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Cultural Affairs Committee

3-2014

Lecture bu Rabbi James Rudin, D.D.

Judaic Studies Program

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES
GRANT APPLICATION

I. Applicant/Organization: University of Maine Judaic Studies program

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Dr. Melissa Ladenheim

900

b. Title: Judaic Studies Coordinator

c. Campus Address (include Email and Telephone): Judaic Studies Program, 125 Stevens, 581-3263
Melissa.ladenheim@umit.maine.edu

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date(s):

The Judaic Studies program at the University of Maine has invited the highly regarded Rabbi James Rudin, a specialist on interreligious affairs, to give a lecture on interfaith relations and understanding on October 23, 2014. Judaic Studies is a new program at UMaine with the minor only just receiving official approval beginning fall 2013. Although Judaic Studies has helped support events on campus such as Dr. Bernard Wasserstein's recent presentation on Gertrude van Tijn, Rabbi Rudin will be the first speaker sponsored directly by the Judaic Studies program.

The afternoon lecture (location to be determined) will be free and open to the public. Rabbi Rudin has proposed these topics for consideration: "The Jewish Jesus & the Christian Christ: Is There a Difference" and "The Christian Jewish Encounter: One Dialogue or Two Monologues." The Judaic Studies Program is reaching out to community organizations with a shared interest in promoting this dialogue including Bangor's All Souls Congregational Church, Congregation Beth Israel and Congregation Beth El and The Wilson Center in Orono, among others. The Honors College at UMaine is also supporting this event and Rabbi Rudin is scheduled to have a breakfast meeting with students and faculty at the Honors College on Friday, October 24th.

Rabbi Rudin is a noted leader in interfaith relations and dialogue including his early work with the American Jewish Committee as Director of the Interreligious Affairs Department—where he currently serves as the Senior Interreligious Advisor—to his role as chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultants. He served on the Camp David Presidential Interfaith Chapel Committee and the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry among others. In April 2008, Rabbi Rudin was chosen by the US Catholic Conference of Bishops to respond to Pope Benedict XVI's address to Jewish leaders in Washington, D.C. He has been invited to the Vatican on multiple occasions and also to meetings of the World Council of Churches. His many publications include *Christians and Jews: Faith to Faith—Tragic Past, Promising Present, Fragile Future* (2010) and *Cushing, Spellman, O'Connor: How Three American Cardinals Transformed Catholic-Jewish Relations* (2012). He has also written a biography of Stephen S. Wise (2014) and has published widely in both scholarly journals and more popular publications such as the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Christianity Today* and *Origins*. He lectures world wide and is a frequent guest on PBS, Fox, NPR, NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN and MSNBC.

Rabbi Rudin's extensive knowledge and experience in interfaith relations will provide a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue on issues and ideologies of faith that both unite and divide us. His perspectives and insights are especially of interest in the current landscape of divisive rhetoric and contentious actions. The coalition of support in the local Jewish and Christian communities already in place is evidence of the interest in and potential of his lecture.

IV. Budget Proposal Form must be attached.

Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of reports for any previous grant awards, including final budget and attendance figures.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA EMAIL TO:

alisha.lukas1@maine.edu

From:  Heidi Carlow

Friday, April 11, 2014 9:03:15 AM 

Subject: Cultural Affairs Award

To:  Melissa Ladenheim

Dear Dr. Ladenheim,

Thanks very much for submitting an application to the March 2014 Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series funding competition. This round was particularly difficult for the committee, as we had many excellent proposals asking for a total of over \$38,000 in CADLS support. We had only \$15,000 to award, so were unable to fund some proposals at all, while the rest received less than requested. We wish we had more funds for all of the great events brought forward to the Committee.

In its meeting on April 10, the CADLS Committee awarded \$900.00 for your project.

Thank you.

Heidi Carlow
Administrative and Fiscal Coordinator/Scheduler
University of Maine
President's Office
200 Alumni Hall
207-581-1717

To: Alisha Lukas, Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecturer Series
From: Melissa Ladenheim, Judaic Studies Coordinator
Re: CA/DLS speaker grant
Date: 8 December 2014

The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecturer Series granted the University of Maine Judaic Studies Program \$900 to support, in part, a series of lectures by Rabbi James Rudin held on October 23-24, 2014. Rabbi Rudin's lecture in the Bangor Room, "The Jewish Jesus and the Christian Christ: Is There a Difference?", was delivered to an overflowing crowd estimated at around 90 audience members including many from our surrounding communities. His evening talk, given at Congregation Beth Israel in Bangor, Maine entitled "The Impact of Modern Israel on Christian-Jewish Relations" drew about 45 people. He also met with about a dozen faculty and students for breakfast in the Honors College on Friday morning.

Additionally, while he was here, Rabbi Rudin was invited to speak at a luncheon of faculty, students and community members hosted by The Wilson Center in Orono, Maine (approximately 30 people attended this event). He also met informally with several faculty and students during his visits.

Rabbi Rudin's visit was widely publicized in letters to local clergy, in the CLAS weekly announcements, at local synagogues, through a poster (see enclosed), faculty announcements, and through various online outlets on campus. As well, there were articles in the *Bangor Daily News* and in *The Maine Campus* on Rabbi Rudin's visit and the UM Judaic Studies Program (see enclosed).

The \$900 grant from CA/DLS was used to help pay for Rabbi Rudin's honorarium, which was \$4000.

Thank you for your support of this program. The contribution of CA/DLS was critical in making these very successful events possible. Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.

Bangor Daily News
Wed Oct 22, 2014

Food pantry

ment has a range of clothing, toys, kitchen wares, purses, some furniture and other assorted knickknacks.

The grand opening ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28. The store's hours will be 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The store is holding its "soft opening" this week and already is welcoming customers and donations.

Because its mission is to provide support for the food pantry's operations, the thrift store will rely heavily on volunteer staff to keep down operating expenses, according to OHI. People interested in volunteering at the store or donating goods should call Darling at 989-3200 or email tdarling@ohi-maine.org.

Follow Nick McCrea on Twitter @nmccrea213.

Office location

town does not rent the basement.

The town has leased space in the 110-year-old building for 70 years. Councilors are addressing the lease because it expires in 2015.

The battle between several councilors and those who support the Masons left both sides feeling sore. Among the casualties was the friendship between Osgood and Councilor Deedé Trask. Osgood said. In an email she wrote, Trask encouraged Osgood to submit his Fleming Street property to the council as a potential town

Leading rabbi to speak in Orono and Bangor

BY JUDY HARRISON
BDN STAFF

ORONO — An international leader in Christian-Jewish relations will speak at 3 p.m. Thursday



Rudin

in the Bangor Room of the Memorial Union at the University of Maine and at 7 p.m. the same day at Congregation Beth Israel, 144 York St., Bangor.

Rabbi A. James Rudin of Sanibel, Florida, is the senior interreligious adviser of the American Jewish Committee. He also served as the organization's longtime director of interreligious affairs.

In 1997, he was given the Person of Reconciliation award from the Polish Council of Christians and Jews in Warsaw, and the International Council of Christians and Jews awarded him its Interfaith Gold Medalion in 1999.

Rudin's topic at the university will be "The Jewish Jesus and the Christian Christ: Is There a Difference?" At the synagogue, he will speak about "The Impact of Modern Israel on Christian-Jewish Relations."

by that of his successor, Paul VI — inspired Catholic clergy and laity to work together to achieve purposeful change throughout the church."

The rabbi worked closely following Vatican II with Catholic leaders, including Cardinal John O'Connor, to improve interfaith relations.

"In June 1987, our friendship was both tested and ultimately strengthened when Pope John Paul II received Austrian President Kurt Waldheim at the Vatican with full honors," Rudin wrote in May in a commentary published by the Religion News Service. "At the time, Waldheim was living under an ugly public shadow because he had hidden his wartime record as a German officer in the Balkans where he was involved in the murder of Jews and Eastern Orthodox Christians. The warm Vatican welcome for Waldheim upset many Jewish and Catholic leaders, including O'Connor."

"At the time, I was in Germany participating in a Lutheran-Jewish conference. One night, while asleep in my hotel room, the phone rang. 'Sorry if I woke you,' said the familiar voice with the distinct Philadelphia accent. "Jim, this is John. I really wish you were in New York now. You could be of big help to me with the problems created by the Waldheim visit. When are you coming back? We need you here."

The rabbi wrote about his friendship with O'Connor in his book, "Cushing, Spellman, O'Connor: The Surprising Story of How Three American Cardinals Transformed Cath-

The Maine campus
Mon Oct 20, 2014

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the director of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the time.
"She asked me if I had thought about running for office," Cain explained. "I was 24. I had not thought about running for office. It turned out to be exactly the right thing, and I've never looked

fact, I was 24 years old, it really didn't occur to me that was somehow not normal. The opportunity was there, I said yes, I went for it," Cain said.
For Cain fitting into the status-quo hasn't been an option. Although she hopes more

See Cain on A10

f New Judaic Studies minor reaches out to all students

Rabbi speaker to give introduction



grapher

Sarah O'Malley
Contributor

For the first time this spring, University of Maine students will graduate with minors in Judaic Studies.

Maya Clifford, an anthropology and biology student in the honors college, will be one of the students graduating in 2015 with a Judaic Studies minor.

Clifford chose Judaic Studies as a minor partially because of her Jewish upbringing, but also with the goal to encourage people of all beliefs to take the course.

According to Howard Segal, a supporter of the minor, "the hope is to have lots of non-Jewish students take Judaic Studies courses, and I believe that this has in fact taken place."

Melissa Ladenheim, who is the Judaic Studies coordinator, said "the Judaic Studies minor was not designed just for Jewish students; in

fact, quite the opposite. Those who designed the minor with its core courses and menu of electives from a variety of disciplines at [UMaine] hoped it would have broad appeal to students from multiple faith backgrounds with an interest in religion and/or core texts and belief traditions influencing Western Civilization."

The creation of the minor began a few years ago; although fall of 2014 is the first time all the classes for the minor are being offered.

The minor was aided by a strong "intellectual commitment by local Bangor lawyer, Norman Minsky ... that goes back at least two decades," according to Segal.

Erica Nadelhaft, who teaches Introduction to Judaism, Hebrew I and II, Jewish History and Culture I and II, assisted the effort, said a Judaic Studies Advisor Board was established, and it began

See Studies on A10

Lecture: The Jewish Jesus and the Christian Christ: is there a difference?
Bangor Room, Union
3 to 4 p.m.

New Writing Series:
Jeff Jackson
IMRC Stewart
Commons
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 24

Lecture: Citizens science to identify effects of climate change in Maine and worldwide
Norman Smith Hall
12 to 1 p.m.

The evolutionary neuroscience of musical beat perception
Murray Hall
3:10 to 4:30 p.m.

Little Shop of Horrors
Hauck Auditorium
7:30 p.m.
(and Saturday same time)

Sunday, Oct. 26

Little Shop of Horrors
Hauck Auditorium
2 p.m.

Symphonic Band & Jazz Band combined concert
CCA
2 p.m.

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Studies from A12

to develop a number of core courses.

In addition Phillip Silver, a UMaine music professor, aided the cause saying, "My contribution to the establishment of the minor was to enable the institution of courses that could be offered under the rubric of Judaic Studies. This meant working with department chairs in history, philosophy, etc. to develop courses that would satisfy their departmental requirements."

The weight of the minor is unquestionable, according to Silver: "It is essential to provide accurate information about Jewish history and thought to those who have little information and might be susceptible to the racist thought, which has become fashionable in many quarters. It is also important for Jewish students to be able to understand the profound influence that Jewish thought has had upon Western development and to hopefully enable them to gain a greater appreciation for the depth and wisdom con-

tained within its teachings."

Rabbi Darah R. Lerner, who teaches The American Jewish Experience, a special topics course, along with Introduction to Journalism at the University, said the impact of the minor, "also informs the study of the history of the Middle East and the development of both Christianity and Islam as religions and their impact on civilizations."

The minor requires 18 credit hours to be completed at the University, partially taken up by three core classes: Introduction to Judaism, Jewish History and Culture I: The Middle Ages to 1750 and Jewish History and Culture II: The Jews & Europe, 1750-1948. In addition three elective courses must be chosen from a list of 12. According to the Course Description website, Judaic Studies provides a broad liberal arts background, cultivating an appreciation of the central role played by Jewish culture in the development of human civilization.

On Oct. 23 the University will welcome Rabbi A. James Rudin for two talks. The first talk will start at 3 p.m. in the

Bangor Room in the Memorial Union and is titled "The Jewish Jesus and the Christian Christ: Is There a Difference?" Following that at 7 p.m. at Congregation Beth Israel in Bangor, Rudin will proceed with a second talk, titled "The Impact of Modern Israel on Christian-Jewish Relations."

Rudin, a pioneer in interfaith discussion, attended Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he was awarded his rabbinical ordination. Some of his many accomplishments include residing as chair of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, which included 11 meetings with Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. He has written 11 books, some of which are "Christians & Jews-Faith to Faith: Tragic History," "Fragile Future," "Promising Present," and "Cushing, Spellman, O'Connor: How Three American Cardinals Transformed Catholic-Jewish Relations." He has another work coming out in 2014, a biography of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.

Cain from A12

young people and women will join her unconventional path through politics.

"My hope is that more young women will want to get into politics because we need them," Cain said. "We [women] don't want to talk about our bodies. We want to talk

