

Southern States Jewish Programming Series

Fall 2011 - Spring 2012



The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) is dedicated to providing educational and rabbinic services to Southern Jewish communities, documenting and preserving the rich history of the Southern Jewish experience, and promoting a Jewish cultural presence and community engagement throughout a thirteen state region.

Noa Baum



“A Land Twice Promised” A One Woman Show

- Israeli storyteller Noa Baum began a heartfelt dialogue with a Palestinian woman while living in the United States. She weaves together their memories, and their mothers' stories, to create a moving testimony that illuminates the complex and contradictory history and emotions surrounding Jerusalem, for Israelis and Palestinians alike.
- She also has available an interactive, workshop for further learning.
- This show and workshop is for adults and teens.

Storytelling performances for families:

“If Not Higher”

Stories that bring forth the joy and meaning of tradition, with a focus on the values and customs of Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Passover and Shavuot.



The Baal Shem Tones

Helene & Michael Kates



-A Baal Shem Tones concert is more than great music; for many it is a spiritual event that stays with them for years. Helene and her husband Michael, the duo's producer, co-write most of their material, a tightly crafted style of pop-influenced Americana which has been described as "100% American and 100% Jewish," with a powerful spiritual punch that stands out!

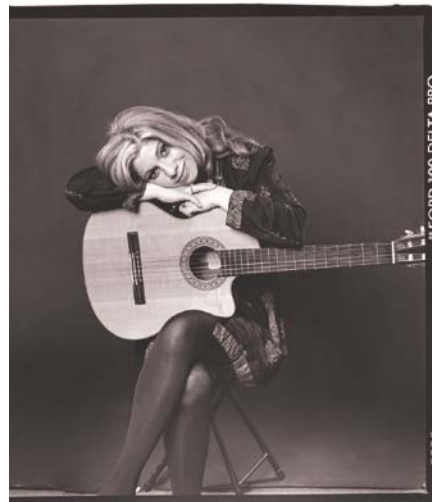


-They bond with the audience on a soulful level, drawing them in with an open heart. Their latest CD "Untold Stories" states; All our lives are untold stories, a life well lived is a story worth telling. Their concerts like their CD are accessible, fun and meaningful with beautiful melodies and lyrics including the lullaby style of their famous Hashkiveinu.

Batsheva

Singer, Songwriter, Musician, Comedy Writer

- Batsheva sings in Ladino, Yiddish, Hebrew and English. She is an award winning songwriter and has performed in Israel, Canada, Australia, and the United States.
- Her “Song of Remembrance” is part of the official archives of Yad Va-Shem.
- She is a classically trained musician, studying piano and cello at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She accompanies herself on guitar. Batsheva holds a degree in Theatre from York University in Toronto.



“i, Batsheva, SINGER is a concert for the fringes and the masses. A cross (you should pardon the expression) between Theodore Bikel and Tom Lehrer, but from a distinctly feminine voice.”

Keith Barany



HIS SHOW IS A MIX OF JEWISH THEMED AND MAINSTREAM COMEDY

A proud graduate of the Ramaz Orthodox Day School, Keith nonetheless describes it this way:

“I served 14 years in a minimum security yeshiva for a crime I didn’t commit!”

The “NY Post” called him “The wittiest comic working today”.

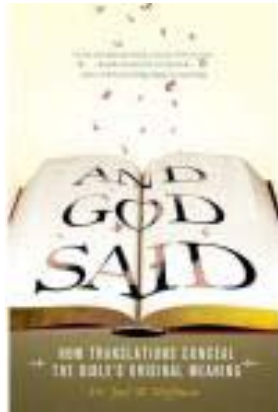
KEITH, CO-WROTE GARY SHANDLING’S MONOLOGUE FOR THE 2004 EMMY AWARDS, WAS A CONTRIBUTING WRITER FOR THE HIT TV SHOW: SEINFELD, AND HAS TOURED OVERSEAS 5 TIMES IN 4 YEARS ENTERTAINING OUR US TROOPS!

He currently contributes to “The Jimmy Kimmel show”



Dr. Joel Hoffman

And God Said



-Dr. Joel M. Hoffman is a much sought after speaker who presents to dozens of popular and academic audiences each year. He holds a Ph.D. in linguistics and has served on the faculties of Brandeis University and Hebrew Union College. He is the chief translator for the 10-volume series, *My People's Prayer Book* and *My People's Passover Haggadah*. He is also the Author of the critically acclaimed *In the Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language*.

-His lectures are engaging, informative and fun!

-For centuries, translations of the Bible have obscured our understanding and appreciation of the original text. Now, *And God Said* provides readers with an authoritative account of significant mistranslations and shows how new translation methods can give readers their first glimpse into what the Bible really means.



-His delivery is understated, brilliant and filled with “aha” and humorous moments. Joel always finds the magic way to speak to the advanced learner and the beginner, in the same crowd. His book, *And God Said*, has been a bestseller for Jews as well as Christians, and is the perfect opportunity for interfaith programming and dialogue.

Rabbi Michael Cook, Ph.D.

Modern Jews Engage the New Testament: Enhancing Jewish Well-Being in a Christian Environment



-Rabbi Michael J. Cook, Ph.D., is the Bronstein Professor of Judeo-Christian studies at Hebrew Union College and the only rabbi in America with a Full Professorial Chair in New Testament. Dr. Cook has received an "Excellence in Teaching Award". He serves on many advisory boards in Jewish-Christian relations and has served on the Executive board of the CCAR.

-Despite the New Testament's impact on Jewish history, virtually all Jews have avoided learning its underlying dynamics, thereby leaving Christian friends perplexed as to why Jews are wary of the "Good News". A ground breaking solution oriented book intent on leading Jews out of anxieties plaguing them throughout history and on enlightening Christians to alternative ways of processing New Testament texts.

-In 2003, Rabbi Cook was one of seven scholars selected by the Catholic Bishops to assess the accuracy of the advance script of Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ".

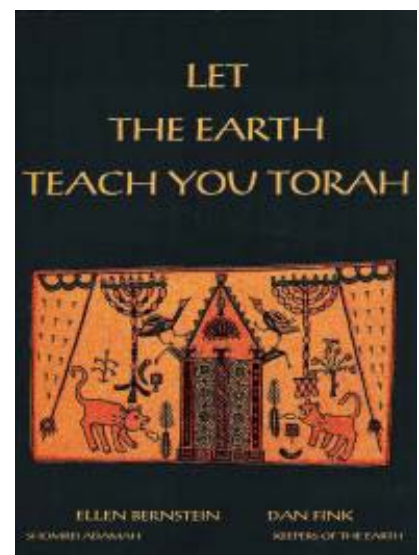
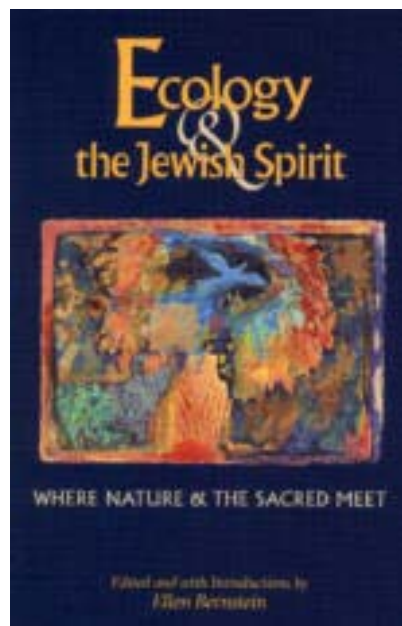
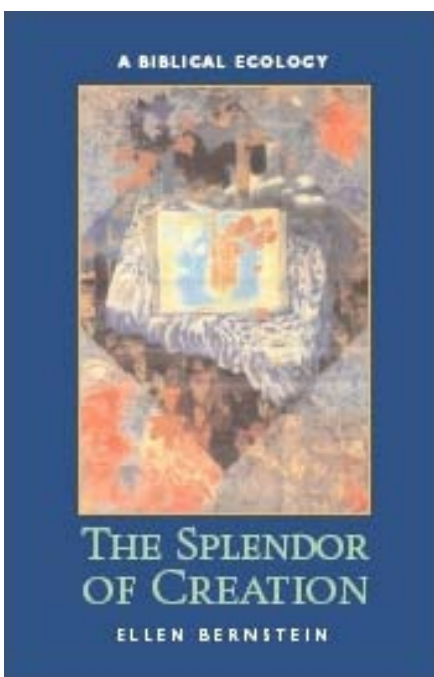
-He travels widely addressing Jewish and Christian audiences, including congregations, university academicians, clergy and seminarians throughout the United States. His lectures are engaging, enlightening and interesting. Rabbi Cook's lectures are wonderful for either Jewish audiences or for interfaith programming opportunities.

Ellen Bernstein



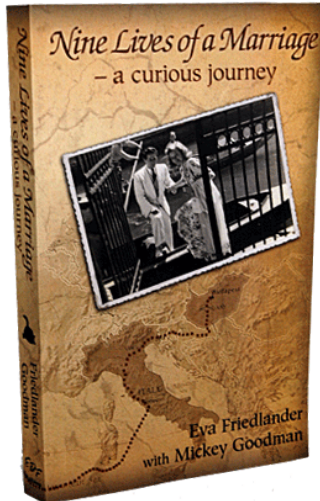
-Ellen Bernstein is an author, teacher, rabbinical student and a founder of the modern Jewish environmental movement; Shomrei Adamah: Keepers of the Earth. She is the author of *The Splendor of Creation: A Biblical Ecology, Ecology & the Jewish Spirit: Where Nature and the Sacred Meet*, and *Let the Earth Teach You Torah*.

-“Ellen Bernstein is an inspired speaker, and her ability to merge scholarship with personal passion, coupled with her activism and vision makes for particularly compelling presentations.”
-Professor Alan Tal of Israel’s Ben Gurion University.



Eva Friedlander Mickey Goodman

Nine Lives of a Marriage



-Eva and George Friedlander had nine lives like their cat Rainy. Their romance blossomed in the ashes of post-WWII Hungary, they were transplanted to Rome where they married and took root in Atlanta, GA. They survived the Nazi occupation of Hungary; she a dazzling Ingrid Bergman look-alike and he a brilliant scientist who escaped three forced labor camps. The story follows the Friedlander's through their individual wartime experiences, George's 45-year love affair with another woman and their tumultuous years of living separate lives under one roof.

-Mickey Goodman is an award-winning writer with more than 500 bylined articles. Together she and Eva recount the story and have been received with resounding smiles and endorsements!



Dr. Stuart Rockoff



-Stuart Rockoff received his Ph.D. in US History from the University of Texas at Austin with a special emphasis on immigration and American Jewish history. He has taught several history courses at UT-Austin, UT-San Antonio, Central Texas College, and Millsaps College.

-Stuart serves as the director of the history department at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, and is the President of the Southern Jewish Historical Society.

-Dr. Rockoff shares his incredible knowledge with the following engaging topics:

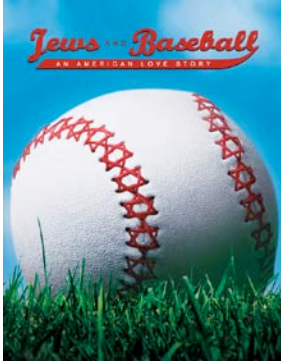
“Bagels & Grits: How Jews found a home in the South”

“The Fall & Rise of the Jewish South”

“Southern Jews in the Crucible of Civil Rights”

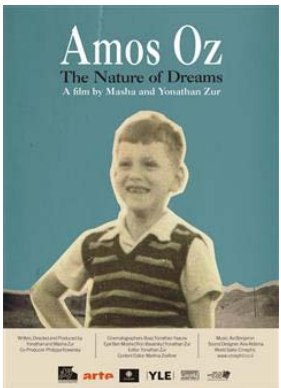


Films Available from the ISJL Programming Department Film Presenters are also available



Jews and Baseball – An American Love Story

This film portrays the contributions of Jewish major leaguers and the special meaning that baseball has had in the lives of American Jews. More than a film about sports, this is a story of immigration, assimilation, bigotry, heroism, the passing on of traditions and the shattering of stereotypes. The story is brought to life through Dustin Hoffman's narration, and interviews with dozens of passionate and articulate fans, writers, executives and players. Presenter available upon request.



Amos Oz; The Nature of Dreams –

Exploring the persona of Amos Oz, the film opens a rare window of opportunity to experience the world as observed through the eyes of one of Israel's greatest authors; a man of whom it has been said, knows Israeli society inside out, especially since he is an outsider, in a very profound sense, of all worlds.



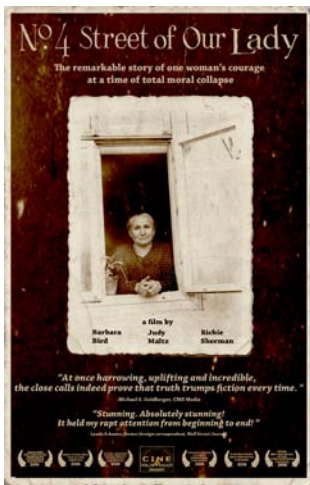
Circumcise Me –

Yisrael Campbell looks more like a rabbi than a comedian, but don't be fooled by the big black hat! Born Chris Campbell, the son of an ex-nun and a Catholic school teacher, he converted to Judaism not once, but three times. This is a hilarious, searching story of one man's quest for spiritual enlightenment against the bewildering backdrop of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Klezematics –

Defying categorization, the geniuses of world music/klezmer fusion known as the Klezematics have been breaking ground by continually redefining Jewish music for more than 20 years. Their restless energy, infectious concert performances and on-camera candor make for a rousing behind-the-scenes documentary covering four up- and-down years in the life of the band. Presenter available upon request.





No. 4 Street of Our Lady –

This film tells the remarkable, yet little-known story of Francisca Halamajowa, a Polish-Catholic woman who rescued 16 of her Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust while cleverly passing herself off as a Nazi sympathizer. For two years, she hid her Jewish neighbors in her tiny home and cooked and cared for them, right under the noses of German troops camped on her property as well as hostile neighbors. Two families were hidden in the hayloft of her pigsty, and one family in a hole dug under her kitchen floor. Pre WWII there were 6,000 Jews living in Sokal, only 30 survived and Francisca Halamajowa saved half of them herself! She has been listed among the Righteous Gentiles at Yad Va-Shem.

Presenter available upon request.

The ISJL provides complete support for all programs!

- Press releases
- Brochures and flyers
- All travel & hotel arrangements
- All book and CD arrangements
- Advance email of speaker handouts
- Anything else? Just ask!

For information, or to book any of these musicians, authors, speakers or films please contact:

Ann Zivitz Kimball
Director of Programming
601-362-6357
akimball@isjl.org