



Bar-Ilan University
Faculty of Jewish Studies

Bar-Ilan University

Dahan Center
for Culture, Society & Education in the Sephardic Heritage
The Aharon & Rachel Dahan Center



Concordia University



Ashkelon Academic College

UQÀM

Université du Québec
à Montréal



Communauté Sépharade
Unifiée du Québec



Université de Montréal



The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
Embassy of Israel in Canada



HAKHEL-IJC-הקהל
הקונגרס הישראלי יהודי (ח"י)
The Israeli Jewish Congress (SIJ)

International Conference

Sephardic, North African and Middle Eastern Jewish Communities in North America

Sunday-Tuesday, 8-10 Elul, 5775

August 23-25, 2015

Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Hall Building, , 7th Floor

Academic Committee:

Prof. Ira Robinson, Chair, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Prof. Yaron Harel, Chair, Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Rector, Ashkelon Academic College, Ashkelon, Israel.

Prof. Csaba Nikolenyi, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Prof. Robert Schwartzwald, Université de Montréal

**Prof. Yolande Cohen, Université du Québec à Montréal
(UQAM), Montreal, Canada**

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Conference Director:

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Organization and Production:

Ms. Ora Kobelkowsky, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Information and Registration:

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 Dahan Center Bar-Ilan University

International Conference

Sephardic, North African and Middle Eastern Jewish Communities in North America

Concordia University, Montreal, Canada,
August 23-25, 2015

Sunday, 8 Elul 5775, 23 August 2014
Federation CJA, 1 Cummings Square,
Gelber Hall, Montreal H3W 1M6

19:00-22:00

Gala Dinner

Opening Remarks:

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center,
Bar-Ilan University

Greetings:

Mr. Sylvain Abitbol, President, Communauté Sépharade
Unifiée de Québec

Mr. Ziv Nevo Kulman, Consul General of Israel in Montreal

Prof. Ira Robinson, Director, Concordia University
Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies

Prof. Yaron Harel, Chairman, Academic Committee
Dahan Center, Bar Ilan University

Opening:

Prof. Norman Stillman, University of Oklahoma
*Three and a Half Centuries of Sephardi / Mizrahi Presence in
North America: An Ongoing Chapter in Jewish History*

Artistic program



* The conference lectures will be accompanied
by simultaneous translation

Monday, 9 Elul 5775, 24 August 2015
Concordia University, Hall Building, 7th Floor
1455 de Maisonneuve Boulevard, West
(Metro: Guy-Concordia)

09:00-09:30

Registration

09:30-11:00

OPENING SESSION

Chair: Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Greetings:

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Rector, Ashkelon Academic College

Prof. Alan Shepard, President, Concordia University

Prof. Josée Lafond Doyenne, Faculté des sciences humaines, Université du Québec à Montréal

Opening Lectures:

Prof. Norman Stillman, University of Oklahoma
Three and a Half Centuries of Sephardi / Mizrahi Presence in North America: An Ongoing Chapter in Jewish History

Prof. Lilach Lev-Ari, Oranim-Academic College of Education and Bar-Ilan University
North African and Middle Eastern Israeli immigrants in North America: Socio-Economic Mobility and Ethnic Identity - A successful integration?

11:00-11:15

Coffee Break

11:15-13:15

SESSION 2: Sephardim in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century North America

Chair: Prof. Ira Robinson, Concordia University

Prof. Hananel Mack, Bar-Ilan University
A Will of a Sefaradi Jew of New York, 1708

Dr. Eli Goldstein, Ashkelon Academic College
Hayim Salomon: A Jewish American patriot and philanthropist

Dr. Stephanie Schwartz, Université du Québec à Montréal
Surveying the Sephardic Neighborhood, 1970s Montreal

Prof. Yaron Harel, Bar-Ilan University
The Shearith Israel Congregation of New York: the Victory of Tradition over Reform

13:15-14:15

Lunch

14:15-16:15

SESSION 3: Sephardic Migration and its Implications: Canada and U.S.A

Chair: Prof. Robert Schwartzwald,
Université de Montréal

Dr. Dinah Assouline Stillman, University of Oklahoma
Toi Québec, tu m'as pris dans tes bras, » ou le rêve américain pour les immigrants juifs marocains : trois cas de libération de talents et de réussite

Prof. David Bensoussan, Université du Québec
La Dimension Sépharade de l'identité juive au Québec

Dr. Sonia Sara Lipsyc, ALEPH-Centre d'Etudes Juives Contemporaines
Le monde des études juives dans la communauté sépharade de Montréal au travers de ses lieux d'études et sa production littéraire

Prof. Nadia Malinovich, Université de Picardie Jules Verne
Remembering the Jewish Past in the Muslim World from Afar: Memoirs of Immigrants and First Generation Americans

Dr. Shayna Zamkanei, University of Chicago
Conceptualizing the Dislocation of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa

16:15-16:30

Coffee Break

16:30-18:00

SESSION 4: Syrian Jews in New York

Chair: Dr. Raphael Shuchat, Bar-Ilan University

Ms. Sarina Roffé, Sephardic Heritage Project
Syrian Jews in New York: 100 Years Later

Mr. Eddie Ashkenazie, Magen David Congregation
*Charity in the Syrian Jewish Community of Brooklyn,
1940s-1960s: The Saga of the Magen David Federation*

Ms. Mijal Bitton, New York University
*The New York Syrian Jewish Community and Diasporic
Self-Understanding*

18:15-19:00

SESSION 5: Special Performance Session

Chair: Dr. Moïse Ohana *Congrégation Sépharade
Or Hahayim*

Dr. Judith R. Cohen, York University
*Do you mean Moroccan Ladino? Moroccan Sephardic songs
emigrate to Montreal and Toronto*

Tuesday, 10 Elul 5775, 25 August, 2015

Concordia University, Hall Building, 7th Floor

09:30-11:30

SESSION 6: Diverse Communities in North America

Chair: Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Rector, Ashkelon
Academic College

Greeting:

Mr. Michel Gourary, CEO, Israeli Jewish Congress

Prof. Moshe Amar, Bar-Ilan University and Ashkelon
Academic College

*Manuscripts of Moroccan Torah scholars at the Libraries of the
University of Alberta and the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York*

Prof. Gabriel Cavaglion, Ashkelon Academic College
*Mussolini's gift of a gifted people: Jewish migration to the U.S.
during the Italian Fascist Regime*

Dr. Maya Melzer-Geva, Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee
*The Jews from Georgia, Bukhara and the Caucasus (former Soviet Union)
in North America*

Dr. Norma Baumel Joseph, Concordia University
Silenced and Aroused: Iraqi Jews of Montreal

Prof. Shaul Regev, Bar-Ilan University
Some Remarks on the Emigration of Iraqi Jews to North America

11:30-11:45

Coffee Break

11:45--13:45

SESSION 7 : Sephardim, Ashkenazim and Their Images

Chair: Prof. Yolande Cohen, Université du Québec à Montréal

Dr. Aaron Ahrend, Bar-Ilan University

Rabbi Yitzhak Abadi and his approach to legal adjudication

Prof. Ira Robinson & Dr. Steven Lapidus, Concordia University

The Impact of "Lev Tahor" in Canada and Its Implications for the Study of Contemporary Jewish Migration

Dr. Avi Picard, Bar-Ilan University

Absent-present.: The image of North African Jews in the eyes of North American Jews

Dr. Esther Schely Newman, The Hebrew University

Continuity and Change in Personal Narratives of Maghrebin Jewish Women

Mr. Itzhak Dahan, Bar-Ilan University

The Influence of American and French culture on the religious and cultural heritage of immigrants from North African origin

13:45-14:45

Lunch

14:45-16:15

SESSION 8: Hebrew and Ladino in North America

Chair: Prof. Norman Stillman, University of Oklahoma

Prof. Nurit Govrin, University of Tel-Aviv

Authors, Works and Characters of the Orient as Viewed in the Hebrew Literature in the United States

Prof. Henry A. Green, University of Miami

Sephardi Voices: Diasporas and the Experience of Exile

Dr. Dov Hakohen, Bar-Ilan University

A panoramic view on the Judeo-Spanish literary activity of Sephardic Jews in the United States

Prof. Ora Schwarzwald, Bar-Ilan University

The relation of the Seattle Ladino Haggadah to the Balkan Traditions

16:15-16:30

Coffee Break

16:30-18:00

SESSION 9: Special Panel: The Sephardic Novel

Chair: Prof. Nurit Govrin, University of Tel-Aviv

Author Revital Shiri-Horowitz

"Daughters of Iraq" - A Historical Fiction novel – Documenting History through Fiction.

Author Yamit Armbrister

The Jews of Morocco : Through the Historical Fiction of One Remarkable Woman

Author Sarit Gradwohl-Yosef

"A Tale of Love and Innocence": a novel about Yemenite Jewry – bridging the personal and historical

18:00-19:00

Closing Lecture:

Chair: Prof. Yaron Harel, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Yolande Cohen, Université du Québec à Montréal

Sephardic Jews in Canada: from memory to history

Closing Remarks

Prof. Yaron Harel, Co-chairman of the conference,
Bar Ilan University

20:00

Reception

**Sponsored by The Consul General of Israel
in Montreal - Mr. Ziv Nevo Kulman**

