

SPEAKERS

Dvori Barzilai Born in Israel, where she studied computerized graphics, print, and sculpture and worked with illustrator Danny Kerman and others, Dvori has lived in Vienna for the past 20 years. She was a visiting scholar at the University of Arts in Vienna in 1992. Dvori participated in exhibitions in many countries, including Romania and Bulgaria, and above all in Austria. In 2008 she was invited by the medical school of the University of Vienna to build a statue in memory of the doctors and students deported in 1938. It was followed by a similar request from the hospital in Innsbruck. Dvori teaches Hebrew and works as artist.

Miriam Benchetrit has been involved in the leadership of grant-making and capacity building organizations in Israel and Europe for 15 years. Today she works as a consultant to NGOs and foundation and runs the Westbury Group, a network of more than 20 international foundations that brings together foundation professionals, the philanthropic elite, opinion shapers and policy makers from across the Jewish world, to provide insight into the real-time issues facing European Jewish communities and support activism build organizational capacity, and showcase some of the wonderful activities taking place in Jewish communities around Europe. Miriam was Chief Executive of The Rothschild Foundation (Europe), where she built and operated grant programmes offering financial support to over 500 organizations across Europe working to strengthen Jewish life. As Executive Director of the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, she organized international conferences on human rights issues and operated the first internship-for-credit course at the Hebrew University. Previously, Miriam ran a volunteer clearing house that placed hundreds of international volunteers with NGOs in Israel. Miriam provided consultancy and training to NGOs on how to work with volunteers and lay leaders and developed professional training for volunteer grant writers, English teachers, and public relations staff. Miriam holds a BA Honors in Politics and an MSc in Politics of Africa and Asia. She studied in Montreal and London and is a native speaker of English, Hebrew and German.

Tamarah Benima is rabbi for three Jewish communities with members from all corners of the Netherlands, as well as some members from Belgium. She also writes for a Christian daily newspaper and the *Neuen Israelietischen Wochenblatt* (New Israelite weekly). She lives in Amsterdam and Berlin.

Dr. med. Hava Eva Bugajer

Born in Israel, in Vienna since 1971. Graduate of the Medical School of the University of Basel, Switzerland. Specialized in Pediatrics at the Hospital of the Medical University of Vienna (Austria) and worked there until 1981. Thereafter specialization in Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy. 1983-1998 Deputy and 1998-2005 Chief of Medicine at Hebe, Clinic for Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Vienna. Since 1998 Chief of Medicine at Helia, Clinic for Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy in Vienna. Numerous publications.

President of WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization) Austria; Member of the Executive of ECWF (European Council of WIZO Federations, Delegate of WIZO to the NGO CSW and to the Committee on Aging in Vienna, Delegate of WIZO to the NGO CSW in NYC

Other Activities:: SPME (Scholars for peace in Middle East); STB (Stop the Bomb) Vice President of, the organization combats companies in Europe that are trading with Iran; Israel Activism and Jewish Medical Ethics

Widow, mother of a grown son

Katarzyna Czerwonogora – a sociologist and social activist, she earned an MA in 2009 at Jagiellonian University in Cracow and is now a PhD candidate in a project entitled "The Transnationalization of Struggles for Recognition – Women and Jews in France, Germany, and Poland in the 20th Century," coordinated by the Social Science Research Center Berlin. Her research interests include gender relations, power structures in modern societies, and processes of democratization in nation-states. Her current work focuses on women's struggle for recognition in the pre-state Zionist movement, particularly the discourses on reproductive rights and women's education. In her work she is inspired by various kinds of radical movement and street activism.

Jill Damti Feingold, born in the USA to a Jewish family, made aliya with her parents and six siblings after the 6 Day War, starting on a kibbutz and later moving to the city. Jill has written poetry since childhood, has performed in gymnastics and water ballet, and has even performed with dolphins. Jill served in the IDF as an officer (lieutenant). She has worked in many environments, broadening her experience base in areas such as volunteering with juvenile delinquents, working at Abie Nathan's "Voice of Peace" radio station, and many other areas. She majored in Cinematography and TV at Tel Aviv University. Jill is a co-writer, co-creator, co-director and actress in various Israeli films. For the past 23 years, Jill has been performing (dancing) and giving workshops all over Israel and worldwide with her partner Amnon Damti, a world-renowned deaf dancer. Her activities also include acting, teaching and writing. Jill is a multi-faceted dancer-artist.

Lara Dämmig studied library science and management of cultural and non-profit organizations, and works for a Jewish organization in Berlin. She has done extensive research on Jewish history in Berlin's Pankow district for several book projects and exhibitions at the Pankow Museum. In 1998, together with Elisa Klapheck and Rachel Monika Herweg, she launched Bet Debora, the Jewish women's initiative, and organized the first three conferences for European female rabbis, cantors, Jewish activists, and scholars, held in Berlin between 1999 and 2003.

Marianne Degginger, born in 1932 in Berlin; daughter of a Protestant-German father and a Jewish-German mother. She **survived** in Brandenburg. In 1951 she **escaped** former East Germany, fleeing to the west. In 1953 she qualified as accredited physiotherapist in Freiburg in Breisgau. In 1955 she **moved** to Switzerland: married, two daughters. In 1976 she **divorced** her husband and returned to her career. From 1984 to 2000 she has run her own practice as a physiotherapist in St. Gallen.

Publications: *Zur Geschichte der Hebammen im alten St. Gallen* (1987), *Schwieriges Überleben* (in a series on the Shoah, 2008).

Rabbi Judith Edelman-Green initiated a nationwide program offering bnei mitzvot to thousands of children with special needs and created an inclusive summer camp. For this she was awarded the Liebhaber Prize for Pluralism. She was ordained at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem in 2009. Today she is founding an inclusive Jewish community for adults with special needs in Kfar Sava called Rimmon Community. Musical Kabbalat Shabbat have just begun. She is the author of "Immigrant Lessons," about her immigration to Israel from America via England in 1984.

Ellahé Engel-Yamini was born to a Jewish family in Iran, and grew up in Germany. She is a social worker by profession, with her own practice in systemic family therapy. She has three children and two grandchildren. She works primarily with immigrants, refugees and their families. As a social worker for a Jewish community in Germany, her clients are Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet states. She has conducted interviews with Holocaust survivors as part of the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. She has delivered lectures for multipliers

about intercultural openness within the social services, about Jews in Iran and the current situation there, and about education and puberty among migrants, from a Jewish perspective.

Sonia Feiger, born in 1950 in Prague, has lived since 1956 in Vienna. After studying romance languages and English, she began her career in the press department of the new General Hospital of Vienna. After the birth of her second daughter, she switched to the "public information" department of the UN in Vienna. As a PR consultant and event organizer, Sonia Feiger worked for the agencies Burson-Marsteller and Publico for both Austrian and international projects (such as McDonald's Budapest, the Mittelfest arts festival in Cividale, Richter Shoes and so on). From 1995 to 2011 she was editor in chief of "Gemeinde," the former official newspaper of Austria's Jewish community (IKG). In 1973 she became the first female president of the Jewish Student Union in Austria. In November 2012, she ran as the lead candidate in the "Respect Initiative" slate in the IKG presidential elections, becoming the Austrian Jewish community's first female candidate for the highest office.

Helga Feldner-Busztin, born in 1929 in Vienna, enjoyed my childhood. Father was arrested in 1938; Mother (who was a "mischling") was able to protect my little sister and me until 1943, since her "Aryan" father was still living. My father was in Buchenwald, Italy and Auschwitz; we were sent to Theresienstadt. I was reunited with my father in 1945 in Vienna; almost all the other Jewish relatives (and the "Aryan" grandfather) were murdered in the war. My father was able to make a living as a medical doctor for the police; later, he became a chief physician. I finished school in Vienna and then studied medicine, completing my studies in 1952. In 1952 I married Hans Feldner-Busztin, who had survived the war in hiding; we had 4 children; he was a neurologist and ran a lab for electro-neurological analysis; he died in 1996. I worked in various hospitals until 1987, ultimately becoming senior physician in the Department of Cardiology of the Polyclinic. From then until today I have been a specialist in internal medicine, partially also doing lab work. I have 11 wonderful grandchildren.

Hannah Fischer

Karen Frostig, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at Lesley University and Resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University. Dr. Frostig works as a conceptual, interdisciplinary artist engaged in international activist projects dealing with traumatic memory, inherited erasures, and new forms of testimony. Dr. Frostig exhibits her work across the US and in Europe, lectures internationally and has published a series of books and journal essays. Current research concerns the production of a temporary Holocaust Memorial to be sited in Vienna in 2013, to mark the 75th Nazi takeover of Austria. The memorial project combines radical innovation with traditional research and represents a post-conceptual approach to memorialization.

Elvina Gavrielov received her B.Sc. in Psychology and B.A. pth in Psychotherapy from the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna. She is currently completing her master's thesis in the field of immigration and trauma. Born in Baku, Azerbaijan and immigrating to Haifa, Israel as a child, she currently lives in Vienna and is a mother of three.

Dalia Golda Almost 30 years ago in a small city in Romania, the newest member of the Golda family was born and her name was Dalia. Born into a traditional family, Dalia grew up in a small but active Jewish community. From the beginning she was attracted by the traditions surrounding Jewish life,

so when it was time to decide where to go for university, Bucharest was the only choice since it had a large and active Jewish community. Once there she became very involved in the youth organization, becoming president after only one year. She organized camps and seminars and trained madrichim. Soon she became the Director of the newly formed JCC and in this period she realized that in order for this community to have a future, it was necessary to create a formal educational environment available to everybody. And so she created Gan Eden Kindergarten in 2009, a place where tradition, innovation, education and the Jewish spirit all come to life within a context of fun and professionalism.

Sandra Goldstein I am Israeli and have been living in Vienna since 2006. After studying at Tel Aviv University, I got my Ph.D in 1993 from the University of Geneva (Cultural History), after which I taught at Ben Gurion University in Israel – until I came to Vienna. Since 2009 I have been teaching at the University of Vienna in the Jewish Studies Department. My present research/book deals with the writings of Jewish writers in exile 1933-1945 and Cultural Transfer.

Eveline Goodman-Thau, rabbi, PhD hab.; born in Vienna in 1934; in 1938, escape to Holland; survival in hiding; since 1956 in Jerusalem. Professor of Jewish religious and intellectual history, University of Kassel; director of the Cohen Academy of Religion, Science and the Arts (Buchen/Odenwald). Visiting professor in Heidelberg, Kassel, Oldenburg, Bern, Harvard Divinity School (USA); currently visiting professor of the Philosophy of Jewish Culture at the University of Vienna. Founder and director of the Institute for Jewish Studies at Martin Luther University Halle / Saale 1993-1998. Honors: 2004 Honorary Medal of the City of Vienna; 2005 Medal of Honor of the City of Buchen. Actively involved for years in public discussions about Germany and Israel. Numerous publications on Judaism and modernity, Western cultural philosophy, rabbinic hermeneutics, women's studies, the culture of remembrance, and Israel in Europe.

Michal Grünberger

Elena Gubenko came to Germany from Ukraine in 1993. A retired architect, she is an educator, cultural manager, Jewish activist, and publicist. She is part of the protest movement "Critical Jews in Germany" and edits the website www.freie-juedische-meinung.de (German and Russian).

Gabriella Hammel

Born in 1947 in Vienna; studied art history at the University of Vienna with professors Demus, Pächt, Novotny; spent many years in museum service and teaching. "I've been retired for a while now, and enjoy more or less limitless free time, visits from my sons and friends. I don't know the meaning of boredom."

Hannah Heer was born in Vienna. She is an award-winning filmmaker and artist working in numerous media, including film, video, installation, and photography. Hannah Heer's innovative feature-length documentary films include THE ART OF REMEMBRANCE - SIMON WIESENTHAL (1995), with music by John Zorn; and THE OTHER EYE (1991); both films were produced and directed by Hannah Heer in collaboration with Werner Schmiedel.

HANNAH HEER's media artwork includes conceptual pieces as well as poetic forms. Hannah Heer was a guest professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (Film Academy Vienna), she taught at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, and she was invited to give Lectures at Colleges in the USA.

www.kolishah.com
www.HannahHeer.com

Yohana Rahel Hirschfeld. Painter, video artist, writer. Studied philosophy and history at the University of Hamburg, with an emphasis on the Middle Ages and German language and literature. Focus is on the influence of Aristotelian and neo-Platonic philosophy on Jewish religious philosophy in medieval Europe. Artistic training at the Jörk Kalkreuter Art School in Hamburg. Founding member and *gabbait* of the egalitarian minyan of the Jewish Community of Hamburg.

Larissza (Larissa) Hrotkó is a philologist, theologian and historian of Jewish culture. Her research topics are the woman's perspective on the settlement of Jewish men and women in Pest during the late 18th and early 19th century, and the participation of women in synagogue liturgy. She also focuses on interpretations of the Torah and Talmud and has published articles in Jewish and non-Jewish newspapers and journals in Hungary and abroad.

Sofia Kaikov graduated in 2009 from Zwi Perez Chajes High School and in June 2012 completed her Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Social Sciences (economics, political science and sociology) at Bar-Ilan University. Sofia began to work as an intern at the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv during her university studies and is now employed full-time at the embassy as a consular and administrative officer. Involved in the international Jewish youth group "Bnei Akiva" in Austria, she continued to contribute to the community in Israel both as a community interpreter as well as in a youth mentoring program.

Dorothea Kipperman, M.A.I.S., LL.B., born in 1986, works as Head of Business Development and Legal Counsel at Lansky, Ganzger & Partner attorneys at law, being also responsible for the management of the law firm's international network. In addition, she was elected Secretary General of the Austrian Israeli Chamber of Commerce (AICC) in January 2012 and has also been Secretary General of the Austrian Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce (ATAZ) since April 2012. Dorothea Kipperman graduated from the Lycée Français de Vienne, holds an LL.B. degree (law with business studies) from the University of Birmingham, UK, and a post-graduate Master of Advanced International Studies degree from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. She is a member of Young WIZO Austria.

Malin G. Kundi is an artist and a portrait and landscape photographer. She has been a Bet Debora fan since 1999. She was born in Vienna in 1963, and lives in Cologne, Germany.

Prof. Dr. Carolyn Landry trained as both a Jungian and Freudian analyst in Zurich, where she also minored in cultural anthropology and art history. She taught for 15 years in the German system of higher education, the last ten of which she spent training social workers. She is now retired and has developed a training program for inter-religious education which she is currently expanding to include continuing education for professionals.

Eleonore Lappin-Eppel was born in 1951 in Vienna; she earned her Ph.D., studying German, English and comparative literature and Jewish intellectual history at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass., USA; Gan at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel; and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 1982 to 1986 she taught German as a foreign language at the Tel Aviv University;

from 1983 to 1986 she was a research assistant at the German department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; from 1989 to 2009 she was a researcher at the Institute for Jewish History in Austria; since August 2009 she has been a staff member at the Commission for Culture Studies and History of Theatre of the Austrian Academy of the Sciences, in the framework of a research project; since 2010 she has been a researcher at the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz; from 2010 to 2012 she was a researcher at the Institute for Jewish Cultural History at the University of Salzburg.

Eleonore Lappin-Eppel is a founding member of the liberal Jewish congregation Or Chadash in Vienna, and chairwoman of the association "Remembering for the Future."

Gerda Lederer nee Heim was born on 9 April 1926 in Vienna. She grew up in the city's 6th district, living with her parents and her sister - two years her senior – on Mariahilferstraße, where her parents owned two shops. After finishing primary school, Gerda attended the Girls' High School on Rahlgasse. After Nazi Germany annexed Austria (1938), Gerda and her family were able to flee the country. They spent nearly a year in France, and then went on to the USA. There, Gerda studied physics and mathematics at New York University and Columbia University; she married George Lederer, and they had three daughters. She later taught at several schools and universities in New York State.

Sandra H. Lustig A daughter of German-Jewish refugees, Sandra was born in the United States and has lived in Germany most of her life. She holds a *Diplom* in Urban and Regional Planning from the Technische Universität Berlin and a Master's in Public and International Affairs from Princeton University. Following a decade doing environmental work, she now lives and works in Hamburg as a freelance translator and interpreter. Her Jewish activities include organizing this 6th Bet Debora conference (after participating actively in the first five), organizing one-day Limmud events in Hamburg, organizing the conference "Galut 2000 – Towards a European Jewish Identity" (1998), founding and leading a Jewish Stammtisch in Berlin (an informal monthly gathering for Jews), and editing (with Ian Leveson) the book *Turning the Kaleidoscope -- Perspectives on European Jewry*. She is a founding member of the Egalitarian Minyan of the Jewish Community In Hamburg.

Elisabeth Markstein, born in 1929 in Vienna. As the daughter of political refugees (Johann and Hilde Kopenig), I was sent out of Austria after 1933; I studied German, first in Zürich and then in the Sudetenland; later, I studied French in France and ultimately studied Russian in the Soviet Union, where we lived during the war. I attended and graduated from a Moscow secondary school, and returned to Vienna in 1945. From 1946 to 1953 I pursued Slavic studies at the University of Vienna and spent a year in Moscow. I completed my PhD, studying at the Translation Institute in Vienna from 1956-1958; I became a certified Russian translator. As long as the children were little, I did freelance translation; I soon began to translate exclusively literary or journalistic texts. I also worked as a conference interpreter. In 1966 I began teaching, first at the Translation Institute in Vienna, followed by Innsbruck (Slavic), in the end in Graz and Vienna again. I present regular guest seminars in Innsbruck. In 1975/76 I was a guest lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin. My themes were: the history of Russian literature and cultural studies in the broadest sense; translation, both practice and theory. In recent years, until my retirement in 2003, I taught a course in literary translation at the Translation Institute in Vienna. I have published essays in various Russian and German (trade) magazines on the above topics.

Mira Mayer teaches at New Bulgarian University in Sofia, Bulgaria. An Associate Professor in Political Studies, she was habilitated in "Policy and Security in the Middle East." Her Ph.D. thesis in the field of Semiotics is titled: "Research on the Connotative Meaning of Jewish Symbols". Mira

Mayer has written five books: "Petrol in the Middle East" (2011), "The Islamic Movements in the Middle East" (2009), "The Middle East Political Geography" (2008), "The Reich and the Holocaust" (2005) and "The Jewish Symbols" (2004).

Pamela S. Nadell holds the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History at American University, where she is also Chair of the Department of History. She is the author of, among others, *Women Who Would Be Rabbis: A History of Women's Ordination, 1889-1985*, which was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award.

Gaby Steiner-Nonhoff.

Born in Vienna-Wahring, 65 years old, moved to Germany at the age of 20.

Education: The school of life!

Two children: Offer 41, Mira 38

When the children were young, she spent many years as a volunteer for WIZO Berlin, mainly preparing food and otherwise helping to organize various parties. Job: Florist, sales clerk, director of Jewish senior meeting place, caring for elderly members of the community.

For the last 14 years: Catering. Specializing in Moroccan cuisine. Catered the first three Bet Debora conferences in Berlin.

Hanna Oren-Huppert Born in 1946 in Russia, to where her parents had fled during the Second World War. Arrived in 1949 (with parents) to Israel, where she graduated high school, military service, and university. After obtaining her PhD in Medical Sociology at the State University of Utrecht (The Netherlands), she was a staff member of the Faculty of Medicine and a Counselor at the Rambam Academic Medical Center in Haifa (Israel). In 1984, after the Lebanon War, she returned to Holland with her husband and four children. In 1985 she began her sculpture work as an autodidact. She works mostly with clay, but also with plaster, cement, and wax; some works are cast in bronze. She figures human beings, feelings, and relationships. Her sources of inspiration include her personal experiences in the past and actuality coming through newspapers, radio, and television.

Dr. Katalin Pécsi-Pollner is an essayist and lecturer in the field of contemporary Jewish literature and film and numerous issues related to the Holocaust and Jewish women's literature. She has been an educator at the Jewish University and ELTE, Budapest, and works on several projects concerning Jewish women. She is the founder and president of Esthers' House Association for Jewish Culture and Feminist Values, a small, but energetic Jewish women's group which contributes to the recovery of the lost world of Jewish women and to making these women visible in male-centered Jewish culture.

Andrea Pető is an Associate Professor at the Department of Gender Studies, Central European University, Budapest. She edited twelve volumes in English, six volumes in Hungarian, two in Russian. Her works appeared in different languages, including Bulgarian, Croatian, English, French, Georgian, German, Hungarian, Italian, Russian and Serbian. She has also been a guest professor at the universities of Toronto, Buenos Aires, Stockholm and Frankfurt. Her books include: *Women in Hungarian Politics 1945-1951* (Columbia University Press/East European Monographs New York, 2003), *Geschlecht, Politik und Stalinismus in Ungarn. Eine Biographie von Júlia Rajk*. Studien zur Geschichte Ungarns, Bd. 12. (Gabriele Schäfer Verlag, 2007). Presently she is working on gendered memory of WWII and political extremisms. She was awarded by President of the Hungarian Republic with the Officer's Cross Order of Merit of The Republic of Hungary in 2005 and the Bolyai

Prize by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2006. She is serving as the co-president for AtGender, European Association for Gender Research, Education and Documentation and was co-organizer of the 4th Bet Debora conference in Budapest in 2006.

Deborah S. Phillips is an artist who works with a variety of 2-, 3- & 4-dimensional media. She also translates, works as a narrator for other colleagues' films and organises art-related events. For more information check out deborahsp.wordpress.com/art.

Sibel Pinto is a cook, researcher, and writer specializing in Mediterranean cuisines. Pinto received her BA from Bosphorous University in Istanbul, Turkey and graduated from Reims University in France, completing "Advanced Studies on Taste, Gastronomy and Table Arts." She is the author of the book *The Evolution of the Sephardic Cuisine in Turkey: Five Centuries of Survival* which received the prestigious Gourmand Cookbook Award in 2010 (Best Culinary History Book in Germany and 3rd place in the world). She has a column in *Shalom* (www.salom.com.tr), the only Jewish newspaper in Turkey, and she regularly contributes to food, travel, and other magazines. As the owner of *Sibel Pinto Catering* her aim is also to promote the Turkish and Judeo-Spanish cuisines through conferences, demonstrations, and tastings in universities, cooking schools, and associations. She lives between Paris and Istanbul. For further information visit her at www.sibelpinto.com

Shirly Pitz I am 33.5 (will turn 34 in March) and was born in Netanya/Israel. I lived there for 9.5 years until my parents decided to move to Vienna. My parents emigrated from Kutaisi/Georgia to Israel in the 1970's and live in Vienna. I have been living in Vienna since of the age of 9.5. I went to the Jewish School Zwi Perez Chajes and studied social work. I worked at a shelter for women affected by domestic violence for 4 years. For 11 years I have been working at a communication center FREEWAY5, in a vocational school in Vienna, an institution of the KUS Network for Education, social Action, Sports and Culture, where I have also been an employee representative for 7 years. I am not married and I have no kids. But for 9 months now, I have been a proud aunt for my sweet little nephew.

Dr. Berta Pixner, born 23.12.1952 in Israel, moved to Vienna in 1957. Two children, two grandchildren, divorced.

University degree in psychology and sociology. Training as a psychotherapist in person-centered psychotherapy and Katathym imaginative psychotherapy; teaching therapist.

Clinical Psychologist at the Sozialmedizinisches Zentrum Süd, Kaiser Franz Josef Hospital, Psychiatric Department. Psychotherapist in private practice.

Active in the Jewish community. As a pupil, joined Hashomer Hatzair, then attended Jewish high school.

Several years on the Jewish community board.

Since 1998 president of the Women and Family Commission of the Jewish Community of Vienna; founded and directed the Jewish Women's Network Vienna; initiator of Schelanu Club and the Women's Helpline in ESRA.

Alisa Poplavskaya, a 27-year-old Ukrainian-Israeli artist has been painting eagerly and passionately since early childhood. The particular fascination with symbolism and Jewish mysticism began during her studies of Jewish scripture at the Paideia Institute for Jewish Studies in Stockholm. Alisa holds a Master's degree in Sociology and Social Sciences, and a second Master's degree in Intercultural Management. Born into an interfaith family, Alisa calls herself a believer and seeker of truth and freedom. As an artist and sociologist, she believes in art and the social changes that can be inspired

by it. It can influence society, soften hardened minds, teach lessons and point towards good deeds. Alisa believes in the nobility of humanity, and that we were created in order to create and multiply in many ways.

Michaela Raggam-Blesch, PhD at the Karl-Franzens University of Graz (Austria), is an associate at the Institute of Culture Studies and the History of Theater (IKT) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences with an APART post-doc scholarship on “Everyday life and persecution of women and men of half-Jewish descent in Vienna, 1938-1945”. From 1999 to 2003 she lived in New York, where she worked for the Leo Baeck Institute and was among the first fellows of the Center for Jewish History Fellowship in 2002. Selected publications: *Zwischen Ost und West. Identitätskonstruktionen jüdischer Frauen in Wien* (2008); *1938. The Beginnings of the Shoah in Austria. Places – Pictures – Memories*, ed. with Dieter J. Hecht, Eleonore Lappin, Lisa Rettl, Heidemarie Uhl (2008); “Wenn die Frau versagt ist oft die ganze Familie verloren.” Neuanfang im Exil unter geschlechtsspezifischen Aspekten, in: Ulla Kriebner, Gerald Lamprecht (ed.), *“Nach Amerika nämlich!” Jüdische Migrationen in die Amerikas im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert* (2012); A Pioneer in Academia – Elise Richter, in: Judith Szapor, Andrea Peto, Maura Hametz, Marina Calloni (eds.), *Jewish Intellectual Women in Central Europe, 1860-2000* (2012); „Mischlinge“ und „Geltungsjuden“. Alltag und Verfolgungserfahrungen von Frauen und Männern halbjüdischer Herkunft in Wien, 1938-1945, in: Vierteljahreshefte für Zeitgeschichte 1 / 2013 (forthcoming).

Désirée Reichman, born in Vienna in 1991, graduated from Zwi Perez Chajes School with honors and is currently studying Law at the University of Vienna while working at the law firm PHHV Rechtsanwälte. Since 2009 she has been a party member and member of the editorial board of "Bund sozialdemokratischer Juden -- Avoda" and became an active member of the European Law Students Association in 2012. Désirée Reichman speaks German, English, Hebrew, and French with basic knowledge of Georgian and Hungarian.

Bavarian-born **Julia Reth** studied piano as a child and subsequently received instruction on the harp, working with Ursula Lentrodt in Munich and then Adelheid Blovsky-Miller at the Vienna Music University. In 1994 she was among the prize-winners of the Harp Competition of the Franz Josef Reindl Foundation. She has been a member of the orchestra of the Norwegian State Opera, the orchestra of the Vereinigte Bühnen Wien, and the Vienna Staatsoper Orchestra, and has collaborated in concerts of the Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, the RSO Wien, the Vienna Volksoper Orchestra, and Klangforum Wien, additionally fulfilling guest engagements with New York's Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic, and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist and chamber music performer Ms. Reth has been heard throughout Europe, in Japan, and China.

Tanya Reytan Born to a Jewish mother and Bulgarian father, both of active antifascist background during WWII, Tania Reytan currently lives in Bulgaria and is a freelance lecturer, researcher, and project manager. She is adjunct professor at Plovdiv University and intercultural trainer of diverse local and international civil society groups. In 2009 she organized the 5th Bet Debra Conference on “Migration, Communication and Home: Jewish Tradition, Change and Gender in a Global World” in Sofia and edited the conference collection, published in 2011. In 2011 she organized in Bulgaria, jointly with Boston and Plovdiv Universities, the 7th International Summer School on Religion and Public Life (see: www.issrpl.org). In 2013 she is part of the 1st Balkan Summer School on Religion and Public Life organization, which is affiliated with ISSRPL.

Vera Rollig

Dr. Irene Runge, born in 1942 in New York to German-Jewish-socialist emigrants. In 1949, the family moved to East Berlin, East Germany. In 1959 left university to work in media. In 1970 completed a high school degree at night school; then studied economics / sociology at the Humboldt University Berlin (HUB); Dipl. economist / college sociologist. Editor at East German television; scientific research assistantship at the HUB; completion of a Dr. oec (in sociology); research assistant (medicine / social gerontology); assistant professor of history / folklore. From 1990, long-term unemployment, ABM / SAM. 2005 early retirement. Volunteer: 1986 – 1989, founder and leader of "We-for-us," a group in the Jewish community in East Berlin; In 1989 co-founder and chair of the Jewish Cultural Association of Berlin until its dissolution; co-founder of the Migration Board of Berlin Brandenburg. Numerous publications.

Daniela Rusowsky was born and raised in Chile, from where she moved in 2005. Director and owner of Funk Productions, Daniela has experience as a broadcast producer, documentary director, corporate communications consultant, and writer. She has a Licenciante degree in Social Communication and a Master in Anthropology and Development. She has lived in Chile, Puerto Rico, Jersey (Channel Islands, GB), and is currently based in Germany. She is also a dedicated mother, loves cooking, and enjoys being surrounded by nature. She has traveled to almost 20 countries on four continents. Daniela is fluent in Spanish and English, and has knowledge of German and French.

Marija Salom, MA architect; active member of the Jewish Community in Belgrade and in Serbia; graduate of Paideia, European Institute for Jewish Studies, in 2005, as a Nelly Sachs fellow; volunteer in the field of Jewish education in Jewish Communities in the region of former Yugoslavia and academic institutions in Serbia; participant at various Jewish meetings (conferences, seminars, festivals...) and inter-religious dialogs in Serbia and abroad.

Olla Savchuk is currently working toward a Master's degree in Ecological Studies at Kiev-Mohyla Academy. She is a graduate of Paideia, the European Institute for Jewish Studies. Her work is focused on Jewish community project development as well as genealogical research. Olla's experience includes volunteering and working at the Judaica Centre in Kiev, Schocken Publishing House, and Histopedia. She is a co-founder of Shituf Peula, a Jewish volunteer initiative in the Ukraine. Another passion of Olla's is informal education. For the last seven years, she has been coaching at an inter-ethnic and inter-faith camp project "Sources of Tolerance" and at a Jewish historical children's camp.

Rabbi Tanya Segal is the first full-time woman rabbi working in Poland, co-founder and the spiritual leader of Beit Krakow. She has an extensive and varied Jewish and artistic education and graduated from the Moscow Theatrical Academy, Tel-Aviv University and HUC Rabbinical College (Jerusalem). She is also an experienced theatre director, actress, singer, and rabbi, as well as a Jewish theatre visionary, author, and founder of the Midrash Theatre in Krakow.

Sharon Finkel Shenhav, an international women's rights lawyer, has been recognized as an expert on marriage and divorce in Jewish Law. Based in Jerusalem, Israel, she was educated in the US, receiving a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Chicago and a J.D. (Doctor of Jurisprudence) from the Georgetown University School of Law in Washington, D.C., and she has represented hundreds of women in Rabbinical Courts in Israel. In 1997, Sharon established and became the

Director of the International Jewish Women's Rights Project, a joint project of the International Council of Jewish women and the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, which is committed to restoring fairness and justice for women in the religious divorce process. Sharon has lectured in over 25 countries and has served as a consultant to lawyers, judges, rabbis and legislators worldwide. She has been a member of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations Commission on Status of Women. Sharon has participated in many inter-faith conferences worldwide and was the organizer of an inter-faith conference on marriage and divorce held at the Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy in 2004. In December, 2002, Sharon was elected to the Commission to Appoint Dayanim (Religious Court Judges) in Israel. She was re-elected to a second three year term in December, 2005 and was the only woman to serve on this 10-person statutory commission which includes the two Chief Rabbis, Minister of Religious Affairs, Minister of Justice, two dayanim, two lawyers representing the Bar Association and two Members of Knesset. In 2009 Sharon was awarded the Israeli Feminist of the Year Award by the National Council of Jewish Women.

Sarah Sheppard I grew up in North West Surrey Synagogue, a small Reform community in South West London, where I attended and then helped run Cheder, shabbatons, and the annual summer camp. As a student of French and German at Cambridge University, I helped run the student egalitarian community and spent a very enjoyable year in Vienna as an Erasmus student, where I got to know Or Chadasch. I now work as an English teacher in French-speaking Delémont and run events for the over-10's at Migwan, Basel's progressive synagogue.

Irit Shillor I was born in Jerusalem and studied Mathematics and Physics in Jerusalem. In the early 80s I moved to the UK with my daughters. I taught Mathematics at a number of universities and worked with gifted children. At that time I started looking for involvement in the Jewish world, so as to give my daughters a Jewish context. I discovered the Reform world in the UK, joined a community and became involved in leading services as a lay leader. I also became a member of The Half Empty Bookcase, a women's group that researched the role of women in Judaism, and by doing so "filled the empty half of the bookcase" with women's words. In the late 90s I decided to embark on Rabbinical studies at Leo Baeck College in London, and was ordained in 2002. I have served a number of communities in Germany as well as Or Chadasch in Vienna. I currently serve the Harlow Jewish Community in the UK and the Jüdische Gemeinde Hameln in Germany.

Maria Dorothea Simon

S.L. (Sandi) Wisenberg is the author of a book of short stories, *The Sweetheart Is In*; an essay collection, *Holocaust Girls: History, Memory & Other Obsessions*; and a chronicle, *The Adventures of Cancer Bitch*. She has finished a novel manuscript having to do with European Jewish history, of which six parts have been published in literary magazines. She hopes to have found a publisher before arriving at the conference. Wisenberg grew up in Houston, Texas, and usually lives in Chicago, where she directs the MA/MFA in Creative Writing Program at Northwestern University. From January to May 2013 she is a visiting professor at the University of Alabama, where she is researching for a new book on personal and political history of the Southern U.S.
<<http://SLwisenberg.blogspot.com>>

Svetlana Yakimenko directs the operations Project Keshet, largest Jewish women's organization in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and one of the fastest growing women's advocacy organizations in the region. Project Keshet operates in 160 communities directly engaging 3,000

Jewish women and, through them, tens of thousands members of their friends and families in programming to build Jewish identity and Jewish communal life. Svetlana oversees leadership training of Jewish women, more than 500 of whom now work in paid and lay Jewish communal positions and the network of 90 multi-faith, multi-national women's coalitions that engage more than 100,000 women in advocacy on issues such as domestic violence, trafficking in women and religious and ethnic tolerance. Svetlana facilitated more than 100 leadership seminars in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Israel

Dvora Yanow Prior to moving from the US to Amsterdam, Dvora Yanow was active in Havurat Shalom (Somerville, MA) and the Palo Alto Egalitarian Minyan (California). It was at the latter that she gave the first version of the drash later published in *Judaism* 43/4 (Fall 1994) as "Sarah's silence: A newly discovered commentary on Genesis 22 by Rashi's sister." The shi'ur she will lead grew out of that study. In her other lives, Dvora is an organizational and political/policy ethnographer and interpretive methodologist—her research takes up (im)migrant integration policies and other arenas for which the state develops race-ethnic categories; science museums and learning how to be "scientific"; and practice theories, among other topics—and she sings early music with the Amsterdam Chamber Chorus.

Dana Zeimer was born in Israel, lived in South Africa, immigrated to Australia in 1993, and now lives in Hamburg. She is a versatile singer/performer covering many different styles, including Hebrew, Spanish and classical music. She worked as a cantorial soloist for two synagogues in Melbourne, Australia for 15 years and now works as a freelance cantorial soloist in Germany. Dana teaches voice, piano, English, and Hebrew in Hamburg. She freelances as a classical singer performing at concerts, private and public business parties, and has started an exciting new project of concerts with a vibraphonist in Hamburg.

Francine Zuckerman graduated from McGill University's film program and joined the National Film Board to co-produce and direct her first documentary film, *Half the Kingdom*. A controversial film about women and Judaism, *Half the Kingdom* was invited to participate in more than twenty international film festivals and won several awards. Zuckerman produced and directed *Exposure: environmental links to breast cancer*, a documentary hosted by singer/actor Olivia Newton-John; a Canada - New Zealand co-production *Punch Me in the Stomach*, starring Deb Filler; the Gemini nominated dramatic anthology TV series; *The Atwood Stories* based on the short stories of renowned Canadian author Margaret Atwood and a new short film for Bravo television, *Ladies and Gentlemen: Biddie Schitserman*, starring Deb Filler as eighty-year old legendary performer Biddie Schitserman. Z°FILMS INC has three projects in development, including: a feature film based on Margaret Atwood's novel *The Edible Woman*; a new documentary film about the renaissance of Jewish life in Poland entitled *I Miss You Jew*, and a hybrid documentary dramatic multi platform project about women and body image with well-known psychotherapist Susie Orbach.