

# wellesleyweek

20-27  
april  
2009

## wellesley jewish studies program launches innovative project

On a dusty side-street in Tunis, above a solitary locked doorway, one can still see a faded Hebrew plaque. This is all that remains of the tomb of Chief Rabbi Messaoud Raphael el Fassi. In December 2008, Ali Kaba, a West African-Muslim undergraduate, located this 18th-century plaque on a research expedition for Diarna.

Diarna — “our homes” in Judeo-Arabic — is a joint-initiative of the Jewish Studies Program and the nonprofit Digital Heritage Mapping. The initiative harnesses new global image mapping technology to virtually memorialize Jewish heritage sites from Saharan outposts to Kurdish villages.

Operating in an area often characterized by strife, Diarna is a multinational and interfaith collaboration among scholars and tour guides, technical experts who code and design the Diarna platform, young photographers and researchers who travel in the region collecting material and Middle Eastern youth eager to map virtual common ground. Together they locate hundreds of sites, collect archival and contemporary photographs and films, interview elderly community residents and assemble a multimedia layer in Google Earth to share this material in a myriad of popular educational formats.

## student activist attends u.n. climate negotiations

Along with youth from the United States and more than 50 other nations, Jennifer Hatch '10 attended interim climate negotiations being conducted by The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany, March 29-April 8.

In a speech delivered to U.N. delegates at the climate negotiations, youth activists called on world leaders to “start working harder” on a global deal, asking developed countries to “take this leap and put your targets on the table – minus 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020; full decarbonization by 2050; and stabilization at well below 350 ppm [parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere]. Anything less ambitious is not good enough.”

“Strong domestic reduction targets can help the U.S. to lead the world in crafting a



protective climate agreement,” Hatch said. “But this provision is only the starting point for avoiding expensive climate change damages. A 100 percent permit auction, and international adaptation funding to ensure the survival of all people and nations, would improve such legislation significantly.”

Hatch is an agents of change coordinator for the youth-run, sustainable development policy organization SustainUS, which has been actively involved in international policy meetings and climate talks since 2001. In Bonn, governments began drafting emissions targets and other provisions for an international climate treaty, which they hope to finalize in Copenhagen, Denmark, this December. For more information about SustainUS in Bonn, visit [sustainus.org](http://sustainus.org).

Wellesley faculty and students have been involved in the project even before a formal partnership with Digital Heritage Mapping was forged. Frances Malino, Jewish Studies, was an early supporter of Diarna, serving as a founding board member of Digital Heritage Mapping. Interns Michele Bornstein '11 and Sharel Itzkovich '11 are currently researching Egyptian and Iraqi sites. This past summer, Alma Heckman '09 went to Tunisia on a research expedition and Yael Mizrahi '09 researched the Jewish communities of Aleppo and Damascus.

“I saw firsthand how synagogues and other Jewish sites are maintained and met with members of the Tunisian Jewish community, the owner of a Kosher restaurant in la Goulette and the caretakers of the main synagogue in Djerba,” Heckman said.



The main synagogue of Djerba, Tunisia, as documented by Alma Heckman '09.

## admission welcomes the class of 2013!

The Office of Admission will host more than 400 admitted students and their families at Spring Open Campus Tuesday, April 21, through Thursday, April 23.

Members of the admitted Class of 2013 were selected from more than 4,200 applications and represent 64 countries of citizenship and 45 states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

Spring Open Campus features student and alumnae panels, class visits, financial aid information sessions, departmental open houses and campus tours. Students are invited to spend the night in residence halls, to take part in events sponsored by cultural organizations and to enjoy entertainment at the campus center.

**WellesleyWeek** is published each Monday during the academic year by the Office for Public Affairs. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For directions, go to [www.wellesley.edu/CampusMaps/](http://www.wellesley.edu/CampusMaps/). Phone numbers are dialed 781 283-xxxx. Campus-sponsored event listings are welcome via an online form at [www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/Forms/wellswkform.html](http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/Forms/wellswkform.html) or e-mail [wellesleyweekcalendar@wellesley.edu](mailto:wellesleyweekcalendar@wellesley.edu). Submissions can be mailed to WellesleyWeek, Office for Public Affairs, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02481. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon on the Monday prior to publication. For paid subscriptions, call 781 283 2373. View **WellesleyWeek** online at [www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/archiveweek.html](http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/archiveweek.html). For more events, go to <https://calendar.wellesley.edu/wv3> for the online campus calendar.

## news

### seniors to race in 114th annual hoop rolling contest

Wellesley seniors will race to the finish line Saturday, April 25, for the 114th annual hoop-rolling contest, a tradition at Wellesley since 1895.

Before 9 a.m., younger Wellesley women will gather on Tupelo Lane to save prime starting positions for their senior “big sisters.” During the race, which runs about 1/8 mile along Tupelo Lane, seniors will roll their old-fashioned wooden hoops toward Lake Waban, where President H. Kim Bottomly will be waiting to present the winner with a bouquet. Shortly thereafter, her classmates will toss the winner into the water to celebrate her victory.

When the hoop-rolling tradition began, it was said that the winner would be the first



2008 winner Rachel Goldstein rolls toward the finish.

woman in her class to marry; in later years, she was predicted to be the first to become a CEO; and now, the hoop-rolling winner will be the first to achieve success, however she defines it.

For more information, call x3795.

### speaker examines the emergence of sufi rock

Sufi Rock, a new genre of devotional music, has been popularized by Pakistan’s first major rock band, Junoon.

Ali Asani, professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic religion and cultures at Harvard, will examine the genre’s emergence during his lecture “Expressing Islamic Devotion in

Contemporary Pakistan through Sufi Rock” Wednesday, April 22, at 4 pm in PNE 239.

Asani will discuss how Sufi Rock represents a challenge to the “clash of the civilizations” paradigm, as it integrates Sufi mystical poetry, classical Indian music and Western rock. For more information, call x2590.

## colleagues

### in the news

roxanne euben, political science, recently presented the lecture, “The Politics of Jihad in Islamist Thought,” at Western Michigan University. Also during her visit, she gave a talk on her book *Journey to the Other Shore: Muslim and Western Travelers in Search of Knowledge* and the post-9/11 challenges to doing research on Islam and Muslim political thought.

ellen gannett, director of the Wellesley Centers for Women’s National Institute on Out of School Time, will discuss “After School Quality (ASQ) for Summer Programming” at the National Conference on Summer Learning. The conference is the only national conference dedicated to summer learning and provides attendees with opportunities to strengthen and expand summer programs.

mary lefkowitz, humanities emerita, has offered lectures with the theme of “Greek Myth as Theology” and related topics at Bowdoin and Trinity colleges this month as an Onassis Senior Visiting Scholar. Her book, *Greek Gods, Human Lives: What We Can Learn from Myths*, has recently been highlighted on Bowdoin’s Web site under the library column, “Bowdoin Reads,” where Professor William Watterson notes, “The past is a foreign country. One side of the culture wars sees ‘otherness’ almost exclusively in terms of contemporary ideas and/or patterns regarding race, gender, class, and sexual preference, but as Mary Lefkowitz demonstrates, Greek myths dating back to Homer and beyond in many ways comprise a more complex and nuanced view of human identity vis a vis the gods.” Read the rest of his comments at <http://library.bowdoin.edu/bowdoinreads/node/57>. As part of the University Seminars Program of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Lefkowitz is one of this spring’s eminent scholars from the United States and abroad to offer lectures, seminars and courses at university campuses in North and South America. The scholars’ topics range in the area of Hellenic history and culture, including modern, Byzantine and ancient history and political thought in Greece and the Balkans during the 19th and 20th centuries.

### alumna returns to discuss the soviet circus



When we think of the circus, we imagine lions, clowns, acrobats and popcorn — but according to historian Miriam Neirick ’99, what may seem like simple amusement can actually carry great cultural and political importance. Neirick will explore this subject in her lecture, “When Pigs Could Fly: A History of the Soviet Circus,” Tuesday, April 21, at 8 pm in the Library Lecture Room.

In her discussion, Neirick will trace the history and development of the Soviet circus from 1919, when it was first incorporated into the state cultural administration, to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. She will illustrate the importance of the circus during this time period, as shown by its popularity

among viewers of diverse ages, genders, ethnicities and status levels. The Soviet circus managed to attract even state officials to attend.

“To secure the favor of the Soviet state while maintaining the devotion of the Soviet people was no common feat for a product of Soviet culture, and my talk explains how the circus achieved it,” Neirick said.

An assistant professor of history at California State University, Northridge, Neirick’s visit is sponsored by Russian Area Studies. For more information, call x2602.

# calendar

## monday april 20

no classes. Patriots' Day. Administrative holiday.

celebration. Marathon Monday Festivities. 9 am-4 pm, Munger Meadow. Sponsor: SBOG. Info: SBOG-mail@wellesley.edu.

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 and 7 pm, Multifaith Center meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Buddhist community. Info: x2793.

## tuesday april 21

monday schedule.

registration for fall 2009 classes begins.

spring open campus. Sponsor: Admission. Info: x2270. (See story, page 1.)

japan table. 12:30, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: japanclubmail@wellesley.edu.

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 pm. (See 4/20 listing.)

lacrosse vs. Wheaton. 4:30 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

lecture. "Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity." Speaker: Nobel Peace Prize laureate Eric Chivian. 4:30 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: eestes@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 4.)

lecture. "When Pigs Could Fly: A History of the Soviet Circus." Speaker: Miriam Neirick '99, history, California State University at Northridge. 8 pm, Library Lecture Room. Info: x2602. (See story, page 2.)

## wednesday april 22

spring open campus. (See 4/21 listing.)

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 pm. (See 4/20 listing.)

french table. 12:30 pm, Tower private dining room. Sponsor: French. Info: x2413.

lecture/recital. "Giving Voice to the Unfettered Soul: Romantic Poetry and the Music It Inspired." Performers: Triple Helix Piano Trio. 12:30 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

info session. Tour the power plant and learn about cogeneration. 1:15 pm, in front of the physical plant. Info: eestes@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 4.)

softball. NEWMAC quarterfinals. 2:30 pm, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

lecture. "Expressing Islamic Devotion in Contemporary Pakistan through Sufi Rock." Speaker: Ali Asani, Indo-Muslim and Islamic religion and cultures, Harvard. 4 pm, PNE 239. Info: x2590. (See story, page 2.)

meeting. College Government Senate. 5:45 pm, Academic Council Room, GRH. Info: CGmail@wellesley.edu.

poetry reading. Speaker: Henri Cole. 6 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: DMCC. Info: x2034.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship. 6 pm, Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Info: x3484.

exhibition. "The Unveiling of the Chair: An Exhibition on Overcoming Intolerance." 7:30 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2685.

## thursday april 23

spring open campus. (See 4/21 listing.)

spanish table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining room. Sponsor: Spanish. Info: x2402.

american sign language table. 12:30 pm, Wang dining room. Sponsor: Disability Services. Info: x2434.

lecture. "The Poetry Does Not Matter." Speaker: Dan Chiasson, English. 4:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: Friends of the Library. Info: x2872.

film. *In the Time of Butterflies*. 7 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: Advisor to Latina Students. Info: x2958.

esl tutoring. 5-7:15 pm. Sign up in PLTC small conference room. Info: x2480.

gathering. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. 6:30 pm, Wang 413. Info: x2685.

films. "Politics of Self-Determination." Part of WASA Film Festival 2009. *Lumumba La Morte du Prophète*, 7 pm; *Six Nights a Week at the Book Café*, 8:30 pm, PNE 151. Info: mbotsio@wellesley.edu.

## friday april 24

debate. "Genetically Modified Organisms." Speakers: Robert Paarlberg, political science, and Martina Koniger, biological sciences. 12:30 pm, Pendleton Atrium. Info: eestes@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 4.)

gathering. Muslim Friday prayers. 12:30 pm, prayer room, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2655.

gathering. Shabbat. 6 pm, location TBA. Sponsor: Hillel. Info: x2687.

performance. AscenDance Spring Show. 7-9 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: AscenDancemail@wellesley.edu.

films. "Politics of Conflict." Part of WASA Film Festival 2009. *Sometimes in April*, 7 pm; discussion with Lidwein Kapteijns, history, 9:30 pm; *God is African*, 10 pm, PNE 151. Info: mbotsio@wellesley.edu.

films. *Hamlet 2*, 7 pm; *Repo! The Genetic Opera*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: eglatter@wellesley.edu.

## saturday april 25

volunteer day. At Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, 8:30 am. Info, RSVP: eestes@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 4.)

hoop rolling 2009. 9 am, Tupelo Lane. Sponsor: Student Activities. Info: x3795. (See story, page 2.)

softball. NEWMAC semi-finals. 10 am, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

film/lecture. "A Celebration of Self-Articulation." Part of WASA Film Festival 2009. *Some Kind of Funny Puerto Rican? A Cape Verdean-American Story*, 12:30 pm; keynote address by Claire Andrade Watkins, historian and filmmaker, 2 pm, PNE 139. Info: mbotsio@wellesley.edu.

festival. Slater World Festival. 1- 4 pm, Munger Meadow. Rain Location: Pendleton Atrium. Sponsor: Slater International House. Info: scho2@wellesley.edu.

## save the date

4/29: Ruhlman Conference. No classes.

4/30: Calderwood Lecture in Economics. Speaker: Lant Pritchett, economic development, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. 4:30 pm, PNW 212. Sponsor: Economics. Info: x2154.

5/7: Student Bingo night. 8 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang. Sponsor: Student Activities. Info: x3795.

films. *Repo! The Genetic Opera*, 7 pm; *Hamlet 2*, 9 pm, PNW 212. Info: eglatter@wellesley.edu.

performance. "Sinful." Performers: Wellesley College Dancers. 7 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: rkerr@wellesley.edu.

concert. "Embodying the Romantic Spirit: the Music of Schumann and Brahms." Performers: Triple Helix Piano Trio. 8 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2028.

## sunday april 26

softball. NEWMAC finals. 10 am, Sports Center. Info: x2003.

gathering. Protestant Bible study, 10:30 am; worship service, 11:30 am. Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2656.

farm work day. Meet at 12:45 pm at the Sustainability Co-op, Simpson Hall. Info: eestes@wellesley.edu. (See story, page 4.)

gathering. Catholic Mass. 4 pm, Multifaith Center, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2688.

performance. "Sinful." Performers: Wellesley College Dancers. 4 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Info: rkerr@wellesley.edu.

gathering. Puja service. 4-6 pm, Multifaith Center meditation room, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Hindu community. Info: x2794.

concert. "Carmina Burana." Performers: Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra, Wellesley College Choir and solo singers. 8 pm, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2028.

## monday april 27

gathering. Meditation. 12:30 pm. (See 4/20 listing.)

brown bag lunch. President H. Kim Bottomly and senior staff discuss financial challenges. 12:30-1:30 pm, Wang 413. Info: cgmail@wellesley.edu.

## ongoing

exhibit. *Prints in an Age of Artistry: Selections from a Private Collection of 16th- and 17th-century Italian Prints*. Davis Museum, through 6/14. Info: x2034.

exhibit. *Michal Rouner: Border*. Davis Museum, through 6/14. Info: x2034.

exhibit. *Equivalent Exchange* by artist Patrick Earl Hammie. Jewett Art Gallery, through 4/24. Info: x2056.

# don't miss ...

## wellesley students host a week of events in celebration of earth day

Nobel Peace Prize laureate and biologist Eric Chivian recently spent time studying the effects of climate change on Inupiaq Eskimos in Alaska. His unusual collaboration with evangelical minister Richard Cizik to promote the environmental cause landed them both on *Time Magazine's* 2008 list of the 100 most influential people in the world. Chivian, the director of Center for Health and Global Environment at Harvard, will discuss his latest book, *Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity*, Tuesday, April 21, at 4:30 pm in Collins Cinema. His lecture serves as the keynote event for this year's Earth Week at Wellesley.

"In planning Earth Week this year, we tried to convey that there are a lot of different but interrelated environmental issues that need to be addressed but that there are also a lot of creative solutions, some of which are already integrated into our lives," said Emily Estes '10, a member of Wellesley Energy and Environmental Defense (WEED). "We wanted to have a range of events that were fun but relevant and political but thought-provoking."

Other events include a WEED fundraiser on Monday, April 20, at 10 am in Munger Hall, where students can decorate tote bags and T-shirts. A tour of the power plant and a lesson on cogeneration will be held Wednesday, April 22, at 1:15 pm. On Friday, April 24, Martina Koniger, biological sciences, and Robert Paarlberg, political science, will discuss the use of genetically modified organisms and their views on biosafety and world food security at 12:30 pm in Pendleton Atrium.

WEED will host a volunteer day at Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary Saturday, April 25, leaving at 8:30 am. A Farm, Food and Justice Expo will be held Sunday, April 26. Community members are encouraged to meet at 12:45 in the Sustainability Co-op, Simpson Hall, to walk over to the Weston Road plot to plant seeds and talk about local produce and hunger issues. For more information and to RSVP to volunteer at Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, contact [eestes@wellesley.edu](mailto:eestes@wellesley.edu).

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