Leading Israeli scholars including Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, the former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Prof. Asher Susser and several other international experts will address the political, economic and military challenges facing Israel within its Middle Eastern context. The region has been overtaken in recent years by the rather disappointing outcome of the so-called “Arab Spring” as national conflicts, sectarian civil wars and serious economic challenges rock the Middle East. Shiite Iran and its proxies battle for regional hegemony against their Sunni Arab neighbors. In the emerging new balance of power between Shi’is and Sunnis, ISIS fighters continue to spread their influence and ideology, as they dismember the old Arab state order in the process.

This conference will explore how Israel deals with these new regional realities, while it faces vexing internal social, political, and economic challenges.

Sponsorship Opportunities
Consider becoming a sponsor for this Symposium and for the new Israel Institute.

Sponsors receive special access and an additional private dinner with the symposium speakers. Sponsors will also have the opportunity to be listed as Founding Members of The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies’ new Israel Institute to be launched on December 6th, 2015. The Institute will promote scholarship on Modern Israel with special attention to its relations with its neighbors, the U.S. and Arizona.

Symposium Registration
Register online at: judaic.arizona.edu/IsraelSymposium

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**Event Details**

**Location**
The University of Arizona Memorial Student Union
1303 E. University Blvd., 85719 Tucson, AZ
Parking is available at the 2nd Street Garage, 1390 E. 2nd St., Tucson, AZ

**Schedule**
Sun., 12/06/2015 - 9am-3pm
Mon., 12/07/2015 - 9am-3pm

**Symposium Dinner**
Monday, December 7 • 7 pm

**Plenary Speaker:**
Amb. Itamar Rabinovich

**The Struggle for Syria Revisited**

Grand Ballroom, The University of Arizona Memorial Student Union

*A reception will be held at 5:30pm for Symposium Sponsors*

**Speakers & Topics**

**Sunday, December 6**

**Prof. Shai Feldman** Sunday, 9:15am
Director, Middle East Studies, Brandeis University

*Is the Two-State Solution Dead? – The Israeli Perspective*

**Dr. Khalil Shikaki** Sunday, 10:30am
Director, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

*Is the Two-State Solution Dead? – The Palestinian Perspective*

**Prof. Asher Susser** Sunday, 1pm
Judaic Studies, The University of Arizona

*Israel’s Place in a Changing Region – An Historical Overview*

**Prof. David Menashri** Sunday, 2:15pm
Senior Research Fellow
Alliance Center for Iranian Studies

*Iran, Israel and the U.S.: A View from Tel Aviv*

**Monday, December 7**

**Simon Henderson** Monday, 9am
Baker Fellow
Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy

*Israel’s Energy Potential – What Should Happen but What Could Happen*

**Prof. Yael Aronoff** Monday, 10:15am
Chair of Israel Studies, James Madison College
Michigan State University

*Straddling Deterrence and Restraint: Israel’s Dilemmas In Asymmetric Wars*

**Prof. Ami Pedahzur** Monday, 1pm
Israel Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

*The power of ideological zeal: How radical political factions redefined the Israeli-Palestinian conflict*
From the Director

As readers of this newsletter will already know, the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies has experienced substantial growth over the past few years. We have increased the number of our faculty, students, scholarly publications, and service activities. We strive to remain a center of excellence whose impact reaches across our state and nation, as well as around the world.

Our professors continue to have an impact in their scholarly fields and in the lives of the people they teach here on campus and in our community. Our duty as educators is a responsibility we carry with pride. I was recently reviewing a student evaluation of one of our professors, and I was touched by the student’s statement that the professor “changed my life.” While few students will be so frank in their evaluations, experience tells me that this sentiment is widely held about our professors. At the same time, I am proud of our students. What they do outside of class is amazing. You will read in this newsletter about some of those activities in Tucson, across the nation and around the world. Many of these opportunities are made possible by your support.

Finally, let me say that I am looking forward to our December 6-7, 2015 international conference on “Israel in the Changing Middle East.” This conference will provide our campus and community with the opportunity to hear eight internationally recognized experts explore the vexing regional issues facing Israel at this time. I am pleased to say that one expert in Washington commented that “this is the most important Israel Studies conference in the world this year.” This conference is part of our emerging strength in the field of Israel Studies that is now led by Prof. Asher Susser, our David and Andrea Stein Professor of Israel Studies. Again, thank you for your involvement with of our efforts here. I ask that you continue that support because, as you will read in this newsletter, it is having a transformative impact on our campus, in our community and around the world.

ED Wright
A Century of Revolution: The Rise and Fall of the Arab State: 1915-2015
Monday, November 16, 2015 • 7pm
Tucson JCC

It is exactly a century since the British and some leading Arabs began a negotiation on the establishment of an Arab state to be formed on the ruins of the Ottoman Empire. Similar negotiations between the British and the French eventually led to the formation of significant parts of the Arab state system as it came into place in the aftermath of the First World War.

These new states were invariably artificial creations that showed little concern for the sectarian composition of these countries.

Plagued by instability and revolution during the twentieth century, some of these states are now on the verge of disintegration. The lecture will discuss the inner workings of these states, the reasons for their downfall and the role of the Islamic State (or ISIS) in the reshaping of the map of the Middle East.

Prof. Asher Susser
University of Arizona

Amb. Itamar Rabinovich
Israel Institute, Tel Aviv University

Ambassador Rabinovich will be giving the plenary address at our Israel in the Changing Middle East, 2015 Israel Conference. Register online at: judaic.arizona.edu/IsraelSymposium

Rabinovich’s lecture, The Struggle for Syria Revisited, is based on Patrick Seale’s classic study of Syria in the years 1945-1958 which ended in Syria’s merger into The United Arab Republic for three and a half years. Syria is once again the arena of regional and international rivalries and this is intertwined with its domestic politics.

Ambassador Rabinovich brings a uniquely informed perspective due to his years of experience as Israel’s chief negotiator with Syria from 1992 to 1996.

Rabinovich, President of the Israel Institute (Washington and Jerusalem), served as Israel’s ambassador to the United States, holds distinguished positions on the boards of several international foundations, and is on the faculty of leading academic institutions, serving as Professor Emeritus of Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University, Distinguished Global Professor at NYU, and a Distinguished Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He was president of Tel-Aviv University from 1999-2007.
Finding Refuge: Can Non-Jews Seek Asylum in the Jewish State?
Monday, February 1, 2016 • 7pm
Tucson JCC

Prof. Michael Kagan
Associate Professor, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV

Michael Kagan brings a unique perspective to the study and practice of immigration law, having spent 10 years building legal aid programs for refugees throughout the Middle East and Asia. He has written several of the most widely cited articles in the fields of refugee and asylum law, which have been relied on by multiple federal courts of appeals, and by courts in Israel and New Zealand.

Reimagining the Jerusalem Temple: From Dura to Disney and the T.V. Mini Series DIG
Monday, March 28, 2016 • 7pm
Tucson JCC

Prof. Joan Branham
Associate Dean, School of Arts & Sciences, Providence College

This lively audio-visual presentation examines the appropriation, exploitation, and reinterpretation of the Jerusalem Temple’s legacy from antiquity to today. Prof. Branham will reflect upon the various ways the Temple’s authority as “sacred space” has been strategically co-opted visually, theologically, and politically to forge identities and establish power and legitimacy among different historical groups and in popular culture today.

Joan Branham is Professor of Art History and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Providence College where she teaches courses in late-antique and medieval Jewish and Christian art and architectural history.

Sally & Ralph Duchin Campus Lecture Series

Biblical Forgeries: Creating a Biblical Book
Monday, November 30, 2015 • 4pm
UA Hillel

Prof. J. Edward Wright
Director, The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies
University of Arizona

Several biblical books were demonstrably not written by their alleged authors. Many of these books are now designated the “Pseudepigrapha” or “Apocrypha.” The term pseudepigrapha means “falsely written,” and the term apocrypha means “secret” or, more suspiciously, “hidden.” How did such seemingly spurious writings become part of the biblical canon? In this lecture Wright will explain how these books came into being and how they became canonical. This fresh look at these “false,” “secret,” or “hidden” books will reveal the great diversity that existed in earliest Judaism and Christianity.

J. Edward Wright is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism and has served as the Director of the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies at The University of Arizona since 2000. Wright received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University and did additional graduate study at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Harvard Divinity School.

Dr. Wright’s area of expertise is early Jewish history and religion with particular interest in early Jewish apocalyptic texts. These texts shed light on the non-traditional aspects of early Jewish thought and culture, and through his research Dr. Wright hopes to depict more accurately the rich diversity of Early Judaism. He has written many scholarly and popular articles and is the author or editor of five scholarly volumes.

Nowhere to Run: Gay Palestinian Asylum-Seekers in Israel
Monday, February 1, 2016 • 4pm
UA Hillel

Prof. Michael Kagan
Associate Professor, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV

Gay Palestinians have been caught in the middle of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They have been attacked by militant groups and sometimes tortured by the Palestinian Authority. The easiest place for them to flee is often Israel, where they are refused the right to even have their asylum cases heard because of their nationality. Although it helped to lead the development of international refugee law in the 1950s, Israel has resisted building a genuine asylum system for non-Jewish refugees. For Palestinians, resistance to granting asylum is especially high, in part because of confusions and sensitivities fed by the still unresolved Palestinian refugee problem that dates from Israel’s creation in 1948.

Additional Spring Duchin Lectures
Topics TBA
Monday, February 29, 2016

Prof. David Graizbord
Associate Professor, Judaic Studies
University of Arizona

Professor Graizbord is a historian of early modern and modern Jews. His research has focused mostly on the Western Sephardi Diaspora of the seventeenth century.

Continued, Page 6
Monday, March 14, 2016
Dr. Leonard Hammer
The David and Andrea Stein Visiting Professor of Modern Israel Studies

Dr. Hammer is an adjunct professor at The Hebrew University’s Rothberg School and works as an International Expert for the Open Society Institute. Hammer’s research focuses on international law and human rights.

Monday, March 28, 2016
Gary Glassman
President/Executive Producer
Providence Pictures

Glassman has produced nearly 40 programs for NOVA, Discovery, History, National Geographic, BBC, and Arte. His films have won and been honored with nominations for the industry’s most prestigious awards, including six Emmys.

Monday, April 4, 2016
Dr. Andy Vaughn
Executive Director, American Schools of Oriental Research

The American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) is a non-profit organization that supports and encourages the study of the cultures and history of the Near East, from the earliest times to the present.

Monday, April 11, 2016
Prof. Charlotte Fonrobert
Associate Professor Religious Studies, Stanford University

Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert specializes in Judaism, Talmudic literature and culture. Currently, she is working on a manuscript entitled Replacing the Nation: Judaism, Diaspora and the Neighborhood.

Rabbi Marcus Breger Memorial Lecture
The Exodus by the Ancient Egyptians
Monday March 7, 2016 • 7pm
Tucson JCC

Prof. Galit Dayan, Arison School of Business, IDC Herzliya

About Rabbi Breger
In 1938 Rabbi Dr. Marcus Breger, his wife Dr. Bertha Breger and daughter Liba came to Tucson. During WWII, Breger served in the US Army, becoming the highest ranking Jewish chaplain in the Pacific theater. Along with his long and successful rabbinate at Congregation Anshei Israel, Breger was instrumental in founding many Jewish educational and communal organizations in Tucson and the Southwest. Among those many institutions was the Judaic Studies Program at The University of Arizona.

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The Iran deal, an agreement that has been debated since its inception, was discussed in a panel style lecture on Thursday, September 17th at Crowder Hall.

The Iranian Nuclear Agreement: Containment or Catastrophe? talk was sponsored by The College of Science, The College of Social Behavioral Sciences and The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies.

The distinguished panel included three experts from the University in their respective fields, Philip Pinto, Faten Ghosn, and Asher Susser.

Philip Pinto, Professor in the Department of Astronomy, discussed the technical implications of the treaty concerning Iran’s nuclear capabilities under the deal.

Pinto believes that the agreement is “pretty strong.” He thinks that if the deal were to be ripped to shreds by presidential candidates it wouldn’t be in the best interest of the United States.

“I can understand people who want to make further progress on the whole range of issues that Iran poses for the world, and it’s a laudable goal, but this is a baby step,” Pinto said.

Faten Ghosn, Associate Professor in the School of Government and Public Policy, discussed the diplomatic relations between Iran and other countries that the deal concerns.

Ghosn is also not a proponent of the deal being thrown away due to the fact that it would hurt the United States’ relations with other countries in enforcing the sanctions of the agreement.

“What you negotiate in one arena can impact what you negotiate in other arenas and also sends signals regarding credibility, commitment, and your reputation. In all of these, even right now, the world is looking at us and not understanding the debate that we’re having.”

Asher Susser, Stein Professor of Modern Israel Studies in The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies addressed the regional implications of the agreement and the practical needs of moving forward.

Susser says that the heated debate about the Iran deal isn’t quite the same in his home country of Israel. He says the attitude is less tense because Israelis are coming to terms with the agreement and are ready to see how the deal is implemented.

The panel discussion was moderated by Joaquin Ruiz, Dean of the College of Science, and J. Edward Wright, Director of Judaic Studies.

Wright is hopeful that these types of panel discussions on serious topics will happen more often to “promote understanding in our community and around the country.”

### Studies Donors

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- Robert G. Varady
- Armando Vargas
- Renate Wasserman
- Marcia Winick
- Victor and Geraldine Yarne
- Michael and Marcia Zaccaria
Daniela Tascarella (2015)

Daniela is in Washington D.C. for a ten-week internship at the U.S. State Department. She is working in the Foreign Service Institute, where Foreign Service Officers receive training before they are posted overseas. Her department offers courses on Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and “Diplomacy at High Threat Posts.”

She recently participated in a simulation of an embassy that was faced with protests and corruption from the government of its host country. This was an interesting and eye-opening experience of working at an embassy. She also had the privilege of going to a conference on intelligence hosted by Georgetown University and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. She heard from directors of several intelligence agencies, as well as from the Under-secretary of Defense for Intelligence. Daniela learned that with the advent of social media and the internet, there is more open information about the adversaries of the US and at the same time the US government is trying to be more transparent, which means that information can get into the wrong hands more easily.

Moreover, she is looking forward to continuing her education and taking part in other interesting opportunities. One future opportunity that she is especially looking forward to is taking the Hebrew Oral proficiency exam required of Foreign Service Officers. Daniella noted, “I am so grateful to the Center for having been there along my educational journey, and I feel so blessed to have been under their instruction and care.”

Zachary Neal

This summer, with generous help from the Florence Kaiser-Frank Memorial Scholarship and the Marcia and Seymour Sabelsin Scholarship, Zach attended the month-long Hebrew Ulpan at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For those unfamiliar with the term, an ulpan is an intensive language course designed to help individuals learn Hebrew in the fastest way possible. Based on his comprehension skills, Zach was placed in a level Bet class which proved to be a challenge. Zach was already familiar with much of the grammar, but his listening

Falbaum Fellow

Seth Pines (2015-2016)

Seth Pines is currently a senior at the University of Arizona who is studying Journalism with a minor in Sociology. Seth is originally from South Windsor, Connecticut and hopes to be working in media relations for an NHL team following graduation.

The Bert Falbaum Fellowship in Judaic Studies is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate at the University of Arizona. The Falbaum Fellow in Judaic Studies will facilitate and promote the scholarly achievements and cultural interests of Judaic Studies both on campus and in the broader community. In keeping with Bert Falbaum’s commitment to service and education, this fellowship will grant the opportunity to a worthy student to assist in increasing awareness of the various fields in Judaic Studies.
Katherine Juhlin
Katherine (Kati) Juhlin, a UofA Honors student and dual major in Judaic Studies and Linguistics, received a Weintraub Award to realize her goal of traveling to Israel to study Modern Hebrew at the world-renown ULPAN (immersion) program of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Kati has excelled in all of her Hebrew language and Judaica classes. She is one of a growing number of non-Jewish students pursuing a Judaic Studies Major or Minor at the University. Kati will spend the 2016 spring semester at the Hebrew University, and she is deeply thankful to the Weintraub family for enabling her to realize her long dreamed-for goal of studying in Israel.

Ari Ginsburg
Ari Ginsburg, a UofA Judaic Studies major, has used his Weintraub Award to undertake his first-ever trip to Israel and to fulfill an internship for academic credit with Tel Aviv’s LGBT MANASH (a Hebrew abbreviation of “Mercaz Noar Shchunati,” meaning Neighborhood Youth Center). As part of his activities for MANASH, Ari has counseled transgender youth from both the religious and secular sectors of Israeli society. In addition, he has participated in recent initiatives to introduce or amend legislation on gender-based human rights in Israel. Last but not least, he has assisted in the organizational work of Israeli NGOs that focus on human rights, especially LGBT rights. Israel Hayom, Israel’s largest daily circulation newspaper, interviewed Ari regarding his work with Israeli LGBT organizations.

Engaged learning is now a core expectation of all UofA undergraduate students. These engaged learning opportunities are meant to link a student’s classroom learning with real world application. Ari is very thankful to the Weintraub family for the support they have given him to earn UofA credit while learning about human rights in Israel and working directly with Israeli NGOs in this area.
IMAGINE spending a month and a half in one of the most fascinating parts of the world, surrounded by thousands of years of history, where ancient and modern coexist in the meeting-place of three of the world’s great religious traditions.

While you bask in Israel’s history, culture and spiritual richness, you’ll earn 6-9 credit units (including 3 UofA Tier II/Gen. Ed. credits).

Faculty:

Prof. David Graizbord, Ph.D.
judaic.arizona.edu/user/david-l-graizbord

Dr. Leonard Hammer, J.D., Ph.D.
judaic.arizona.edu/user/leonard-hammer

For Information and course listing, contact:
Prof. David Graizbord, Program Leader
dlgraizb@email.arizona.edu • (520) 626-5758
judaic.arizona.edu/Arizona-Israel

On-Line Application:
global.arizona.edu/study-abroad
(click on “UA abroad | Log-in/Register” and follow the prompts)
Courses Offered
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Professor David Graizbord (JUS/HIST/RELI 301, Tier II)

Modern Jewish History
Professor David Graizbord (JUS/HIST/RELI/MENAS 370A, Tier II)

Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History
Professor David Graizbord (JUS/HIST/RELI 370B, Tier II)

Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism:
Its History and Principal Phenomena
Professor David Graizbord (JUS/HIST/RELI 435/535)

Modern Israel
Dr. Leonard Hammer (JUS/POL 377)

International Human Rights,
Transitional Justice, and Israel
Dr. Leonard Hammer (JUS 384)

Independent Study (JUS 389)

Internship (Engagement Course JUS 493)

Financial Aid is Available for UA Students

Non-Students Welcome

The Ronald & Diane Weintraub Israel Travel Award

The Ron and Diane Weintraub Award enables UofA students to participate in accredited academic programs in Israel. The Weintraub Award is just one component of the Weintraub’s extensive interest in promoting an understanding of Israel among Americans. These long time Tucson residents have contributed extensively to the success of several local, national and international organizations, but Israel has always been central to their interests. They co-founded The Weintraub Israel Center, which is a joint project of The Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona, The Jewish Community Center, and The Jewish Agency for Israel. They also founded the Tucson chapter of Parents of North American Israelis. Both are now retired — Ron from a successful publishing business and Diane (B.S and M.Ed., University of Arizona) from a distinguished career in real estate — and they now focus on their philanthropic interests, which are having a transformative impact on the lives of many people.

The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies is honored to have Ron and Diane Weintraub as partners in our efforts to provide outstanding learning opportunities in Israel for UofA students. The Weintraub scholars will immerse themselves in learning about and living in Israel. Upon their return, they will always be well-informed sources of knowledge about Israel, its cultures and people.

The Ronald and Diane Weintraub Israel Study Award is intended for students who enroll in an accredited academic program in Israel. Apply through Scholarship Universe, scholarshipuniverse.arizona.edu, beginning January 2016!

Please see the update about the activities of the 2015-2016 Weintraub Scholars on page 9.