

The following plenary session speakers have been confirmed:

Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, Co-Director of Shalom Hartman Institute and an ordained rabbi, has a doctorate in Jewish philosophy from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a Master of Arts in political philosophy from New York University, and a Master of Arts in religion from Temple University. Donniel is the founder of some of the most extensive education, training and enrichment programs for educators and rabbis in Israel and North America.



He is the author of *The Boundaries of Judaism* and the co-editor of a new anthology, *Judaism and the Challenges of Modern Life*, both published by Continuum Press. Donniel is the co-author of *Spheres of Jewish Identity*, a new core curriculum in Jewish philosophy for secular Israeli high schools.

Shalom Hartman Institute is a pluralistic research and leadership institute at the forefront of Jewish thought and education.

Dr. Ruth Kalderon



Ruth Calderon is the founder and head of Alma College (founded 1996) - a liberal arts center in Israel specializing in the study of Hebrew Culture. In 1989 she founded and headed "Elu" Bet Midrash that had the unique distinction of offering Jewish studies on the basis of equality for men and women, religious and non-religious scholars.

She is the author of *The Market, the Home, the Heart* - a book offering a personal homiletic reading of Talmudic legends (2001). During 2001-02 she created and hosted the TV show *HaCheder* that deals with classic and Modern Hebrew texts. She is also a graduate of the first class of the Mandel School for Educational Leadership and received the prestigious Avichai Prize in 1997, in recognition of her contribution to the propagation of the legacy of Israel. Ruth Calderon got her PhD in Talmudic literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Israeli author, Etgar Keret



Born in Tel Aviv in 1967, Etgar Keret is the most popular writer among Israeli youth today. His books are bestsellers in Israel and have received international acclaim. His writing has been published in *The New York Times*, *Le Monde*, *The Guardian*, *The Paris Review* and *Zoetrope*. Over 40 short movies have been based on his stories, and one of them won the American MTV Prize (1998). His movie, *Skin Deep*, won First Prize at several international film festivals, and was awarded the Israeli Oscar.

At present, Keret lectures in the Hebrew Literature department at Ben Gurion University. He has received the Book Publishers Association's Platinum Prize several times, the Prime Minister's Prize, and the Ministry of Culture's Cinema Prize; he was a finalist for the prestigious Frank O'Connor Short Story collection Prize (2007), and has received the Jewish Quarterly Wingate Prize (UK, 2008). In 2007, Keret and Shira Gefen won the Cannes Film Festival's "Camera d'Or" Award for their movie *Jellyfish*, and Best Director Award of the French Artists and Writers' Guild. A new film co-written by Keret and based on his short stories, *The Meaning of Life for \$ 9.99*, will be released in Europe and North America in 2009. Keret's books have been published abroad in 25 languages and in 32 countries.

Asher Ostrin



Asher Ostrin is the director of the former Soviet Union (FSU) department in the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). Asher joined JDC in 1986 and initially served as director of JDC's Vienna office where he was responsible for

aiding Iranian and Soviet bloc refugees seeking to immigrate to the West. Simultaneously he worked as JDC's country director for Yugoslavia. Asher then proceeded to serve as JDC's country director for Hungary.

During his tenure, Asher has overseen the creation and development of JDC's multi-faceted welfare relief program and its program supporting the renaissance of Jewish life across the vast expanse of the FSU. In order to meet the growing needs of Jews in the FSU, Asher has supervised the expansion of JDC's budget from \$400,000 in 1991 to \$78 million in 2002. In addition, Asher has overseen the establishment of 15 local JDC offices throughout the FSU, which are assisted by 380 field workers. A native of New York City, Asher has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. He moved to Israel in 1992 and lives with his family in Jerusalem.

Don't miss: Gala event, Wednesday, November 4 at 8:30 p.m. at Jaffa port



"Not by bread alone" theater production at Na Laga'at Center

Eleven deaf-blind actors take the audience on a magical tour in the districts of their inner world; the world of darkness, silence and...bread. As the process of bread making unfolds on stage - the dough is being kneaded, raised and baked "for real" - a unique encounter occurs between actors and audience. Together they re-enact vivid or distant memories, recall forgotten dreams and joyful moments and 'touch' the spark of Creation present in every one of us. The actors take the spectators into those magical moments between reality and fantasy, between grandeur and ridicule, and always eventually return to the basic meaning of bread as a symbol of our longing for a home.



תְּחִיבֵנוּ לְהַגִּיד בְּלִבֵּינוּ אֵיךְ אֵנָּה
WORLD CONFEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS
CONFEDERATION MONDIALE DES CENTRES COMMUNAIRES JUIFS
CONFEDERACION MUNDIAL DE CENTROS COMUNITARIOS JUDIOS
СЪЕДИНЕНА СЪВЪЗНОСТ НА ИВРЕЙСКИТЕ ЦЕНТРОВЕ



“Not by Bread Alone [man lives]” – the actors declare, repeatedly emphasizing the importance of their interaction with the audience and their need in human relations, which is more crucial to us all than the need for bread.

Reviews

“A dream-like most impressive theatrical reality...it is in the power of such performance, with this unique and amazing ensemble of actors, to have again - even for a short hour, faith in man’s good nature”
(Shay Bar-Ya’akov, “Yediot Achronot”8.8.2008)

“The audience comes out amazed and thrilled by the mere fact that the sky is the limit, even if you cannot actually see the sky or hear the applause that let you know that you indeed made it there”
(Ruth Shiloni, Channel 2 news, 1.12.2007)

The "Nalaga'at" non-profit organization was established in 2002, intended for a theater group whose actors are all deaf-blind. At the core of the deaf-blind theater ensemble project, is a constant search for a unique "theatrical language" for the group, as well as the wish to take action toward increasing awareness of deaf-blind persons' needs, in Israel and the rest of the world.

Attached is most updated conference program draft and call for presentation of best programs.

To register and for more information visit www.wcjcc.org and click on conference web site.