Kolot Time Line

2005 – 2006

Fall Semester

Kolot College Program Committee (CPC) theme for the academic year at RRC: “Jewish Men and Jewish Women in Popular Culture”

CPC members: Anna Rosenfield and Isaac Saposnik, co-chairs; Michelle Stern, Reena Sigman Friedman, and Sara Lev; Lori Lefkovitz, ex-officio

The newly redesigned ritualwell.org, launched in September, draws praise, submission of new ritual material, and growing numbers of visitors. The improved layout and navigation results in double the number of users over the previous year during the same period.

Lori Lefkovitz, Director of Kolot, is one of only 150 women featured in the Jewish Women’s Archive online exhibit of Jewish Women and the Feminist Revolution <http://www.jwa.org/feminism/>.

Expansion is undertaken of Kolot.org, starting with a core collection of academic syllabi in Jewish women’s studies from various colleges and universities.

Kolot College-Time Program: Dr. Harry Brod, “The People of the Comic Book: It’s a Man! It’s a Jew! It’s Supermensch!”, November 29

Screening of “Dirty Dancing” and discussion at The Blue Marble Bookstore, January 4

Prof. Lori Lefkovitz:

- Guest speaker for women’s group from Congregation Beth Hatikvah, analysis of the Book of Esther, December 12, 2005
- Keynote, Sisterhood of Har Zion Temple Torah Fund luncheon, Penn Valley, December 6, 2005
• Keynote, Women of Reform Judaism Annual Luncheon, Scarsdale, December 13, 2005
• Signs book contract with Rowman & Littlefield for *In Scriptures*, building on teaching and research in the bible and Jewish and gender identity

Spring Semester

Temple-Kolot Certificate Program: A record number of students enroll in the combined program for a Jewish Women’s Studies Certificate, including the first European student and first male student.

Kolot co-sponsors “Tell Me a Purim Story” for children and parents with Germantown Jewish Centre, with Lori Lefkovitz leading a discussion on “The Gilded Chamber: A novel of Queen Esther,” at Big Blue Marble Bookstore, Philadelphia, March 8

Jeff Waldman, illustrator of Megillat Esther as a “graphic [cartoon] novel,” discusses “The Role of Eunuchs in Megillat Esther” at RRC, March 9

Kolot-CPC organize the annual Ta’anit Esther program, devoted this year to addressing domestic violence. Information packet distributed to first-year students and tsedakah collected, March 13

Kolot introduces Esther-Vashti flags with bells to the RRC megillah reading, to celebrate the female characters in counterpoint to the grogger noise, March 14

Wenkart Writer-in-Residence, Jennifer Weiner (one of whose books, “In Her Shoes,” was made into a popular movie) conducts a journaling workshop for students at RRC on April 3 and discusses the Jewish nature of her characters in a public program in Philadelphia (at Congregation Kol Tzedek) on April 4

“Birthing our Children, Birthing Ourselves,” childbirth as a metaphor for the Jewish woman’s journey through life, Mother’s Day Event co-sponsored by Kolot and the Women’s Club of Germantown Jewish Centre, featuring Miriam Maslin, a certified birth assistant (doula) currently practicing in Jerusalem, May 14

Kolot College-Time Program: “Rabbis on the Red Carpet” – Rabbi Maurice Harris (RRC ’03) presents his curriculum on Jews in movies, men and women, Jews and gender, queer issues, May 16
Prof. Lori Lefkovitz:

- Leader of *Limud* Session, “Oy, was that a close call!, Ruth and the Fundamental Jewish Story, Rabbinical Assembly Convention, Mexico City, Mexico, Wednesday, March 22, 2006
- The 2006 Dr. Maurice Sitomer Lecture: "Bedrooms and Battlefields: The Hebrew Bible and Myths of Jewish Masculinity and Femininity," March 28, Vassar College
- Scholar-in-Residence and keynote for the installation of former student, Rabbi Yaffa-Shira Sultan, Congregation Dor Hadash, San Diego, CA, March 31-April 2
- Panelist, “Ritual as a Wellspring for the Jewish Soul,” Reclaiming Mikveh Conference, co-sponsored by Kolot, Boston, MA, June 4-6

**Jewish Feminist Scholars and Writers Circle** (co-sponsored with Temple University Jewish Studies Program):

- Professor Harriet Freidenreich (History Department, Temple University), “Pioneering Generations of Jewish Women in American Academia before Second-Wave Feminism” (November 10, 2005)
- Professor Chava Weissler, “Popular Kabbalah in the 18th and the 21st centuries: the case of women” (January 17, 2006)
- Rabbi Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin, Jewish Women's Memoirs (March 9, 2006)
- Andrea Kuti (RRC student for MA in Jewish Studies and the Certificate Program), "Searching for Meaning and Familiarity in Past and Present [post-Shoah Hungary]," and Yiskah Rosenfeld (poet, adjunct professor in the English and Jewish Studies departments at Temple University), "Trysts and Turns: How a Matriarch, a Prophetess, and an Adulteress Locate the Divine" (May 18, 2006)