



**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 (CISJ)

# 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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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:**

The Dahan Center for Culture, Society and Education in the Sephardic Heritage

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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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Cavaglione**, 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**

