

Contact: Rae Asselin
Telephone: 860-486-2271
Email: judaicstudies@uconn.edu

For Immediate Release

Special Events – The Friedberg Genizah Project

**A Week-Long Series with University of Haifa Visiting Scholars,
Dr. Efraim Lev and Dr. Moshe Lavee
At UConn – Storrs and Mandell JCC, West Hartford**

The Center for Judaic Studies & Contemporary Jewish Life and the Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies and the Office of Global Affairs at the University of Connecticut will be co-sponsoring a series of public lectures, research seminars, classroom visits, and community events during the week of September 2 through September 7, introducing the research and studies of Dr. Efraim Lev and Dr. Moshe Lavee, co-directors of the University of Haifa's Interdisciplinary Center for the Broader Application of Genizah Research, a research institute that is investigating way to use newly available digital technologies to foster wider and more diverse study of the extraordinary historical archives of the Cairo Genizah.

On Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at 4:00 PM, Dr. Efraim Lev will be presenting a public lecture, “*Practical and Theoretical Medicine in Medieval Eastern Societies: The Case of the Cairo Genizah*,” in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center's Konover Auditorium at 405 Babbidge Road, Storrs, CT. Dr. Lev is trained as an historian of medicine and an ethno-pharmacologist. Much of his research centers on the records of plant remedies and other medicinal knowledge that has been preserved in the Genizah fragments. In his project, “Medicine of the Genizah People,” he created a carefully planned framework of research teams that reconstructed the medieval inventory of the practical *materia medica* of the Genizah community, and studied and published its original and practical prescriptions, list of drugs and medical notebooks.

On Wednesday, September 3, Dr. Moshe Lavee will conduct a Research Seminar, “*The Egyptian Midwives: Gender and Identity in Lost Aggadic Traditions from the Genizah*,” in the UConn-Storrs Library Class of '47 Room at 12:30 PM. Dr. Lavee is trained as a scholar of rabbinic literature and his research focuses on the transmission and peregrinations of rabbinic texts throughout the classical and medieval periods. His studies are devoted to questions of identity, gender and canonicity in rabbinic literature, and the promotion of Jewish Studies among various communities in Israel and abroad. This seminar is open to UConn faculty and students who must RSVP in advance by contacting judaicstudies@uconn.edu.

The Mandell JCC of Greater Hartford will co-sponsor a brunch and learn session, open to the community, on September 7 at 10:00 AM, with Dr. Lev, who will be presenting “Gems from the Cairo Genizah.” Dr. Lev will speak about the Genizah Project and the use of digital technology in fostering a better understanding of the way people lived in early medieval times, as well as the kinds of medical difficulties they faced, how they were treated, their religious trainings, and more. We welcome your attendance at this brunch event, open to the public.

Advance registration at these events is requested. To register, or for additional information, please visit <http://judaicstudies.uconn.edu>, or call 860-486-2271.

Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
405 Babbidge Road Unit 1205
STORRS, CT 06269-1205

PHONE 860.486.2271
FAX 860.486.6332
E-MAIL judaicstudies@uconn.edu
WEB <http://judaicstudies.uconn.edu/>

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