Public Events

community events

What is the Meaning of Bagels and Falafel?
Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies
Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

SHAUL STAMPFER, professor at Hebrew University and author of books on Eastern European Jewry including Families, Rabbinic Education and Lithuanian Yeshivas of the Nineteenth Century, will point out the history and hidden symbolic meaning behind two classic modern Jewish foods: bagels, an iconic food of American Jewish cuisine, and falafel, which has a similar role as an Israeli Jewish food. In his talk he will highlight the process of how bagels and falafels became a national food, which illuminates not only the history of food but also the societies who created the food.

Golde and Her Daughters: Soviet Jewish Women and the Schizophrenic Model of Acculturation
Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies II
Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.
William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

ELISSA BEMPORAD, professor at Queens College, The City University of New York, and author of the award-winning book Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk, will examine the complicated process of socialization and acculturation into the Soviet regime as experienced by Jewish women, from the Bolshevik Revolution until the eve of World War II.

Crossing the Boundary from Gentile to Jew in the 19th Century American South
Sylvia and Irving Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South
April 20, 7:30 p.m.
William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education

DANA KAPLAN, lecturer in Jewish Studies at the United Theological College of the University of the West Indies and a rabbi in Kingston, Jamaica, will investigate the unique dynamics underlying conversion to Judaism in the 19th century American south, including how Jews adapted their religious and ethnic identity to conform to the expectations of southern society.

academic lectures

The Talmud’s Great Dispute of Religiosity
The Morris, Ida and Alan Heilig Lectureship in Jewish Studies
September 15, 5:30 p.m.
Hyde Hall

MENACHEM FISCH, professor and director of the Center for Religious and Interreligious Studies Project at Tel Aviv University, has published on the history of science and mathematics, confirmation theory and rationality, and talmudic literature and legal reasoning. In his talk he will explore the Talmud’s dispute of religiosity, the dispute about the very moral perfection of God and his Word. But what can it mean to be religiously obligated, faithful or committed, it asks, to a morally flawed deity and religious system?

The Landscape of Monotheism
Kaplan-Brauer Lecture on the Contribution of Judaism to Civilization
February 23, 5:30 p.m.
Location TBA

BARUCH HALPERN, the Covenant Foundation Professor of Jewish Studies at University of Georgia, co-director of archeological excavations of the ancient city Megiddo in Israel and author of various books including David’s Secret Demons: Messiah, Murderer, Traitor, King, will discuss how and why monotheism was institutionalized in ancient Judah and Jerusalem, how this ideological strand continued after the exile, and influenced evolving Judaism as a whole, and then Christianity and Islam, what occasioned the idea and its socialization and governmental imposition, and what it signaled to religious traditionalists.

seminars

The Uhlman Family Seminar: Jewish Literature
This continuing education seminar featuring faculty from UNC and elsewhere is planned for April 18, 2015. Please check our Web site for seminar topics, speakers, and registration fees. This seminar is offered by the Program in Humanities and Human Values and is made possible by a grant from the Uhlman Family Fund. Pre-registration is required.

All lectures (with the exception of the Uhlman Family Seminar) are free and open to the public and no tickets or reservations are required. Seating is not reserved. To receive updates about our event schedule, please subscribe to our listserv by emailing us at ccjs@unc.edu or visit our Web site at jewishstudies.unc.edu