

Objects of Affection: The Wedding in Jewish Life: A Colloquium

Date : April 8, 2008

The Center for Jewish History and The Working Group on Jews, Media & Religion @ The Center for Religion & Media, New York University present

Objects of Affection: The Wedding in Jewish Life: A Colloquium

Sunday, April 13, 2008

10:00am-9:00pm

The Center for Jewish History

15 West 16th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues

New York, NY 10011

This event is free and open to the public; reservations required.

Please call SMARTTIX at 212-868-4444 or visit their website.

Weddings are the most elaborately celebrated of Jewish life-cycle events. This is reflected in a wide array of customs (rituals, songs, dances), objects (canopies, rings, clothing) professions (entertainers, caterers, photographers), and works of cultural creativity (representations of weddings in plays, films, visual art). Some of these phenomena are centuries old and widely familiar; others are rare, highly localized, or very recent innovations.

Consequently, weddings provide abundant opportunities for considering the intersection of media and religiosity in Jewish life. We have invited today's gathering of scholars, artists, and performers to select key examples of mediating the Jewish wedding—from its graphic representation in a medieval manuscript to avant-garde performance—and to discuss what their place in a rite that is central to Jewish communality and continuity reveal about Jewish life itself. How do all these media practices enhance this ritual—or serve as opportunities for critique? What other aspects of Jewish life—gender, family, religious authority, economic concerns, aesthetic desires—do these wedding practices engage? How do the various media involved help articulate notions of spirituality, sexuality, memory, and religious tradition or provide a means for transformation?

-Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Jeffrey Shandler

Click on the link for schedule and further details

Schedule:

10:00am-10:30am

Welcome

Faye Ginsburg, The Center for Religion and Media, New York University

Judith Siegel, The Center for Jewish History

Introduction

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Jeffrey Shandler, colloquium co-conveners

10:30am-12:00

Session 1: Images

Material World

A Global Hub for Thinking About Things

<http://www.materialworldblog.com>

Chair: Sally Charnow

Marc Michael Epstein: Marriage Procession, Italy, 1465: "The way we were"—Realia or fantasia?

Nahma Sandrow: Weddings in S. Ansky's *The Dybbuk*

Edward Portnoy: Four Weddings and a Funeral: Cartoons of weddings from the Yiddish press

Edna Nahshon: Nechama Golan: Between sacredness and feminism

Rachel Kranson: The "No Chuppa, No Shtuppa" T-Shirt: Mocking the Jewish wedding

12:00-1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00pm-2:30pm

Session 2: Performances

Chair: Brigitte Sion

Olga Gershenson: *Benya Krik* (1927): How it was done in the USSR

Alisa Solomon: *Fiddler on the Roof*: Sunflowers, bottle dancers and the invention of tradition

Ilana Abramovitch: Wedding videos: Performing ritual for the camera

Irit Koren: *My Wedding Video*: An atypical modern Orthodox feminist wedding

Susan Chevlowe: Nikki S. Lee's *The Wedding*: Performing a "Jewish bride" / casting a Jewish bridegroom

2:30pm-3:00pm

Coffee Break

3:00pm-4:30pm

Session 3: Practices

Chair: Chava Weissler

Hankus Netsky: *Uncovering Jack Levinsky's Complete New York Russian Sher Medley*

Jill Gellerman and Mark Kligman: "Yidden" on YouTube: The mediation of Mordechai Ben David's music and wedding dance moves

Juliana Ochs: *Wedding Menus: Nagamaki on the smorgasbord*

Vanessa L. Ochs: *Jewish Wedding Booklets: Tweaking tradition for personal meaning*

4:30pm-5:15pm

Artist presentation

Melissa Shiff and Louis Kaplan: *Postmodern Jewish Wedding: Rejuvenating Jewish Ritual*

5:15pm-5:45pm

Reception

5:45pm-7:15pm

Dinner Break

7:30pm-9:00pm

Screening of *Goodbye, Columbus* (1969)

Remarks by J. Hoberman

<http://modiya.nyu.edu/>

<http://www.nyu.edu/fas/center/religionandmedia/>