Challenge, Choice, & Change in 21st-Century Jewish Community

A Symposium to celebrate the inauguration of the Sol Drachler Chair in Jewish Communal Service presented by the Jewish Communal Leadership Program

Thursday, April 2, 2009
9am-2:30pm
Educational Conference Center
School of Social Work
Welcome

Welcome to the University of Michigan School of Social Work for this special symposium inaugurating the Sol Drachler Chair in Jewish Communal Service. We are fortunate to be joined by an outstanding group of dynamic leaders and innovators in American Jewish communal life, who have gathered to open discussion and share insights about how to energize and build a Jewish community that believes in itself and understands its responsibilities within the broader society. We invite your participation as we seek to advance the conversations around many of the pressing issues confronting today’s American Jewish communities. May this be the first of many opportunities to engage each other and the challenges before us as we set a new, creative agenda for education in Jewish communal leadership.

Karla Goldman

Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work
Morning Program

8:30 a.m.
Continental Breakfast*

9:00 a.m.
Panel: Seekers of Justice:
Jewish Voices and Activism within a Pluralistic Society

Panelists:
• Deborah Dash Moore, director, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan (moderator)
• Shifra Bronznick, change management consultant for nonprofits
• Shep Englander, CEO, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati
• Idit Klein, executive director, Keshet
• Ruth Messinger, president, American Jewish World Service

10:30 a.m.
Break

10:45 a.m.
Panel: Attachment and Alienation:
American Jews and Israel in Complex Times

Panelists:
• Karla Goldman, professor of social work, University of Michigan School of Social Work (moderator)
• Kari Alterman, director, Detroit chapter, American Jewish Committee
• Michael Brooks, executive director, University of Michigan Hillel
• Adrienne Dessel, co-associate director, Program on Intergroup Relations, University of Michigan
• Laurie White, producer and director, Refusing to be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story

*Kosher dietary laws will be observed.
Afternoon Program

12:15 p.m.
Lunch*

Remarks by David Shtulman, executive director, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

1:00 p.m.
Panel: A Community in Crisis? Reflections on Gender, Generations, Diversity, and the Jewish Future

Panelists:
• John Tropman, associate dean for faculty affairs, University of Michigan School of Social Work (moderator)
• Harlene Appelman, executive director, Covenant Foundation
• Debra Barton Grant, executive vice president, Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley, South Bend, Indiana
• Clare Kinberg, founding and general editor, Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal
• David Schoem, director, Michigan Community Scholars Program, University of Michigan

All events take place in the Educational Conference Center, University of Michigan School of Social Work, 1080 S. University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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Jewish Communal Leadership Program

The University of Michigan’s Jewish Communal Leadership Program offers a distinctive educational opportunity for individuals who are invested in the Jewish community and committed to addressing social challenges from within Jewish contexts. Taking full advantage of the University’s interdisciplinary resources, the Jewish Communal Leadership Program integrates Judaic Studies courses and the School of Social Work’s strengths in community organizing, intergroup dialogue and relations, and theories of social change. The program also offers supervised fieldwork in a range of change-making Jewish agencies.

Students of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program will prepare to strengthen Jewish communal organizations by developing skills in building vital coalitions and creating sustainable strategies to address conflict in our complex, multicultural society. Graduates will understand the historic and contemporary dynamics of Jewish community and its place within a broader social context, and will be well positioned to work effectively within a range of Jewish community organizations across North America and around the world.

Building on the legacy of Project STaR and the Sol Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership, the University of Michigan’s Jewish Communal Leadership Program will admit its first student cohort for the fall 2010 semester.
Kari Alterman is the regional leadership director and Detroit chapter director for the American Jewish Committee. Before coming to AJC, Alterman spent eleven years working with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, most recently as its leadership development director. Her professional interests include the importance of the lay–professional relationship and the tools and skills necessary to be a successful leader. She has also served as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Social Work on the American Jewish community and its organizational make-up. Alterman holds a bachelor of arts in history from the University of Michigan, and is a 1997 Project STaR graduate with an MSW and Certificate in Jewish Communal Service from the University of Michigan.

Harlene Winnick Appelman is the former chief Jewish education officer of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and current executive director of the Covenant Foundation in New York City. She holds degrees from Northwestern University and the University of California at Berkeley. An innovator in community education and outreach, Appelman created the nationally acclaimed Jewish Experiences for Families (JEFF), Detroit Federation’s Community Outreach Department, and has designed a variety of new and innovative teacher training initiatives. Appelman is a thought leader on Jewish education and is invited regularly to speak and think about future initiatives in Jewish education and identity formation. She is a recipient of the Covenant Award from the Covenant Foundation for her outstanding contribution to the field of Jewish education, and the Mandell L. & Madeleine Berman Award for her outstanding contribution to the field of Jewish communal service.

Shifra Bronznick is a consultant who specializes in creating new initiatives and helping nonprofit organizations navigate change. Bronznick has consulted for a broad range of organizations including the Public Education Network, the Fresh Air Fund, Hebrew Union College–JIR, American Jewish World Service, the Medicare Rights Center, Ma’yan, the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and the United Jewish Communities. Bronznick is the founding president of Advancing Women Professionals and the Jewish Community, an initiative selected as one of the fifty most innovative and effective Jewish organizations by Slingshot. The co-author with Didi Goldenhar and Marty Linsky of the book, Leveling
the Playing Field, she also was the key investigator and principal author of Visioning Justice and the American Jewish Community, a research inquiry commissioned by the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

**Michael Brooks** has been executive director of University of Michigan Hillel since 1980. In addition to study at Brandeis, Harvard, The Hebrew University, Merkaz ha-Rav Kook in Jerusalem, and the University of Michigan (where he also taught history of Judaism for several years), he and his wife Ruth were among the founders of the Havurat Shalom community in Boston. There is now a second generation of Michigan students lining up at the CCRB racquetball courts to avenge the honor of their parents who Michael used to beat when they were students here. In 1997 Brooks received the Covenant Award in recognition of his work as one of the country’s outstanding Jewish educators, and he once opened for comedian Yaakov Smirnoff.

**Adrienne Dessel** holds an LCSW and PhD in social work and is the associate co-director of the Program on Intergroup Relations at the University of Michigan. She co-facilitated a two-year Palestinian/Jewish community dialogue, currently teaches a course “Conflict and Coexistence: Religion, Ethnicity and Culture” with a specific focus on the Middle East conflict, and is working with Jewish and Arab students designing an intergroup dialogue course on the Middle East conflict. Her dialogue work has been presented at the Council on Social Work Education, Society for Social Work and Research, and Psychologists for Social Responsibility national conferences.

**Shepard (Shep) Englander** serves as the chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. Since his arrival in 2004, Englander has restructured the federation to be more collaborative, competitive, transparent, and responsive to its community and partners. Prior to his current position, Englander served as vice president of United Jewish Federation in Pittsburgh. As a Washington, D.C. attorney, he represented not-for-profit clients in a public policy-related practice and, as the associate director of United Jewish Communities in the Washington, D.C. location, he managed the public affairs operations of its public policy and lobbying office. Englander first gained his nonprofit experience after college working as a community organizer with a grassroots anti-poverty organization—a background he draws upon to build trust and collaboration among Cincinnati’s local Jewish community organizations.
**Karla Goldman** is the Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan and director of the University's Jewish Communal Leadership Program. Goldman's research focuses on the history of the American Jewish experience with special attention to the history of American Jewish communities and the evolving roles and contributions of American Jewish women. Dr. Goldman's book, *Beyond the Synagogue Gallery: Finding a Place for Women in American Judaism* (Harvard University Press, 2000), explores the role of women in the development of 18th and 19th century American Judaism. She is currently completing a history of the Jews of Cincinnati. Goldman previously taught American Jewish history at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati and served as historian in residence at the Jewish Women's Archive in Brookline, Massachusetts.

**Debra Barton Grant** has been the executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley, South Bend, Indiana, since December 2004. Grant manages all aspects of the Jewish Federation's activities including the Jewish Welfare Fund Annual Campaign, the Jewish Family Service and its summer day camp, adult Jewish educational programming, and the Jewish Federation's Endowment Fund. She moved to South Bend from Chicago, where she was the director of institutional advancement at the Community Foundation for Jewish Education for five years. Grant also worked as the assistant vice president/Midwest regional director of the Birthright Israel initiative through the United Jewish Appeal Midwest Regional Office, and at the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County working as both a planning and an endowment associate. While in graduate school at the University of Michigan, Grant worked at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. A Project STaR graduate, she earned an MSW and a certificate in Jewish Communal Service and Jewish Studies from the University of Michigan and a bachelor of arts in religious studies from Indiana University, Bloomington.

**Clare Kinberg** co-founded *Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal* in 1989. Twenty years later she is still the managing and general editor. The journal is now published by Indiana University Press. Her articles have been published in several periodicals and are included in the anthologies *Narrow Bridge: Jewish Views on Multiculturalism* and *Changing Our Power: An Introduction to Women's Studies*. She was on the founding board of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom and is a member of the Jewish Multiracial Network.
Idit Klein is the executive director of Keshet, a grassroots organization working for the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Jews in Jewish life. In this capacity she also served as the executive producer of the documentary film *Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School*. Prior to her involvement with Keshet, Klein worked for social justice organizations in Jerusalem and in Boston for several years, including SHATIL, the Israel/Palestine Center for Research & Information, and Community Work Services. While in Jerusalem she also played a role in early organizing around the creation of the Jerusalem Open House. She graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and received a master’s in education from the University of Massachusetts–Amherst with a focus on social justice and anti-oppression education. Idit was among eight recipients of the 2003–05 Joshua Venture Fellowship for young Jewish social entrepreneurs. She is a past fellow and current board member of the Jewish Organizing Initiative and was honored by the Jewish Women’s Archive with a Women Who Dared award.

Ruth W. Messinger is president of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an international development organization providing support to more than 400 grassroots social change projects throughout the world. Messinger assumed this role in 1998 following a twenty-year career in public service in New York City, where she served for twelve years on the New York City Council and eight as Manhattan borough president. She was the first woman to secure the Democratic Party’s nomination for mayor in 1997. Known in New York City government as the “conscience of the Democratic Party,” Messinger is continuing her lifelong pursuit of social justice at AJWS, helping people around the world improve the quality of their lives and their communities. Messinger is the recipient of honorary degrees from Hebrew Union College, Hebrew College, and Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She has also received awards from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Women’s Funding Network, Union for Reform Judaism, and the American Jewish Committee. Messinger graduated from Radcliffe College in 1962 and received an MSW from the University of Oklahoma in 1964. She began her professional career in public service in Oklahoma, running a child-welfare agency.
Deborah Dash Moore is the Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History at the University of Michigan and director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. She specializes in twentieth-century American Jewish history. She received a BA from Brandeis University and a PhD from Columbia University in American and Jewish history. Her books, for which she has twice won both the Saul Viener Prize for the best book in American Jewish history and the National Jewish Book Award, include At Home in America: Second Generation New York Jews (1981), To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L. A. (1994), B’nai Brith and the Challenge of Ethnic Leadership (1981), and GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation (2004). She is also the editor, with Paula Hyman, of the award-winning two-volume Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia (1997).

David Schoem is director of the Michigan Community Scholars Program and teaches in the Sociology Department at the University of Michigan. He has served as assistant dean for Undergraduate Education and assistant vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, working on issues such as founding the Program on Intergroup Relations, developing learning communities, establishing a diversity requirement, and implementing the First-Year Seminar Program. He has written extensively on topics in higher education, including Intergroup Dialogue: Deliberative Democracy in School, College, Community and Workplace. He also co-edited with Sylvia Hurtado Engaging the Whole of Service-Learning, Diversity, and Learning Communities and Inside Separate Worlds: Life Stories of Young Blacks, Jews and Latinos. His newest book for high school and first-year college students, focusing on engaged learning, is College Knowledge: 101 Tips for the College-Bound Student (University of Michigan Press). Schoem has taught courses at U-M on sociology of the American Jewish community and Jewish identity. He is nationally known for his early research on Jewish education and Jewish identity, and for his extensive writing and practice in dialogue and intergroup relations. He is the author of Ethnic Survival in America: An Ethnography of a Jewish Afternoon School. Schoem holds degrees from the University of Michigan (BA), Harvard University (MEd), and the University of California at Berkeley (PhD).

David Shtulman became executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor in July 2008 after eighteen years in Pittsburgh, where he worked for eleven years in various positions for the
Pittsburgh Federation and seven years as the executive director of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Jewish Committee. Prior to moving to Pittsburgh from Baltimore, Shtulman was a student at the Baltimore Institute for Jewish Communal Service and received his MSW from the University of Maryland, Baltimore and Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew University. In 1981, David and his wife Debbie were co-founders of Moshav Shorashim in the Galilee and lived there until 1988.

**John E. Tropman** is associate dean for faculty affairs and professor of social work at the U-M School of Social Work. He received a BA in sociology and government form Oberlin College, a master’s degree from the University of Chicago, and a PhD in sociology from the University of Michigan. He has spent his career at the University of Michigan, teaching nonprofit management courses at the School of Social Work, organizational behavior and human resources management courses at the Business School, effective decision making and creativity in the Executive Education Program, and leadership and other material at the Executive Education Program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He has been affiliated with and was acting head of the Sol Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership at the School of Social Work, University of Michigan. He has also served as interim dean of the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

**Laurie White** has been a psychotherapist and community activist since the 1970s, working in the area of violence and child abuse prevention and treatment. She is the author of the best-selling book, *Take Care with Yourself: a young person’s guide to understanding, preventing and healing from the hurts of child abuse* (1981). She was head of the national feminist taskforce of New Jewish Agenda in the early 1980s, and one of the founding editors of *Bridges, a Jewish Feminist Journal* started by the members of the NJA feminist taskforce, still in production today. She has been a filmmaker since the mid-80s, beginning that facet of her life as one of the producing team for *Roger and Me* (directed by Michael Moore), and has produced and/or directed several other documentaries, including her current documentary *Refusing to be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story*, about an Arab and Jewish women’s dialogue group that has been meeting together since the summer of 2002, of which she was a founding member.
Thank You!

Symposium Co-Sponsors

• Frankel Center for Judaic Studies
• Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
• Honest Tea

Regents of the University of Michigan: Julia Donovan Darlow, Laurence B. Deitch, Denise Ilitch, Olivia P. Maynard, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, S. Martin Taylor, Katherine E. White, Mary Sue Coleman, *ex officio*

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