



**New Center**  
*for ARTS and CULTURE*

# Celebrating Five Years of Programming

Spring 2008 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of programming for the New Center for Arts and Culture. These pages revisit the wide range of programs that have been presented over the past five years.

With its programming, the New Center aims to enrich lives while forging bonds between individuals and groups. Through the prism of Jewish experience, the Center explores both Jewish culture and other cultures using art, history, music, dance, film and ideas. The Center has produced programs with many distinguished institutional partners and from diverse ethnic perspectives.

These programs are just a beginning. Thank you for your participation and enthusiasm as we continue to build the New Center for Arts and Culture together.

**ARTS  
CULTURES  
IDEAS**

Visit us at [www.ncacboston.org](http://www.ncacboston.org)

# 2003

March – May 2003

## Words on Fire

The multi-site, eight-week festival involving conversations, lectures, discussions, films, and exhibitions focused on issues of freedom of expression evoked by the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nazi book burnings.

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**3/13/03 EXHIBITION: WRITERS BLOCK AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*Installation by Sheryl Oring.*

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**3/13/03 EXHIBITION: BLACK BOOKS: THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*In partnership with the Museum of African American History. An exhibition that presented influential works written and published by African Americans; the first black works published abroad; the first African American newspapers and early plays performed by African American theater companies.*

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**3/13/03 EXHIBITION: A MEETING OF MINDS AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*An installation reflecting on Jewish and German cultures in pre-war Germany that attempts to address and repair their shared history.*

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**3/13/03 LECTURE: THE BONFIRE OF BERLIN: HOW IT HAPPENED THEN – WHY IT MATTERS NOW**

*Participants included Steven E. Ascheim, Hebrew University Jerusalem; Marjorie Heins, Free Expression Policy Project; Stephen J. Whitfield, Brandeis University; Charles S. Maier, Harvard University.*

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**3/20/03 Meet the Poet: Sonia Sanchez**

*In partnership with the Museum of African American History*

**3/23/03 Exhibition: Women of the Book: Jewish Artists, Jewish Themes at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center**

**3/24/03 Films: Uncle Chatzkel and A Bridge of Books**

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**3/27/03 WOMEN WRITERS, WOMEN'S VOICES: A DISCUSSION ON CROSS-CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS**

*With Helen Epstein, Indira Ganesan, Monique Truong, Joyce Antler.*

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**3/30/03 AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE (ART) FOUNDER ROBERT BRUSTEIN TALKS WITH AUTHOR WILLIAM STYRON ABOUT THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER**

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**3/31/03 Film: The Front**

*Words on Fire – Continued*

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**4/3/03 JEWISH CULTURE AND THE BOOK: A LECTURE ON THEIR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP**

*Participants included Judith R. Baskin, University of Oregon; Marc Z. Brettler, Brandeis University; Ellen Frankel, The Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia; Steven T. Katz, Boston University.*

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4/5/03 Film: The Tramp and The Dictator

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**4/6/03 WRITERS TONY KUSHNER AND CRAIG LUCAS TALK WITH ART FOUNDER ROBERT BRUSTEIN**

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4/7/03 Film: Scandalize My Name – Stories from the Blacklist

4/10/03 Black Books: A Conversation About the First African American Authors

4/12/03 Film: The Great Dictator

4/13/03 Exhibition: People of the Book: The Power of Words at the Striar Jewish Community Center

4/14/03 Film: The Celluloid Closet

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**4/19/03 EXHIBITION: ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT AND TALMUD BY DAVID SMALL AT JUDI ROTENBERG GALLERY**

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4/26/03 Exhibition: The Book Reconsidered at Mobius

4/28/03 Film: Fahrenheit 451

5/1/03 Conversation: Freedom of Expression in a Digital Age: Reading, Writing and Cyberspace

5/8/03 Conversation: An Evening with the Words on Fire Artists

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**5/11/03 CLOSING EVENT: RECLAIMING THE VOICES, RECLAIMING THE SQUARE**

*Sixteen noted authors participated in a three-hour read-a-thon of excerpts from the books that were burned by the Nazis in Berlin on May 11, 1933. Readers included Anne Bernays, Justin Kaplan, James Carroll, Samantha Chang, Anita Diamant, Leslie Epstein, Allegra Goodman, Alice Hoffman, Dennis Lehane, Steven McCauley, Jill McCorkle, Pamela Painter, Jayne Anne Phillips, David Slavitt, Larry Tye and John Updike.*

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# 2004

May 3, 2004

## Spring Forward, Fall Back

*In partnership with the American Repertory Theatre*

ART founding director and esteemed theater scholar/critic Robert Brustein premiered his newest play, *Spring Forward, Fall Back*, at a staged reading at the Loeb Drama Center. Partly autobiographical, the play tackles issues of assimilation, morality and communication. Included in the evening was a post-performance discussion with Peter Beinart, Alan Dershowitz, Leslie Epstein and Robert Brustein.

# 2005

August 2005 – December 2005

## Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons

*In partnership with Boston College McMullen Museum of Art*

This exhibition examined the significant role played by the salons of Jewish women in the development of art, literature, music, theater, philosophy, and politics in Europe and America from the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century through the early 1940s. For the first time in history, an exhibition traveled from The Jewish Museum in New York to Boston. In addition to the exhibition at the McMullen Museum of Art, the New Center produced a series of contemporary salons designed to open discussion on modern issues.

9/25/05 Music: *A Single Bright Beam* performed by Fanny Mendelssohn Trio

9/27/05 Film: *The Nasty Girl*

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9/29/05 **DICTIONARY DAYS – A CONVERSATION WITH AUTHOR ILAN STAVANS**

*In partnership with the Boston Center for Adult Education*

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10/2/05 **WELCOME TO MY SALON – YOUTH PROGRAM**

*Impersonating the salonières, actors from the Underground Railway Theater led students through the exhibition in an unusual and interesting dramatized tour.*

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10/9/05 Music: *A Room of Her Own – A Salon of Women Composers*

10/11/05 Lecture: *Funny, They Don't Look Jewish: Confusing Converts in Medieval Spain*

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10/16/05 **CONVERSATION: ART, ARTISTS AND TECHNOLOGY: TRANSFORMATION BEFORE OUR EYES**

*In partnership with Art Interactive and Boston Cyberarts*

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10/20/05 The Art of Public Art: Reflecting and Shaping Community with Mags Harries and Lajos Heder

*Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons – Continued*

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10/27/05 **PANEL CONVERSATION: AFFIRMATION, INDIFFERENCE, ASSIMILATION: IDENTITY CHOICES OF JEWISH SALONIÈRES AND OF JEWS TODAY**

*Moderated by Gail Reimer, Founding Director, Jewish Women's Archive. Participants included Emily Braun, Co-curator, Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons; Deborah Hertz, Herman Wouk Chair in Modern Jewish Studies, UC San Diego.*

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10/30/05 Music: Brundibar by Hans Krasa

10/30/05 Differing Roads to Assimilation: A Conversation about Irish and Jewish Women's Immigrant Experience

11/1/05 Gertrude Stein: Woman of Faith? A lecture by Catharine R. Stimpson

11/2/05 Conversation: Jewish Civilization and its Place in the World

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11/9/05 **BREAKING GROUND: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN WORLD-RENOWNED ARCHITECT DANIEL LIBESKIND AND ROBERT CAMPBELL, ARCHITECTURE CRITIC, THE BOSTON GLOBE**

*In partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts Boston*

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11/10/05 Making the Dance: Jose Mateo and members of the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre – A Conversation about Choreography

11/12/05 Lifting as We Climb – Historical Walking Tour of Boston

11/12/05 Lifting as We Climb – Film Screening: Two Dollars and a Dream: The Story of Madame C.J. Walker

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11/13/05 **SYMPOSIUM: LIFTING AS WE CLIMB – BLACK WOMEN: UNITED VOICES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (1850 – 1950)**

*In partnership with the Museum of African American History*

*Panel conversation moderated by Karen Holmes Ward, Director of Public Affairs, WCVB-TV. Participants included Sarah Ann Shaw, news reporter and media consultant; Beverly Morgan Welch, Director, Museum of African American History; Marilyn Richardson, author/historian; Marilyn Willis, Executive Director, The 464 Club.*

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11/17/05 Film: Thunder in Guyana

11/27/05 Welcome to My Salon – Youth Program





# 2006

April 22, 2006

## A Breath Beyond

*In partnership with The Faith Quilts Project and the Cloud Foundation*

An intimate music and poetry performance that explored the devotional traditions of 13<sup>th</sup> Century Sufi Muslim mystic Jalaluddin Rumi and the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Jewish philosopher Abraham Ibn Ezra. Rabbi Moshe Waldoks recited the poems in Hebrew and Dr. Manijeh Ghavami-Zarghamee chanted the poems in Persian.

October 29, 2006

## Mixin' It Up – Klezmer Meets Swing

The concert and its related programming was an exploration into the blending of European Jewish klezmer and African American swing music. Hankus Netsky and the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and the grandson of swing icon Cab Calloway, vocalist/guitarist C. Calloway Brooks, related how their traditions intermingled to give birth to a new and uniquely American style of music.

10/26/06 Children's Program: Instant Klezmer

*A special children's program at the Conservatory Lab Charter School in Brighton. Children from kindergarten through grade six played, danced and performed klezmer music.*

10/28/06 Children's Program: Swing Hits the School

*Forty middle school students of the Boston Arts Academy learned scat singing and the basics of swing music with C. Calloway Brooks in this special program designed for children.*

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### 10/29/06 MIXIN' IT UP – KLEZMER MEETS SWING CONCERT

*"Hi-de-hi-de-hi-de-ho" met "Bey Mir Bistu Sheyn" in a sold out, ground-breaking musical collaboration that blended the musical traditions of klezmer and swing. Playing music, singing, and telling stories of the creation of each musical tradition, the Klezmer Conservatory Band, led by Hankus Netsky, and C. Calloway Brooks, grandson of the famous Cab Calloway, explored how swing and klezmer met and merged. Over 400 people stayed for a post-performance Q & A with the band leaders moderated by WBZ Radio's Jordan Rich.*

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# 2007

March 28, 2007

## Chagall Revealed

*In partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts Boston*

An enlightening conversation between author Jonathan Wilson and A.R.T. news editor Robin Cembalest that shed light on why Marc Chagall's work should be reconsidered.

June 16, 2007

## Bloomday Boston 2007

*In partnership with Boston College*

Over 400 fans of James Joyce celebrated literature during the day-long festival event which featured Annette Miller, Margery Egan, Jim Braude, Delores Handy, Jimmy Tingle, Bill Littlefield, and other local personalities reading excerpts from the epic novel Ulysses. Paula Lyons of NPR's Says You! hosted the festivities and WGBH's Brian O'Donovan serenaded the crowd with a chorus of "Love's Old Sweet Song." WBZ-TV political analyst John Henning moderated a lively conversation about the history and connection between the Irish and Jewish immigrant communities in Boston.

# 2008

February 2008–April 2008

## The Power of Prejudice: The Dreyfus Affair

*In partnership with Florence & Chafetz Hillel House and Boston University*

Through the use of original artifacts, photographs, drawings, newspapers, articles, illustrations, letters, film and video, this exhibition told the story of the false conviction of a Jewish soldier in the French army in the late 1890s. The consequences of the case still resonate today — the creation of the first modern "trial in the press"; the formal separation of church and state in France; and, the earliest plans for the creation of a sovereign Jewish state.

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### 3/2/08 SYMPOSIUM: CATALYST TO HISTORY: WHY DREYFUS MATTERS

*Hosted by Dan Abrams, host of MSNBC's "Live with Dan Abrams," Chief Legal Correspondent for NBC News. Panelists included Alan M. Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Harvard Law School; Jeffrey Mehlman, Professor of French Literature, Boston University; Robert Zelnick, Journalism Professor of National Security Studies, Journalism Department Chair, Boston University; Eugene Sheppard, Director, Tauber Center, Jewish Studies, Brandeis University.*

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- 3/5/08 Film: Comme un Juif en France (Being Jewish in France)  
*This Boston premiere of Yves Jeuland's documentary explored the history of Jews in France.*
- 3/26/08 Film: The Life of Emile Zola
- 4/2/08 Film: Prisoner of Honor



NEW CENTER EVENT TIMELINE

# 2008

February 2008–March 2008

## Out of Darkness

*In partnership with Facing History & Ourselves*

*Out of Darkness* was a two-part program with a focus on social justice and the ways in which different artists use their respective mediums as mechanisms for change in communities.

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2/6/08 **OUT OF DARKNESS – A CONVERSATION: LIZ LERMAN AND LIZ WALKER**

*Artists Working to Make a Difference in partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts Boston*

*Choreographer Liz Lerman, Artistic Director of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and MacArthur “genius” award recipient, and WBZ-TV’s Liz Walker, journalist and film producer, spoke about how they each use artistic expression to influence positive social change. Moderated by New Center for Arts and Culture Deputy Director Francine Achbar.*

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3/22/08 **OUT OF DARKNESS – A PERFORMANCE:  
LIZ LERMAN DANCE EXCHANGE AND SAYAT NOVA DANCE COMPANY**

*In partnership with Springstep*

*Liz Lerman Dance Exchange joined together with the Watertown-based Armenian dance troupe Sayat Nova in a first-time collaboration that used dance as the medium through which to explore mass violence in contemporary times and illustrate the scope of human compassion.*

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June 16, 2008

## Bloomsday Boston 2008

*In partnership with Boston College*

Featuring “Love Across Boundaries” as a theme, Bloomsday 2008 will feature excerpts from James Joyce’s *Ulysses* that focus on the marriage of Leopold Bloom, an Irish Jew, and his wife Molly, an Irish Catholic. Arts and entertainment critic Joyce Kulhawik will moderate a panel conversation that features couples whose own expressions of love have crossed over interracial, interfaith, and same-sex boundaries.



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**Arts, Cultures, Ideas.**

NEW CENTER EVENT TIMELINE

