IN THE MPR



**CONGRATULATIONS**

To Professor Fred Roden, colleague and member of the Center's academic advisory board, who recently received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Humanities. Professor Roden is also a previous recipient of a teaching excellence award from the UConn chapter of the American Association of University Professors.



**CONGRATULATIONS**

To Rebecca Isenstein, who was recently promoted to Program Manager for the Center. A lawyer by training, her responsibilities reflect the multifaceted functions of the Center, including fund raising, event planning, outreach programming, research, student support and advising, and community relations.

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- |                             |                    |                        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nina Lotstein, <i>Chair</i> | Lorraine Kweskin   | Dr. Sharon White       |
| Edward Backer**             | Milton Mann        | <i>Campus Director</i> |
| Sary Backer                 | Cheryl May         |                        |
| Beth Boyer                  | Edith Samers       | Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy  |
| Naomi Hessel                | Marina Sapir       | <i>Center Director</i> |
| Robert Kahn                 | Harriet Sternlicht |                        |
| Suzanne Kahn                | Mark Sternlicht    | Rebecca Isenstein      |
| Ruth Kwartin**              |                    | <i>Program Manager</i> |

\*\* Past Chair