2011 Symposium on the U.S.-Israel Relationship

On November 9, 2011, The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies held an all day “Symposium on the U.S.-Israel Relationship” with over 250 people attending. In the audience were students, academics and members of the general public. The panel was comprised of internationally renowned scholars and diplomats from the United States and Israel.

The Symposium addressed the fact that Israel faces increasing international isolation and the U.S. has, at times, shown signs of a declining determination to stand at Israel’s side. Some view this as a necessary corollary of the administration’s desire to engage with the foes of America, while others contend that it reflects a more profound historical shift – the gradual erosion of the U.S. as a great power.

The panelists were paired off into three sessions, each giving a 45-minute presentation with 30 minutes of Questions and Answers. The first panel involved Peter Beinart, Professor of Political Science and Journalism, City University of New York and Gil Ribak, Schusterman Fellow in Judaic Studies, The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies. Their theme was “Foreign Policy & Domestic Political Change in America as it Relates to the U.S.’s Relationship with Israel.”

The second panel paired Steven Spiegel, Professor, Political Science and Director, Center for Middle East Development, UCLA and Itamar Rabinovich, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Distinguished Global Professor at NYU and Distinguished Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Their theme was “Foreign Policy and Domestic Political Change in Israel as it Relates to Israel’s Relationship with the U.S.”

The third panel involved David Makovsky, Director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and Alon Pinkas, President of the U.S.-Israel Institute at the Rabin Center in Tel Aviv and former Consul General of Israel to New York (2000-2004). Their theme was “Future Trends in U.S.-Israel Relations.”

THE SPRING 2012 YIDDISH FESTIVAL


Nancy Sinkoff, Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies, Rutgers University spoke on “Arch Rivals in “The Archers’ Voice:” Revisiting the Origins of the Hebrew-Yiddish Language War among East European Maskilim.”

A series of films in Yiddish with English subtitles were also shown.

Fisheke der Krumer - USA, 1939. Impoverished lovers Fishke and Hodel dream of life in the big city of Odessa, free from the poverty and old-world prejudices of the shtetl.

Uncle Moses - USA, 1932. The first Yiddish talkie. Moses tries to recreate the shtetl in his sweatshop, while fighting against any attempt to unionize his workers.

The Forward: From Immigrants to Americans - USA, 1989. This documentary portrays the story of the world’s most successful Yiddish newspaper.


A Gesheft USA, 2005. The first Yiddish feature film to come out of ultra-Orthodox circles and one of the first Yiddish movies produced after the Holocaust.