



4-6 November 2016

Portland State University
Lincoln Hall

Welcome to the Levy Weekend of Innovative Learning!

Thank you for sharing in this very special opportunity to enjoy poetry, music and song at the “edges of identity.” I remember in shul once, some wag once piped up in mock frustration, “Continuity Committee? There ought to be a “Discontinuity Committee!” And thus our work begins. Who we can be and where we can be is, of necessity, in some relationship to where we have been, and who we have been. It’s that dialogue- between here and there, between then and now, that the “edges” of identity are visible or in the case of today’s artists, audible. From Moldova to Berkeley, the tunes, figures, and lyrics you will hear today carry echoes of history memory, tradition and invention. I hope you brought your curiosity! We are glad you are here.

Patricia A. Schechter, Interim Chair

 Portland State
UNIVERSITY
Harold Schnitzer Family
Program in Judaic Studies

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PSU College of the Arts
The Department of English
The PSU Speaker's Board
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The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies

Judaic Studies explores a global civilization and its fascinating journey through history from antiquity and the medieval world to modern-day Europe, Israel, America and beyond. We engage students of all backgrounds through a rich and flexible curriculum, and serve the greater Portland area through a range of community partnerships and events. We are called The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies, and we bear that name proudly. The Schnitzer name symbolizes a family's firm and ongoing commitment to our program, as well as to Portland State University, great Portland, and the region at large. With the support of the Harold Schnitzer family, our program has experienced tremendous growth, both in our student population and that of our donors. Learn more at www.pdx.edu/judaic.

The Order of Events

Friday November 4th

Lunch and lecture

“The Return of the Golem: Monsters and Saviors in Recent Sci-Fi/Fantasy”

Michael R. Weingrad, Professor of Judaic Studies

Neuberger Hall 407, noon

Saturday November 5th

Performance

Golem of New York City

Analog Café and Theater

Door at 6 pm

Tix @ <https://holdmyticket.com/tickets/258878>

Sunday November 6th

Brunch and Lecture

“Edges Sound the Center: Contextualizing Feminist Punk”

Sarah Dougher, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Lincoln Hall, room 327, 11 am

RSVP required <http://bit.ly/punkbrunch>

Main Act

Poetry and Songs - Alicia Jo Rabins

Readings - PSU student performers

Intermission

Music and “Speakback” - Golem of New York City

Closing Remarks - Shoshana Guggenheim, School of Art + Design

Lincoln Performance Hall, room 175, 12:30

Free and open to the public

The Talent

Alicia Jo Rabins is a writer, composer, performer and Torah teacher. She holds an MFA in poetry from Warren Wilson College, in Asheville, NC and an MA in Jewish Women’s Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Her poetry book, *DIVINITY SCHOOL*, won the 2015 American Poetry Review/Honickman First Book Prize. Alicia tours internationally with her band, *Girls in Trouble*, an indie-folk song cycle about the complicated lives of Biblical women. *A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff*, her one-woman chamber-rock opera, was named one of Portland's best theatre performances of 2014 by the Willamette Week. Alicia lives in Portland with her husband and their two small children.

Klezmer-rock band **Golem** was founded by Annette Ezekiel Kogan in New York City in 2000. Since then, the band (Annette Ezekiel Kogan, Aaron Diskin, Jeremy Brown, Curtis Hasselbring, Taylor Bergren-Chrisman, Tim Monaghan) has become a leading re-interpreter and innovator of Yiddish and Eastern European music, pushing tradition forward into the 21st century. Golem performs nationally across the United States and internationally, in clubs and festivals in France, Germany, Poland, Sweden and Mexico. Their albums include “Homesick Songs” (2004), “Fresh Off Boat” (2006), “Citizen Boris” (2009) “Tanz” (2014). Golem is known for its virtuosic musicianship, theatricality, humor and fearless wild energy, combined with a boundless love of tradition. Golem is clearly “not your grandparents’ klezmer.” (NPR)

Michael Weingrad is the author of [American Hebrew Literature: Writing Jewish National Identity in the United States](#) and the editor and translator of *Letters to America: Selected Poems of Reuven Ben-Yosef*. His essays and reviews, on topics ranging from Israeli fantasy and science fiction to the Jews of Baghdad, have appeared in the *Jewish Review of Books*, *Mosaic*, and a range of other magazines and scholarly journals. He has been a Fulbright Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Montague Burton Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Leeds, and a Harry Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard. He is a professor of Jewish studies at Portland State University, and lives in Oregon with his three children.

Sarah Dougher is an educator and musician who has taught at Portland State University since 2004. Her academic interests include cultural studies with youth-based research and theoretical perspectives; gender, race and U.S. popular culture; principles and practices in community organizing. In 2014-2015, she was a Fulbright Roving Scholar in Oslo, Norway, teaching in high schools and middle schools for the 2014-15 school year. In addition to her appointment as adjunct assistant professor at Portland State University in the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies department, she volunteers as a consultant with the Center for Women's Leadership at Portland State, helping to develop the Girls: Oregon Action Leadership Service program. She earned her BA in Classics at Reed College, and a Ph.D in Comparative Literature at the University of Texas, Austin in 1997.

Shoshana Gugenheim is a Social Practice Artist, Torah Scribe and Educator. Her works primarily address social issues including violence against women, the place of women in traditional Jewish practice, Jewish-Arab dialogue as well as personal transformation and ritual through encounter with art making. Shoshana has served as artist-in-residence in Israel and the US where she has also exhibited her studio work and collaborations. Shoshana was one of the first women in modern times to train and practice as a Torah scribe. Her scribal work informed her collaboration, *Women of the Book*, whose inaugural launch is with the Biennale Jerusalem 2015. Shoshana is currently pursuing an MFA in Art and Social Practice at Portland State University.