



**Pamela Nadell,**  
**Director, Jewish**  
**Studies Program**



**Howard Wachtel,**  
**Director, Center for**  
**Israeli Studies**

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## From the Directors

In this year's *YediAUT* you will find information on the extraordinary achievements of American University's **Jewish Studies Program** and the **Center for Israeli Studies**. The Jewish Studies Program has been selected to host the 2004 Biennial Scholars' Conference in American Jewish History, which will commemorate the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in the United States and is cosponsored with, among others, the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

The Center for Israeli Studies marks its fifth anniversary. This milestone presented an opportunity to review our achievements so far and initiate a set of new projects for the next five years, which are explained in this year's *YediAUT* (*see* below ).

We are grateful to our readers of *YediAUT* for their support for AU's Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Israeli Studies. There is a donation form on the next-to-last page of this newsletter. To achieve our objectives over the next several years, we count on your continuing support and encouragement. ■

## Center for Israeli Studies Launches Curricula Initiative

Having completed its first five years, the Center for Israeli Studies has designed a strategic mission for its next five: the development of curricula on Israeli Studies.

Inaugurated in 1998 by former prime minister Shimon Peres to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel, the center dedicated its first five years to presenting the creative and intellectual contributions of modern Israel to the American University campus, to the Washington, D.C., community, and by extension to a wider audience through its national and international programming. We hosted 10 in-residence Israeli scholars, artists, and scientists; held four conferences; sponsored 15 individual lectures; and initiated two student study abroad programs in Israel. (*See* our Web site for details: [www.centerforisraelistudies.org](http://www.centerforisraelistudies.org).) Over 20 faculty members across some 15 disciplines are part of the center, which is also the administrative home for the Association for Israel Studies—an international professional organization that hosts an annual meeting and publishes a journal. We will continue to support this programming as we embark on our journey in a new direction.

Today we face new challenges. The security situation in Israel is vastly different in 2003 than it was in

1998. September 11, 2001, and the war in Iraq have heightened interest in the Middle East on campuses. This has led to new tensions about Israel on campuses across the country.

The study of Israel is subsumed within Middle East studies programs but almost exclusively in terms of the Arab-Israeli conflict. There are 125 Middle East studies programs in colleges and universities funded by government sources, foundations, and private donors. The Department of Education, for example, supports 14 Middle East centers and nearly 100 student fellowships (currently at \$4 million per year) in a program that started in 1958. About \$100 million has been invested in Middle East studies over the 45 years of this funding. Our research found that essentially none of this public funding has gone to curricula development on Israel.

The next generation of leaders in the foreign service, nongovernmental organizations, and international organizations is emerging from university without knowledge of the history of Israel in the Middle East, its unique political democracy, its multiethnic character, its achievements and contributions in the arts, sciences, humanities, and social sciences. This gap and imbalance in university curricula has been made more apparent in the past three years of conflict and controversy.

*See Initiative page 2*

#### Initiative from page 1

Starting nearly 18 months ago, the center conducted an examination of existing curricula on the Middle East, considered how to address the imbalance in the teaching about Israel, and arrived at a strategy for addressing this problem in a way that not only impacts AU's campus but can be replicated across the nation. It has three parts. The Center for Israeli Studies will:

- develop **new curricula on the modern nation of Israel** that has components on the nation's history, multiethnicity, immigration and absorption, political system, water and arid agriculture, arts and letters, economy, and society, extending the themes of the center's first five years by examining the country not only as a nation in conflict but one that has produced remarkable accomplishments in the arts, sciences, humanities, and social sciences
- create a **Summer Institute on Israeli Studies** for university professors, high school teachers, and community college teachers to extend the center's reach beyond the AU campus
- establish a rotating **visiting professorship** staffed by Israelis who will bring to the AU campus and the region the best of Israeli scholars to teach in the AU curricula we are developing and participate in the summer institute

In view of the tension surrounding Israel in the Middle East, it is crucial that students learn about Israel in an informed, balanced, and comprehensive framework. The ultimate goal of this undertaking is to open the door to reasoned discussion about Israel on university campuses and to encourage students' intellectual growth, exploration, and curiosity about Israel as a modern, multiethnic, democratic nation facing many of the same problems as the United States but set in a region of acute conflict.

This is a major undertaking for AU's Center for Israeli Studies that impacts how Israel is taught in universities at a critical crossroads in its history and evolution. To achieve our goals requires a level of financial support greater than in our first five years. Please send in your contribution with the donation form on the last page of this newsletter and help us balance the teaching of Israel in American universities. ■

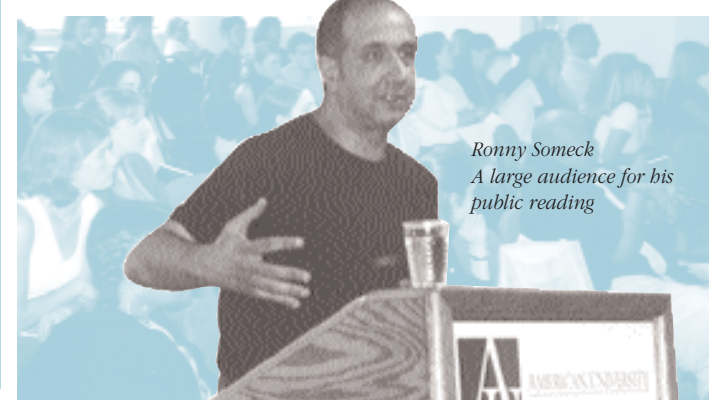
## Poet Ronny Someck is 10th In-Residence Israeli

The Center for Israeli Studies hosts Israeli in-residence artists, writers, and scholars who teach master classes and offer a public program. (See our Web site, [www.centerforisraelistudies.org](http://www.centerforisraelistudies.org), for a complete list.) The latest, and 10th, is the poet **Ronny Someck**, who was born in Iraq in 1951, arrived in Israel as a small child, and spent his childhood in an Israeli transit camp for new immigrants until his family moved just outside Tel Aviv. He has worked as a leather goods vendor and an instructor to street gangs. Currently he teaches literature at a special high school for dropouts.

Someck graduated with a degree in philosophy and literature from the University of Tel Aviv. He hosts his own popular radio show and travels, as did troubadours of old, all over Israel with a singer who has set many of his poems to music. The author of eight books of poetry, Someck has seen his work translated into 22 languages.

*The Fire Stays in Red* is his first full-length book in English, translated by Moshe Dor, formerly an AU adjunct professor, and AU alum Barbara Goldberg.

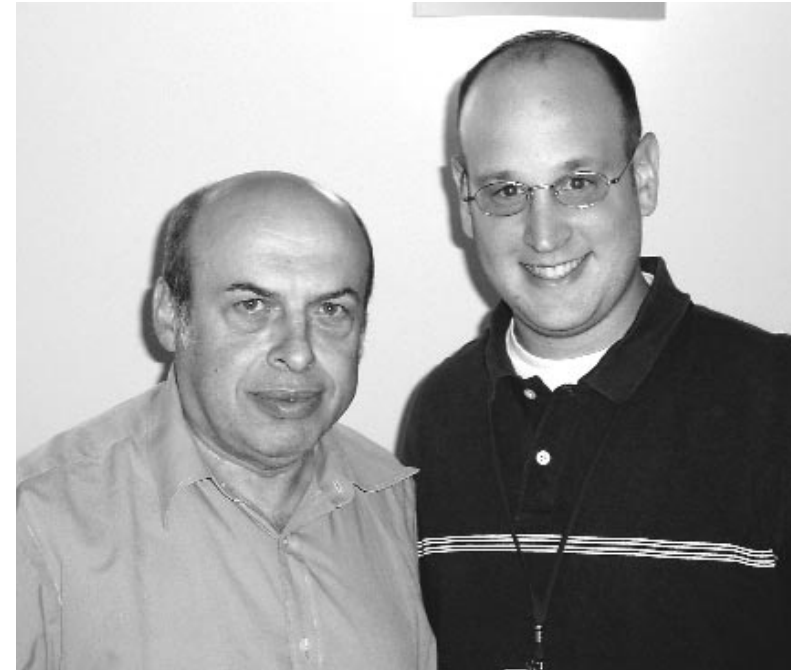
Someck writes: "I feel as if I live in a transit station. On the memory shelves are arranged candies from various cultures, but all of them are wrapped up in a local tissue paper. My mother dreams in Arabic, I dream in Hebrew and speak in Hebrew, but sometimes, within the Hebrew, I can hear the sound track of a singer like Fairuz conducting a duet with Frank Sinatra or Elvis." ■



Ronny Someck  
A large audience for his  
public reading

## AU student interns with M.K. Natan Sharansky, Minister for Diaspora Affairs

Jason Benkendorf, AU senior, Jewish studies minor, and former president of AU Students for Israel, studying at Hebrew University in fall 2003, helped organize M.K. Sharansky's September speaking tour of the United States and interned out of Sharansky's office in the prime minister's building. "I consider myself incredibly lucky to have this opportunity," he said. "But I also know that this is just the start of a lifetime's work in strengthening Israeli-Diaspora relations." ■



## Lectures Sponsored by the Center for Israeli Studies

■ **GIDEON DORON >>** spoke on the results of the Israeli election and their implications for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Professor Doron is past president of the Israeli Political Science Association and a graduate of Hebrew University and the University of Rochester. He was twice elected to the executive board of the International Political Science Association. During the 1992



election he was Itzhak Rabin's campaign strategist and has written 12 books and edited three volumes.

■ **AVRAHAM INFELD >>** inspired his luncheon audience in an address entitled "Challenges Faced by Universities in Middle East Education." Avraham Infeld is currently counsel for Jewish affairs, Hillel, and its interim director; the founder and president emeritus of Melitz (Center

for Jewish Zionist Education); chairman of the board, Israel Experience Limited; president and immediate past chairman, Israel Forum; and



chairman, Arevim. He was formerly director general, Shalom Hartman Institute. He is a graduate of Hebrew University in Bible and Jewish history and received a law degree from Tel Aviv University.

■ **TAL BECKER >>** told us about the tribulations of Israel at the UN in a talk entitled "Israel at the UN:

Plaintiff or Defendant?" Tal Becker holds a law degree and is legal adviser to the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations. He has represented Israel at the UN in numerous bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including those leading to the comprehensive convention



against terrorism and the international criminal court. He was legal adviser to the Israeli delegation during the Middle East Peace Process. Among his many awards is the Rabin Prize.

## Conversations through Photography wins award

The *Washington City Paper* named the photo exhibition *Conversations through Photography*, curated by Nella Cassouto (the center's curator in residence), as one of the top 10 photo exhibits of 2002. Sponsored by the Center for Israeli Studies and the Department of Art, the exhibition was held at AU's Watkins Gallery. In making this award, the paper said: "This collection of documentary photographs by 10 Israeli and Palestinian artists featured a series of portraits of steely-eyed Palestinian career women, unexpectedly colorful images of life in the refugee camps, and a wistful documentation of a modest experiment in cross-border harmony. But the exhibition's clear standout was photo journalist Rina Castelnovo. One of her series captured Palestinian children swimming in water covered with an intensely colored film of green algae. Another features gut-wrenching images of an all-too-common rite of passage in the occupied territories: young boys posing with assault rifles in front of incongruously cheery cartoon backdrops, taken so that parents can have a martyr photograph if their child is killed in the streets." ■



Algae Carpet, 2000 by Rina Castelnovo

**YediAUt is dedicated to "our teachers and their students and the students of their students" down through the generations.**

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## Amos Perlmutter Award Established

In memory of our former colleague **Amos Perlmutter**, American University's School of Public Affairs has established the Amos Perlmutter Award and Research Fund to recognize the outstanding performance of a graduating senior from the School of Public Affairs in the area of comparative politics.

Professor Perlmutter was an expert in comparative politics and foreign affairs. During his career, he published 15 books, including *The Life and Times of Menachem Begin*; *F.D.R. and Stalin: A Not So Grand Alliance, 1943-1945*; and *The Military and Politics in Modern Times*. His career included roles as member of the Israeli delegation to the UN, political advisor to the chief of staff and high command of the Israeli Defense Forces, advisor to the Greek government, member of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission, and author of a weekly column for the *Washington Times*. He was a fellow at the Brookings Institution and the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars and founder and editor of the *Journal of Strategic Studies*. His contributions to American University and the world community enriched the field of comparative politics.

The School of Public Affairs has established a fund to perpetuate this award and to promote research in those areas that animated Professor Perlmutter's own work. Those who want to make a contribution to the Amos Perlmutter Fund are welcome to send donations to Office of Development, School of Public Affairs, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016-8130. Please earmark contributions to the Amos Perlmutter Award, School of Public Affairs.

## From the Jewish Studies Program

Forty-one percent of Jewish college students have taken a Jewish studies course, according to the 2000–2001 National Jewish Population Survey. But giving courses and teaching students is only one facet of the life of the Jewish studies professor. Outside our campus AU's Jewish studies faculty play major roles in the world of Jewish studies. As leaders in national and international professional associations, editors of journals and book series, and consultants on projects requiring scholarly expertise, our faculty contribute to the flourishing of Jewish studies across the United States and throughout the world.

While Jewish studies scholars join many professional associations reflecting their specific discipline, the umbrella organization is the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). Its annual meeting brings together Judaic studies scholars in all fields, history and sociology, Hebrew language and literature. AU Jewish studies director Pamela S. Nadell is completing her second term on the AJS board of directors, where she is in the midst of a three-year term as chair of its Nominations Committee. At the same time, she is chairing the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society, the oldest ethnic history association in the United States. Russell Stone, chair of AU's sociology department, is the administrative officer of the Association for Israel Studies, an international academic association for the study of contemporary Israel housed at American University. History professor Alan Kraut has just completed a three-year term as president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society.

Our faculty are also experienced editors. History professor Richard Breitman, author of, among other works, *Official Secrets: What the Nazis Planned, What the British and Americans Knew*, is editor in chief of the journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, an international, interdisciplinary journal on the Holocaust, published in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Prof. Stone is advising editor of the Israeli Studies series published by the State University of New York Press. Each year the series publishes several books on contemporary Israeli society, politics, and history. Currently, it has 65 books in print. Prof. Nadell is book review editor for the journal *American Jewish History*.



Not surprisingly, our faculty's scholarly reputations make them widely sought after as consultants to an array of projects. Last summer Alan Kraut was consultant to the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services for its "U.S. History Guide for Naturalization Applicants." He has also just been appointed chair of the Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island History Advisory Committee. Pamela Nadell is consultant to the permanent exhibition planned for the new National Museum of American Jewish History, to be built on Philadelphia's Independence Mall. She is also deeply involved in the activities planned to mark the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America in September 2004.

Yet, even these are not all of our faculty's numerous professional contributions. They deliver papers at scholarly conferences and symposia, cross the country giving invited lectures, and are often interviewed by the press. In sum, service to Jewish studies beyond the borders of American University constitutes an integral part of the lives of AU's Jewish studies faculty. ■

### AU to Host 2004 Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History

September 2004 will mark 350 years since a boatload of 23 impoverished Jewish refugees, fleeing the long arm of the Inquisition in Brazil, landed in New Amsterdam, now New York. Their arrival marks the beginning of American Jewish life and has already been recognized by the United States Senate in a resolution designating September 2004 as American Jewish History Month.

In June 2004, scholars of American Jewry will meet to discuss and prepare for this occasion. American University's Jewish Studies Program is proud to join the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History in hosting the 2004 Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History. The conference is cosponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society, the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives and Records Administration, which are the partners of the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History.

American University looks forward to welcoming the scholars of American Jewry to our campus. ■

## Faculty Notes

**Richard Breitman**, Department of History, is editor of *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* and continues to work on the declassification of World War II documents for the National Archives and Records Administration.

**Erran Carmel**, Kogod School of Business, continues his work on the Israeli high-tech sector with a forthcoming article, "Israel's Silicon Wadi: The Forces behind Cluster Formation."

**Rivka Degani**, Department of Language and Foreign Studies, teaches Hebrew.

**Gershon Greenberg**, Department of Philosophy and Religion, visited Germany and Lithuania, where he delivered a speech entitled "Nineteenth-Century Reform Jewish Thought and *Religionswissenschaft*" at the Jewish Museum–University of Erfurt conference on *Judentumswissenschaft* and presented a paper on the 1939 Torah Conference in Vilnius: "The Last Theological Declarations of Eastern Jewry before Soviet Occupation." His recent publications include: "The Holocaust Apocalypse of Ya'akov Moshe Harlap," *Jewish Studies*; "Jerusalem, Vilna, Chicago: Gedaliah Bublick's Wartime Dilemma," in *America and Zion: Essays in Honor of Mosheh Davis*, ed. Sarna and Lederhendler; "Shlomo Zalman Unsderfer: With God through the Holocaust," *Yad Vashem Studies*; "Religious Survival among Orthodox Jewish Displaced Persons," in *Thinking in the Shadow of Hell*, ed. Jacques Doukhan.

**Alan Kraut**, Department of History, was appointed chair of the Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island History Advisory Committee; served as a consultant to the Bureau of Citizenship of the Department of Homeland Security on the revision of the history and government portions of the citizenship examination; was the historical advisor on the advisory panel that issued the report "America's Challenge: Domestic Security, Civil Liberties, and National Unity after September 11"; and completed his three-year term as president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. He published the book *Goldberger's War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader*.

**Alan Levine**, School of Public Affairs, spent the year on sabbatical at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University working on

a book entitled *The Idea of America in European Political Thought: 1492–Today* and delivered several lectures on this topic throughout the western United States.

**Arnost Lustig**, Department of Literature, serves as president of the Prague-based Nine Gates Festival of Czech-German-Jewish Culture. His most recent novel, *Lovely Green Eyes*, was named one of 12 notable works of fiction for 2003 by the American Library Association.

**Pamela Nadell**, Department of History and Jewish Studies Program, published *American Jewish Women's History: A Reader*. She is completing a three-year term as chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society and is historical consultant to the permanent exhibition of the National Museum of American Jewish History.

**Naomi McNally**, Department of Language and Foreign Studies, teaches Hebrew.

**Saul Newman**, School of Public Affairs, is now chair of the Department of Government. He continues conducting research on the decline of settler nationalism in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and Israel and its impact on resolving disputes between settler and native nationalist movements.

**Naima Prevots**, Department of Performing Arts, completed an evaluation for the Ministry of Education in Israel (March 2003) on a proposed change in the Bagrut exams for dance. She initially worked with the Ministry of Education in 1993 to help develop the high school dance major and the related Bagrut exams and supported the recent proposal that would allow students to complete more work in their selected dance major.

**David Rosenbloom**, School of Public Affairs, had new editions of two of the principal textbooks in public administration published: *Public Administration: Understanding Management, Politics, and Law in the Public Sector* (5th edition), which also appeared in a Chinese translation in 2003, and *Personnel Management in Government* (5th edition).



**Rita Simon**, School of Public Affairs, published three books in 2003: *Approaches to Pornography: A Comparative Assessment* (with Richard Procida); *Global Perspectives on Social Issues: Marriage and Divorce* (with Howard Altstein); and *Education the World Over* (with Lisa Banks). She also served on the U.S. secretary of education's Commission on Opportunity in Athletics: Title IX, on the editorial board of two academic journals (*Gender Issues* and *Women and Criminal Justice*), and as a member of the board of the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy.

**Myra Sklarew**, Department of Literature, published *Over the Rooftops of Time: Jewish Stories, Essays, Poems* and several poems and essays, including: "A Three-Course Meal for the New Year," "Writing the Holocaust," "4 1/2 Street, S.W.: Grandfather Lost and Found," and "Teaching the Children," and gave poetry readings at the Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, D.C., the D.C. Jewish Community Center, and other venues.

**Russell Stone**, Department of Sociology, continues as administrative officer for the Association for Israel Studies; is an advising editor for the Israel Studies series published by the State University of New York Press; serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Israel Studies* and *Israel Studies Forum*; was a member of the program committee for the 2002 Middle East Studies Association; and is also chair of AU's Department of Sociology. He was on two panels at the 19th annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies and spoke on panels sponsored by Project South of the Washington Book Forum and at the Palestine Research Center.

**Howard M. Wachtel**, Department of Economics, published *Street of Dreams—Boulevard of Broken Hearts: Wall Street's First Century* and delivered two speeches in Prague at the Nine Gates Festival of Czech-German-Jewish Culture: "Anti-Semitism: New and Old" and "Czech Foreign Policy towards Israel: What Would Help the Roadmap?" He was interviewed on these talks in: *Pravo* ("Zacal Festival Devt Bran") and in the Prague Jewish community magazine, *Ros Chodos* ("O Novem Antisemitismu"). ■





Spotlight on Our Donors

(The Center for Israeli Studies and the Jewish Studies Program would not exist without our dedicated supporters, who are listed at the end of this newsletter. We focus this year on Alan Goldner, who played a critical role in launching the Center for Israeli Studies)

Alan Goldner's sparkling eyes glow brighter when he describes his first encounter with Israel in 1983. It was a "life-changing experience," he says. He was "hooked" and has been there at least 50 times since 1983 to pursue his two primary interests in Israel: the Israel Tennis Centers and the Alexander Muss High School, as well as family and Jewish Federation commitments. He was



introduced to Israel and Jewish affairs primarily through his wife, Ellen, whose mother and father, one of the founders of Rite Aid, had been active in the Jewish Federation.

Alan and Ellen met as students at American University during the tumultuous Vietnam war years. Alan's final exams in his senior

year were canceled at AU, as they were at many schools, because of the Kent State protests. He quips that this explains how he was able to graduate. He remembers vividly

their first meeting when he was a senior, after winter break, at the Tavern and their first date at Blackie's House of Beef on February 19, 1970—even the bottle of wine they shared (Lancers) which he still possesses, carefully inscribed with the date and the dinner's significance.

After various start-of-career positions in the health and beauty care industry, Alan purchased a partnership in United Supply Corp. in 1989—a school supplies business—where he is now president. A warehousing and distribution company, United Supply services over 600 college bookstores as part of over 3,000 retail stores throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

AU's Center for Israeli Studies encountered Alan Goldner at its own start-up in 1998 at a meeting in New York among some half dozen interested individuals, where the center's idea and programming were presented for feedback and comment. From the very beginning, Alan has been a keen supporter of the Center for Israeli Studies and a much valued informal advisor as well as an important donor.

Through him we have learned about his connections to Israel. He is presently chair of the International Board of the Israel Tennis Centers—a complex of 15 sites around the

country that served an estimated 5,000 children in 2003. He is on the board of the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, which offers a year or semester in Israel for American high school students. Both of his children—Rachel, who lives in Chicago, and Josh, who made aliya to Israel in 1997—attended Alexander Muss.

Alan Goldner says he "likes to find niches that can change lives" in his philanthropic endeavors, which he pursues with the same passion that enlivens all his projects, from a 1961 Corvette restoration to his collection of sports memorabilia. When asked why he has become engaged with AU's Center for Israeli Studies, he says, first, that it is the university he attended and he was delighted to see a project that "united his interests in Israel and Jewishness." He identifies with projects that "will produce and have some impact" and wants to be "associated with a program that continues to grow and meets students' needs, to present the truth in the relationship between the United States and Israel, showing both sides" of this complex story. He is "happy to be part of it."

The center values Alan's generosity and counsel about its programs and directions. It is a relationship that, like the center itself, continues to grow and mature. ■

Faculty Comings and Goings

Two members of AU's faculty who have made substantial contributions to the Center for Israeli Studies are embarking on new phases of their lives and careers: Daniel Schydlovsky, Department of Economics, and Naima Prevots, Department of Performing Arts.

Daniel (Dani) Schydlovsky started AU's study abroad program at Hebrew University for the Center for Israeli Studies and accompanied the AU students to Jerusalem as director of the program in its first two years. Born in Peru, where he received his first degrees, he then came to the United States, where he received an MA and a PhD in economics from Harvard University. A specialist in the problems of economic development in Latin America, he was a professor at Harvard and at Boston University

before joining AU's Department of Economics in 1990. The author of four books in English and four in Spanish, as well as dozens of articles, he is known throughout the world for his work on economic development in Third World countries, as testified to by his consultancies in 16 countries.

"Creating the Center" he says, "was the most fitting 50th birthday present for Israel from a university with a heart. Establishing a lasting channel for students and faculty to directly experience and contribute to Israel leavens the intellectual atmosphere of AU in the best tradition of liberal education. I have felt proud to be associated with this enterprise."

Schydlovsky has served on the B'nai B'rith International board of governors as well as in its World Center in Jerusalem and Latin American Network as co-chair and Jerusalem

convener. He has been a fellow of the Truman Institute at Hebrew University. When in Israel he enjoys seeing his relatives and old friends from Peru who made aliya.

To close the circle of his life, Schydlovsky was invited back to Peru in 2001 by President Dr. Alejandro Toledo to be his presidential advisor on economic policy. After more than a year of service in that capacity, he took over as president of Peru's development bank, while simultaneously being voted by the Peruvian Congress onto the seven-person board of governors of Peru's Central Bank. He also serves as a board member of the



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Andean Development Corporation and of the Association of Development Banks of Latin America. From these positions he has decisively contributed to President Toledo's proposals for innovative financial mechanisms to support democratic governance in developing countries.

His enthusiasm, wisdom, and wit will be missed in AU's Center for Israeli Studies.

Naima Prevots, who recently retired from the AU performing arts department, is a real pioneer in dance education and a true star in the world of dance. She began teaching dance at AU in 1967 as a member of the physical education department and immediately began to lobby for a performing arts department. Six years later she succeeded in her efforts and since 1973 has built one of the largest graduate dance programs in the country. She created the Wolftrap-American University Academy for the Performing Arts, which she headed until 1981, and brought world-famous choreographers like Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor, and Eric Hawkins to the campus. In 1995 the D.C. Jewish Community Center named her one of five pioneers of Washington dance. And in 2003 she received the Pola Nirenska Award for Lifetime Achievement, honored for her "many years of devoted service in dance."

Prevots is especially proud of her work as a "cultural ambassador." Her scholarship focuses on dance in a cultural context, and she has explored this theme around the world. She had a Fulbright in Australia in 1987. In Israel she



has worked since 1993 with the Ministry of Education to help develop the high school dance major and the related Bagrut (final) exams. In 2002 she facilitated a visit by four officials from China's elite Beijing Academy to see dance in the United States, and last year she was invited as an informal ambassador to teach choreography at the Beijing Academy. She is currently a senior Fulbright specialist working on a three-year project involving Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Portugal, sponsored by the European Union. The goal is to create an international course for dancers in Europe which would enable dancers to share ideas about themselves and their cultures. She has written four books: *Dancing in the Sun: Hollywood Choreographers, 1915-1937* (1987), *American Pageantry: A Movement for Art and Democracy* (1990), *Dance in Israel: Pathways to Learning, Communication, Integration* (1993), and *Dance for Export: Cultural Diplomacy and the Cold War* (1998), a book that summarizes her lifetime study of cultural diplomacy.

Prevots is a graduate of Brooklyn College (Phi Beta Kappa), did postgraduate work at

Juilliard, then earned a master's in dance at the University of Wisconsin and a PhD from the University of Southern California. Her family has strong ties to Israel. Her father, Reuben Wallenrod, lived in Israel in his youth and was a renowned Hebrew scholar and writer.

Although raised primarily in New York City, she grew up bilingual and went to high school in Israel during the War of Independence. Prevots and her husband are both very active in *Neve Shalom*.

Her interest in the Center for Israeli Studies is "natural," she says and she has played an important role in its development from the outset. She was instrumental in arranging the Bat Sheva dance company as the center's inaugural event at the Kennedy Center and an in-residence master class visit of two performers-choreographers from the Bat Sheva company. As part of the center's in-residence program she also hosted Jerusalem choreographer Amir Kolben on campus, where he taught master classes to AU dance students. She believes the center can promote "more open discussion" and "have a major impact on helping people understand Israel in a broader context." Though no longer on campus regularly, she intends to participate in as many of the center's programs as possible.

To AU students she offers this advice: "Be open to new things; take advantage of as many opportunities as possible; take advantage of being in Washington, D.C.—and take risks!" ■



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- Curriculum Development Fund (\$50,000)
Develop new curricula on the modern nation of Israel with components on the nation's history, multiethnicity, immigration and absorption, political system, water and arid agriculture, arts and letters, economy, and society. Will enable students to examine the country not only as a nation in conflict but also as one with remarkable achievements in the arts, sciences, humanities, and social sciences.
- Visiting Professorship (\$100,000 each)
Establish an annual rotating position staffed by the best of Israeli scholars to teach in the AU curricula being developed, address the campus, and participate in the Summer Institute on Israeli Studies.
- Endowed Professorship (\$1,000,000 each)
Establish the first chair in Israeli studies.
- Summer Institute on Israeli Studies (\$250,000)
Funds will provide scholarships and will be used to support the 4-week summer institute in Israel for university professors, high school teachers, and community college teachers. The institute will develop replicable curricula on Israeli studies to extend the center's reach beyond the AU campus.

The Center for Israeli Studies and the Jewish Studies Program thank the following donors for their generous contributions:

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