

# Conney Conference Explores Jewish Arts

By Allison Bloom

The Conney Project on Jewish Arts, initiated in 2005 by Professor Douglas Rosenberg, has proven to be a dynamic force in the field of Jewish arts and scholarship. Sponsored by the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, the Conney Project aims to raise awareness of Jewish artists and scholars and to support new scholarship and production in the field. The cornerstone of the project is the biennial Conney Conference, which will be held this year from April 9-12 at UW Hillel, 611 Langdon Street.

The conference is structured around a "practice-theory" model that brings working artists and their creations together with scholarship of contemporary and historical Jewish arts. The program features performances and presentations by artists, as well as research papers on a wide variety of topics related to Jewish arts.

This year's conference focuses on the theme of "Diasporas" and features keynote speaker Josh Kun, director of the Popular Music Project at USC Annenberg, whose research focuses on popular music, the cultures of globalization and Jewish-American musical history. His talk begins at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10 at UW Hillel.

The conference will include several evening performances open to the public. RAKHMONES, a Ramones tribute band (composed of UW-Madison faculty mem-

bers) whose Yiddish punk rock covers are "a window into an alternative universe, where Yiddish remained an everyday language in the U.S. well into the 1970s," will perform at UW Hillel at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9.

On Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m., the musical ensemble Barbez will perform in Lathrop Hall at 1050 University Avenue. Their adventurous music draws on art rock, European folksong, and contemporary classical styles. For this performance, the group will present *Bella Ciao*, a song cycle built around the radical re-imagining of ancient Roman-Jewish melodies. It is scheduled for release this year on John Zorn's Tzadik record label.

Another highlight is a performance of *If the Whole Body Dies: Raphael Lemkin and the Treaty Against Genocide*. Written by UW Professor Emeritus Bob Skloot, the play follows the story of Raphael Lemkin, the Polish-Jewish lawyer who coined the term "genocide" and his attempts to lobby the United Nations to adopt a treaty against genocide. The performance will take place at the H'Doubler performance space in Lathrop Hall (1050 Lathrop Avenue), at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11.

For the first time this year, the Conney Conference will also feature the Jewish Choreographers and Performers Workshop, which will provide mentoring for dancers and other performers exploring Jewish identity in their work. Facilitated by Judith Brin Ingber, a longtime Conney participant and active choreographer, the workshop will take place at the Gates of Heaven synagogue at 302 E. Gorham Street.

The entire conference is free and open to the public. It begins with an opening reception at UW Hillel at 5:00 p.m. on April 9. Paper presentations begin at 8:30 a.m. on April 10-12. A detailed schedule and videos of past Conney Conference presentations are available online at <http://conneyproject.wisc.edu>.



## Madison Minyan Celebrates Chai Minyan

By Aleeza A.

Madison Minyan Volunteer & Participant

If you walk into the historic Gates of Heaven synagogue in James Madison park on the second Friday of the month, you'll find yourself at Madison Minyan, a non-denominational minyan that's 100% volunteer run. In February, Madison Minyan celebrated its chai (18th) Minyan since it was founded by a dozen passionate Jews from across the religious spectrum in late 2011.

Over its lifetime, many have come to Madison Minyan for the lively Kabbalat Shabbat services followed by a Kosher meat potluck. The minyan is proud to boast that every Friday night gathering has had at least one new person attend, and usually many. They've enjoyed hosting many out-of-town guests over the months, and have grown from a predominantly young adult minyan to one that proudly represents the entire age spectrum as well.

So what's the magic that has brought the minyan to this most recent milestone? It's the combination of a dedicated volunteer core, donations, and of course, participants. Each person who helps contribute to the potluck or lends their voice to the *ruach* and *kavanah* during services or makes a donation is an integral part of Madison Minyan.

Each participant has his or her own reasons for attending, from the energy in the room during services to simply being around other Jews. But no matter what brings someone to the minyan, it's clear that this is a labor of love by the many founders, volunteers, and newcomers

who pitch in every month to ensure its success.

Madison Minyan has had several recent successes and looks forward to even more. In December, the minyan was awarded a grant to help with growth and operations for the first six months of 2013 by the Young Adult Department of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, and in March, they enjoyed a near record-setting attendance. In April, the minyan will welcome Rabbi Kenneth Katz to give the monthly *d'var Torah*. In May we'll gather on the 3rd Friday of the month instead of the second, as we celebrate yet another marriage of a pair of founders.

The future is bright for Madison Minyan, and we hope that you will soon join us to see for yourself what all of the fuss is about. The next minyanim are April 12, May 17 (3rd Friday), and June 14 at Gates of Heaven on the near east side. To ensure that everyone is comfortable eating the potluck contributions, a cooking party is held the Thursday before each minyan for those who want to cook but don't have a kosher kitchen. A volunteer meeting is held following each minyan, and everyone is invited to attend. For more information about these events, Madison Minyan, ways to volunteer, or how to make a donation, please visit our website at [www.madisonminyan.com](http://www.madisonminyan.com) or e-mail [info@madisonminyan.com](mailto:info@madisonminyan.com). You can also sign up for the Madison Minyan newsletter from the website, and connect with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MadisonMinyan](http://www.facebook.com/MadisonMinyan).

See you at Gates of Heaven on Friday, April 12!



INSTY-PRINTS® DESIGN / PRINT / SIGNS

WE PRINT

Graphic Design  
Bindery & Finishing  
Promotional Products  
Direct Mailing Services  
Full-Color Digital Printing  
Large Format Banners & Signs  
Copies, Faxes and much more!

1112 S. Park Street • Madison, WI 53715 • PH: 608.255.3922 • FX: 608.255.6926



Enjoy services and amenities to nourish your mind, body and spirit. Come ... Enjoy the Attic Angel touch!

Discover ... distinctive living options to meet your needs. Our full continuum of care includes:



- Barrier-free Ranch Style Homes
- Apartments with Services
- Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation



Call 608-662-8842 today to find out more.

8301 Old Sauk Road | Middleton | [AtticAngel.org](http://AtticAngel.org)

