THE LOUIS J. KURIANSKY
FALL 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Sunday, November 4, 2007, 9:45 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
In the Gen Re Auditorium at UConn, Stamford

THE APPEAL OF KABBALAH AND MYSTICISM
IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE
10:00 a.m. • Introduction • Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

10:10 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Dr. Eitan Fishbane
Jewish Theological Seminary
The Holy Life and the Pious Personality in Mystical Writings

11:10 a.m.—12:00 noon
Dr. Ellen Haskell
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Kabbalistic Spirituality of the Home:
The “Divine Feminine” and the Domestic Life of Medieval Jewry

12:00 noon—12:45 p.m. • Luncheon at the Rich Concourse

12:50 p.m.—1:40 p.m.
Dr. Joel Hecker
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Demons, Dybbuks & Devotion: Magic in Judaism

1:45 p.m.—2:00 p.m.
Dr. June-Ann Greeley
Sacred Heart University
Response: The Christian Perspective

2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Symposium:
Kabbalah’s Popularity in Contemporary Life: Is It Warranted?
MODERATOR:
Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

PANELISTS: Drs. Fishbane, Haskell, Hecker, and Greeley

This program is recommended by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien as an enrichment program for community leaders and educators.
10:10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Dr. Eitan Fishbane**

**The Holy Life and the Pious Personality in Mystical Writings**

Assistant Professor of Jewish Philosophy at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Dr. Fishbane has received research grants from The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He has published in prestigious academic journals including *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, *Jewish Quarterly Review* and *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Dr. Fishbane is completing a book entitled, *As Light Before Dawn: The Inner World of a Medieval Kabalist*, on the Kabbalistic writings of the fourteenth-century mystic Isaac ben Samuel of Akko. A frequent scholar-in-residence at congregations across the United States, Dr. Fishbane holds a Ph.D. from Brandeis University where his doctoral dissertation was recognized with The Nahum and Anne Glatzer Prize for Outstanding Achievement.

11:10 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Dr. Ellen Haskell**

**Kabbalistic Spirituality of the Home: The “Divine Feminine” and the Domestic Life of Medieval Jewry**

Ellen Haskell is currently Assistant Professor in the Religious Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She received her Ph.D. in History of Judaism from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 2005, and was awarded both the William Rainey Harper and Martin Marty Center Fellowships for her dissertation project, “Metaphor and Symbolic Representation: The Image of God as a Suckling Mother in Thirteenth Century Kabbalah.” She has presented papers on Jewish mysticism and Rabbinic literature at the Association for Jewish Studies and the American Academy of Religion Annual Conferences. Her research interests include the role of literary images in mystical experience, processes of gendering God in Judaism, and Jewish mysticism in popular culture.

LUNCH: 12:00 noon—12:45 at the Rich Concourse

12:50 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

**Dr. Joel Hecker**

**Demons, Dybbuks & Devotion: Magic in Judaism**

Chair of the Department of Modern Civilization and Associate Professor of Jewish Mysticism at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Dr. Hecker received his Ph.D. from New York University and Rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University. Author of *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah*, he is currently working on a scholarly translation of *The Book of the Angel Raziel*, an anthology of mystical and magical writings spanning from ancient Babylon and Palestine to Germany. He has also taught and lectured at the University of Pennsylvania, the Jewish Theological Seminary, University of Minnesota, York University, and Yeshiva University. His most recent work has focused on the development of emotions in Spanish Kabbalah.
The Appeal of Kabbalah and Mysticism in Contemporary Culture

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Response:

Dr. June-Ann Greeley
Professor of Religious Studies, Sacred Heart University
The Christian Perspective

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Symposium and Q&A

Moderator:

Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy
Professor of Comparative Literature and Founding Director of the Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn, Stamford

REGISTRATION FORM FOR 2007 LOUIS J. KURIANSKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please make your check of $50 per person (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: ____________________________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Mobile: ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________
Number of Reservations ____________________________ Enclosed check for $ ____________________________

Dietary Laws Observed
Please indicate your luncheon choice: _______ Tuna on Rye _______ Bagel with Cream Cheese _______ Bagel with Cream Cheese & Lox

Free admission for UConn faculty, staff, students and high school students, but advance reservation is required. For information call our office at 251-9625. Please help us better plan the day by responding no later than October 24.
The Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at UConn, Stamford, 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, as well as in interfaith studies.

Now embarking on its twenty-seventh year, the Center has created a learning community around itself which gathers for intellectual discussions of scholarly and contemporary issues. Its 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 and is also supported by the UJF of Westport/Weston/Wilton/Norwalk.

For more information on our current programs and the Certificate in Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies, please call 203-251-9525.

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+ Deceased

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One University Place
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Washington Blvd & Broad St.

Free Parking in the UCONN garage on Washington Blvd.