Kolot Time Line

2007 – 2008

Fall Semester

Kolot College Program Committee (CPC) theme for the academic year at RRC: “Women Who Are Changing the World”

CPC members: James Greene, chair; Julie Pfau, Joysa Winter, David Brodsky, and Elsie Stern; Lori Lefkovitz, ex-officio; CPC Intern: Allison Peiser

Workshop with Rachel Tzvia Back for RRC students, faculty and staff in the Beit Midrash. October 11, 2007


Introducing Kolot: Activities and programs of importance to RRC students in the coming year (Wenkart Writer-in-Residence, College Time theme, reconstructing Ta'anit Esther as the Jewish Day for Justice), Kolot-Temple Jewish Women's Studies Certificate, resources (materials for addressing domestic violence, Ritualwell.org, Beckerman Kolot Library Collection). October 31, 2007

Prof. Lori Lefkovitz:

- Faculty representative to RRC Board of Governors
- Invited participant in "Jewish in America: The Conversation," a project of The Jewish Week and the Center for Leadership Initiatives (CLI), Atlanta, GA. October 14–16, 2007
- Israel/South Asia Selection Committee, Fulbright Senior Scholars Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), Washington, D.C. October 18–19, 2007
- Presenter, “Wrestling with Troubling Texts in a Faith Context: Sarah and Hagar,” at conference: “For There is Hope: Gender and the Hebrew Bible, honoring the memory and legacy of Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky,” at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. October 21, 2007
- Cited with Religion-Outside-the-Box (ROTB) Award www.rotb.org/Pages/Links/ROTBAwards2007.htm

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Prayer,” The Encyclopedia on Sex and Gender, The Gale Group, 2007
“Behar,” contemporary reflections, WRJ Women’s Commentary on the Torah, 2008
“Balak,” commentary from a queer perspective, Torah Queeries, eds. Gregg Drinkwater, Joshua Lesser, David Shneer, NYU Press, forthcoming

Spring Semester

Salon Program: “Gender, Race, Sex and the Public Persona,” an informal lunchtime discussion on the impact of these factors during the primary-election season. February 13, 2008


Meeting of the Jewish Feminist Scholars and Writers Circle: with Susannah Heschel and Amina Wadud at the home of Lori Lefkovitz. March 13, 2008
Ta’anit Esther: The Jewish Day for Justice, honoring Dr. Mardge Cohen, a modern-day Esther, for her pioneering work in women’s health care internationally; hearing firsthand about Cohen’s experiences, examining how one can make a difference; collection of lightly used children’s books and developmental toys for Rwanda’s children. Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Evanston, IL, in partnership with Kolot and with support from the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. March 19, 2008

Ta’anit Esther program in lieu of lunch, RRC Beit Midrash. learn and discuss texts relating to the global responsibility of individuals; writing to Representatives in Congress about PEPFAR, the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; tzedakah collection for WE-ACTx, in support of Dr. Mardge Cohen’s work. March 20, 2008

Reading by visiting poet, Linda Zisquit, a past Wenkart Writer in Residence, under the auspices of the Consulate of Israel, Cultural Affairs Section. March 31, 2008,

Extended College Time Program, with lunch, featuring Sara Felder, a solo theater artist, playwright and juggler – “Diva of Queer Yiddish Vaudeville” – in an original performance, and screening of “The Tribe,” an unorthodox, unauthorized film about the Jewish people and the Barbie doll. April 15, 2008

Yom HaShoah program: screening of "Daring to Resist: three women face the Holocaust;" a PBS documentary written by Wendy Univer, RRC Public Affairs staff member. April 30, 2008

Prof. Lori Lefkovitz:

- Guest speaker, Women’s Shabbat Lunch and Learn, "Women and Jewish Spiritual Leadership, Judaism 2008," Germantown Jewish Centre, 400 West Ellet Street, Philadelphia (Mt. Airy). April 12, 2008, 12:30 pm