



HEALING *the* WORLD

An Evening of Dialogue & Discoveries
From The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
In partnership with The Jewish Center



Tuesday, November 10, 2009

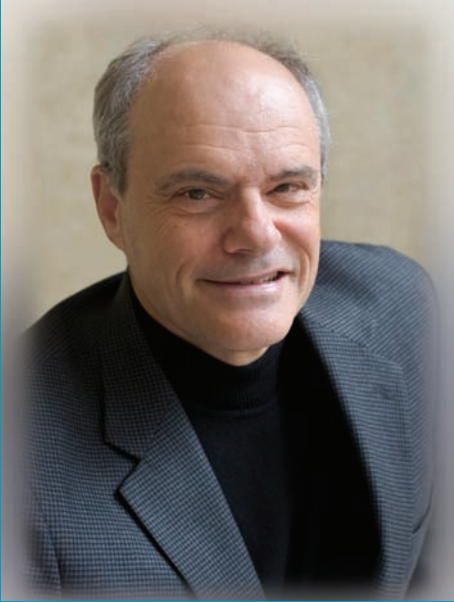
held at

The Jewish Center
131 West 86th Street

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Shifting Middle East Landscapes: Yesterday and Tomorrow

dr. kenneth w.



STEIN

William E. Schatten Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History, Political Science and Israeli Studies at Emory University. He is also Director for the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel at Emory. Stein resigned from the Carter Center after 25 years of service to protest President Jimmy Carter's latest book. He studied for two years at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

PROGRAM

6:00 pm **LIGHT DINNER & REGISTRATION**

6:45 pm **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Shifting Middle East Landscapes:

Yesterday and Tomorrow

Dr. Kenneth W. Stein

7:40 pm **FIRST SESSION (Choose one)**

- **Fighting Bacteria and Viruses**

Professor Isaiah (Shy) Arkin

- **From Tiny to Great: Nanotechnology's Contribution to Solving the World's Energy Crisis**

Ronny Costi

- **Jewish Identity, Assimilation and Continuity: Are Jews Across the World Similar or Different?**

Professor Sergio DellaPergola

- **Freud, Zipporah, and the Bridegroom of Blood: National Ambivalence in the Bible**

Professor Ilana Pardes

- **The Challenge of Protecting Human Rights in Israel**

Professor Yuval Shany

- **The Nature of Things: Maimonides on the World's Ailments and their Cure**

Professor Sarah Stroumsa

- **Israel's Role in Creating a Sustainable Environment**

Professor Rony Wallach

8:40 pm **SECOND SESSION (Choose one)**

Choose from the list above

9:30 pm **EVENING CONCLUDES**

Please visit our web site at www.afhu.org/healingtheworld
for faculty biographies and on-line registration

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(Please choose two)

Fighting Bacteria and Viruses

Professor Isaiah (Shy) Arkin

Our modern era, for all its medical miracles, is currently plagued by outbreaks of swine flu and other infectious diseases. Join Professor Arkin as he describes the basic physiology of significant human pathogens such as influenza. This course will explore essential questions, providing insights into recent discoveries that will help scientists to counteract the destructive impact of these pathogens. His work, which begins at the molecular level, covers such mysteries as the salt and acid pumps in bacteria and viruses. These intricate processes will be described, as will current efforts to design inhibitors that can derail pathogens and prevent their spread.

From Tiny to Great: Nanotechnology's Contribution to Solving the World's Energy Crisis

Ronny Costi

In the face of growing natural resource scarcity and depletion, researchers are striving to develop forms of renewable solar energy. Ronny Costi will discuss the role that pioneering nanoscience and nanotechnology techniques are playing in the quest to develop clean and renewable energy. Learn the difference between a solar cell and solar fuel, and discover how they work. Develop a basic understanding of the amazing field of nanoscience and the size-dependent behavior of materials in nature. Their special properties make nanomaterials promising elements in the scientific drive to create renewable and non-polluting energy sources.

Jewish Identity, Assimilation and Continuity: Are Jews Across the World Similiar or Different?

Professor Sergio DellaPergola

This course will examine Jewish population and community trends in Israel, the US, and worldwide. Professor DellaPergola will highlight the trends that may well determine the future of the Jewish people and Israel in particular. Learn about Jewish demography and the questions it raises concerning Jewish identity. Explore the thought-provoking and truly complex question of how a Jew is defined. These assessments and analyses, which have many quantitative and qualitative dimensions, are vital to the future of the Jewish people in every part of the globe.

Freud, Zipporah, and the Bridegroom of Blood: National Ambivalence in the Bible

Professor Ilana Pardes

Professor Pardes will explore Freud's reading of the story of "The Bridegroom of Blood" (Exodus 4:24-26) in Moses and Monotheism.

The course will highlight Freud's vital contribution to the understanding of the fashioning of ancient Israel in his probing of the hidden psychical phenomena which shape the history and character of the nation behind the scenes. But it will also point to the limitations of Freud's account. Pardes regards "The Bridegroom of Blood" as a text in which Egyptian polytheism returns from the realm of the repressed, revealing cardinal fissures within the monotheistic framework. Special attention will be given to Zipporah's unusual role and to the conflicting representations of femininity in Exodus.

The Challenge of Protecting Human Rights in Israel

Professor Yuval Shany

Israel is a democracy founded on the Rule of Law. Still the ability of Israel's judicial system to effectively protect human rights is complicated by the problematic constitutional infrastructure that exists in Israel and by the enormous challenges that the Israeli society faces. The presentation will discuss the record of achievement of the Israeli legal system in light of these difficulties, focusing in particular on issues relating to minority rights within Israel and Israeli-Palestinian relations.

The Nature of Things: Maimonides on the World's Ailments and their Cure

Professor Sarah Stroumsa

As a physician, Maimonides (1135-1204), widely considered the world's greatest Jewish thinker, encountered physical illness on a daily basis. As a highly original philosopher, he pondered the troubles of the world in more general terms, discussing the nature of illness as well as the impact of phenomenon such as climate change and natural disasters. Professor Stroumsa will examine Maimonides' analysis of the world's varied ailments. We will learn how Maimonides assessed pagan responses and cures to these calamities, and develop an understanding of the towering philosopher's rationalist response to crises of both individual and universal nature.

Israel's Role in Creating a Sustainable Environment

Professor Rony Wallach

As the earth's ecosystem becomes more fragile, water can mean the difference between sustenance and starvation across two-thirds of the globe. Professor Wallach will examine the unique Israeli experience in terms of developing and managing limited water resources and creating successful agriculture in an arid environment. He will also discuss Israel's research directed towards studying the various phases and components of the soil-water-atmosphere complex.

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Founded in 1918 by Albert Einstein, Chaim Weizmann, Sigmund Freud and other visionaries, The Hebrew University opened its doors in 1925, with 141 students enrolled in three institutes. Today, a world-class institution of higher-learning and research located on four campuses in Israel, the university has a student body of 22,000, a faculty of 1,032 and a record of achievements in fields ranging from biomedicine to Jewish studies. Faculty and alumni of The Hebrew University won six Nobel Prizes between 2002 and 2006. Renowned for its commitment to multiculturalism and pluralism, The Hebrew University attracts students from throughout Israel as well as from 70 countries, producing leaders of distinction.



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