

Thinking Jewish - Jewish Thinking

15-16 February 2009

Shalom College, University of NSW

Call for Papers

The Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies provides a meeting place for tertiary academics, Jewish educators, researchers, students and others devoted to the study of Jewish life, thought and culture.

With the conference theme for 2009, "Thinking Jewish – Jewish Thinking," we are seeking to create a forum in which to explore the nature of Judaism and Jewishness, as this is perceived from within and without: is there a way of understanding the world that is uniquely 'Jewish'? What informs the ways Jews see themselves and others? Are there traits and characteristics that could be seen as Jewish?

Papers from a variety of disciplines are welcome, and these may explore the areas of Jewish identity, philosophy, and interaction, among others. What are the worldviews that make Jews who they are?

Papers on other topics will be considered but preference will be given to those bearing directly on the conference theme.

Submissions to present papers must be made by 8th

September, 2008. Acceptance of papers will be notified by email no later than 26th September, 2008. Submissions must include author's name, postal and email address, institutional affiliation, abstract of the paper to be presented and short biographical note. The abstract must be 200-300 words and the biographical note no more than 50 words.

The AAJS encourages students who are engaged in academic research to submit proposals based on their work to the program committee. Authors should clearly indicate their student status with their submission.

Presenters are invited to submit written articles for consideration for publication in the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*.

Proposals should be sent either electronically or by post to:

Peta Jones Pellach,
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**PROPOSALS MUST ARRIVE BY 8TH SEPTEMBER,
2008**

AN IMPORTANT EXHIBITION AND SERIES OF LECTURES

Dr. George Weisz, a Sydney based orthopaedic surgeon with a life long interest in Holocaust studies, has been professionally and personally outraged by the Nazi doctors' abuse of the professional status. Dr. Weisz is aiming to publicise this horrific component of Holocaust history, especially amongst medical students. He has also given seminars to post-graduate students of Holocaust history at the University of Sydney in October 2007, as well as a lecture at the AAJS Conference in Melbourne in February 2008.

Initially, Dr. Weisz's study concentrated on the horrifying betrayal of the Hippocratic oath by criminal Nazi doctors. Once the Nazi doctors, who became killers under Hitler's oath, were exposed in the "Nazi Medicine"

exhibition, Dr. Weisz turned his attention to the study of the Jewish doctors' response to Nazi persecution.

They proved to be extraordinary doctors, who remained healers under the Hippocratic Oath, who worked under extraordinary conditions in the "concentrationary universe" and made extraordinary medical discoveries that remain relevant until today. There are observations and records, with no inflicted damage to the sufferers, on 'Hunger disease" and "Typhus induced kidney disease" and the paralytic syndrome induced by food intoxication "Neurolathyrism", whilst they were fed with grass-peas containing neurotoxins.

The Sydney Jewish Museum is preparing an exhibition on "Nazi Medicine 1933-1945" which will run from 30 March to 15 June 2008. Dr. Weisz will be conducting Exhibition Walkabouts at the SJM on Thursday 15 and Thursday 29 May 2008 at 1 pm and on Sunday 15 June 2008 at 11 am.

Furthermore, on

Wednesday 2 April at 1 pm, Dr. Weisz lectured on *Jewish Medical Research in Response to Nazi Repression – Hunger and Typhus Diseases & The Underground Medical School in Ghetto Warsaw*.

Sunday, 18 May at 4.30 pm – Panel Discussion on: *The Great Betrayal – Nazi Medical and Legal Ethics* with guest speakers: Professor Ian Kerridge, Dr. Ian Kern, Professor Bernard Tuch, Professor Konrad Kwiet and moderator Gina Cass-Gottlieb.

Thursday, 5 June, 6 pm – Panel Discussion on: *Euthanasia* with guest speakers: Professor Robert Kaplan, Cameron Murphy, Dr. George Foster, Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins and Moderator Dr. Elizabeth Hovey.

COME AUTUMN, BUT FOR PESACH IT'S SPRING



It is at this time when we Down Under celebrate the Festival of Freedom, and whilst we may be entering autumn here, the Pesach message is for the coming of spring and we have all be working away at our 'spring cleaning'. *Ve ma nishtana ha shana ha ze mi kol ha shanim?* For the sixtieth time Pesach is being celebrated in the State of Israel, the re-established Jewish state. And when we shall wish for *Ha Shana Ha ba'a b'Yerushalaim*, let us also include the prayer for Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev to join their loved ones at the Seder table next year.

CHAG SAMEACH TO EVERYONE!