During Spring Quarter 2010, SJSP Professor Noam Pianko received a grant to design a new service-learning course on social justice and Judaism. Repair the World, a national non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring young adults to give their time and effort to serve those in need, granted the funds to Professor Pianko and the SJSP to pilot this new class and format for replication across the country.

Service learning, a popular feature in a variety of UW courses, is an instructional method that integrates service with the community and academic coursework. While attending classes and learning about social justice in the Jewish tradition, students will be matched with local organizations where they will provide 20-40 hours of service over the quarter. This structure enables students to have a learning lab in which to apply the lessons they are taught in class. In addition, students will reflect on their service and course work in small group sections.

“The creation of a service learning course is a wonderful opportunity for the Stroum JSP on two levels: First, we have a chance to expand our Program by responding to our students’ growing interest in taking their education out of the classroom and into the community. Second, we will gain an important avenue for creating new and strengthening existing relationships with Jewish and social service organizations in the larger Seattle community,” notes Professor Pianko.

Rabbi Will Berkovitz, Vice President of Partnerships for Repair the World, says, “UW is the ideal place to develop this project both from an academic and a student life perspective. Noam Pianko and the SJSP to pilot this new class and format for replication across the country.”

“UW IS THE IDEAL PLACE TO DEVELOP THIS PROJECT BOTH FROM AN ACADEMIC AND STUDENT LIFE PERSPECTIVE.”

Pianko and the leadership in the Stroum Jewish Studies Program have the forward-thinking vision and innovative spirit to understand the models we are trying to inspire on campuses and communities around the country.”

In discussing the topic of the course, Professor Pianko says, “Young adults today have a tremendous passion for pursuing social justice through social activism, civic engagement, and community service. In this course, students will take advantage of a sophisticated resource for considering how to work effectively and mindfully toward the ideals of justice: the rich textual tradition of Judaism and the experiences of American Jewish social activists.”

Rabbi Berkovitz adds, “If we can combine classroom learning and students’ passion and idealism into directed action, we can demonstrate that they have a vital role to play in improving our world. Our hope is that UW will be an incubator for a new language toward living a life of service.”
Only a small number of countries in the world have been so prominent in media coverage, certainly in proportion to geographical size, as Israel. Students are attracted to exploring Israel because it is the only Jewish state in the world and the largest Jewish community in addition to the engagement of the country in a protracted conflict, the 1967 occupation, its vibrant economy, its ability to maintain effective democratic procedures, and its national ideology of a ‘Jewish and democratic state.’ During the past three summers, UW students have been given a rare opportunity to conduct research while traveling around the country, exploring more than 110 different sites, meeting with members of various communities, discussing major issues with non-governmental organization (NGO) activists, politicians, lawyers, public figures, intellectuals, and university professors. The international program, led by me and Professor Karine Barzilai-Nahon, allowed the students to benefit from the knowledge of professional native Israelis who are immersed in the country, its cultures, languages, and institutions.

Unlike other organized travel programs to Israel, the purpose is not ideological nor to endorse any specific narrative about the country. The program is purely independent and paid by the students with some University of Washington funds and travel grants, some of which were granted by the SJSP. For three weeks, we exposed the students to diverse and competing narratives and yet allowed them to see for themselves the multifaceted and multicultural experiences of being an Israeli.

While touring the country from its far North to its deep South the students experienced and studied about the histories of Israel, its systems of governance, economic development, social structures and communities, capitalism and its costs, state-religion relationships, civil society, diversity of Jewish trends, NGOs, national security, foreign policy, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the 1967 occupation and its ramifications, the refugees issue, the labor market and foreign workers, technology, military-state relations, the status of women, the Israeli Arab-Palestinian minority, immigration, social movements, political institutions, political elite, the judicial system, human rights issues, global-local relationships, the main institutional and cultural characteristics of a ‘Jewish and democratic’ state, and the competing ideologies among Jews and non-Jews.

Exploring Israel through systematic study and engaging the students with diversity of narratives embedded in scientific knowledge allowed UW students—Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims—to unveil one of the most interesting international spots on earth and the only country where Jews constitute a governing majority.

Gad Barzilai
Lucia S. and Herbert L. Pruzan Professor of Jewish Studies
Chair of the Samuel and Althea Stroum Jewish Studies Program

The Stroum Jewish Studies Program is enormously grateful to the members of its Advisory Board who raise critical funds for the Program and student scholarships, serve as liaisons to the broader community and advocate for the Program’s needs. We wish to acknowledge members for their time and effort on behalf of the Stroum JSP.

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Thank you to Dr. Leslie Mackoff who completed his service on the Board this past summer.

WANT TO TAKE A JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM COURSE?
If you are age 60 or older, you can through the UW’s ACCESS Program.

BENEFITS:
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For more information, visit http://jsis.washington.edu/jewish/access.shtml or call the Office of the Registrar at 206.543.8580.

For a complete listing of Jewish Studies courses please visit our website at jsis.washington.edu/jewish or call 206-543-4835 to have a list mailed to you.
Joshua “Yoshi” McLeod, Jewish Studies Major 2009-10, Seattle Jewish Film Festival Intern

I’ve attended the American Jewish Committee’s Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF) since I was young, but I never imagined working for the festival. But, during fall quarter 2009 I received an email from the UW Jewish Studies Program announcing an internship opportunity with SJFF, which I accepted. From November through May I worked as the Social Media and Communications Intern for the SJFF, creating and managing the festival’s Facebook presence. I also used other types of marketing and communication through email, graphic design, YouTube and Twitter. I loved the position for its creative exploration and exposure to new experiences. The positive contribution that the festival makes locally was enough reason to be involved, but I also gained new insight into the functioning of a non-profit organization, marketing, and more specifically, the use of social media tools in a professional environment.

I like UW because of the wide array of opportunities for learning and community involvement. Besides the SJFF internship, I’ve enjoyed other valuable experiences, such as working with the UW Dream Project to help high school students apply to college and volunteering with Hillel on social justice projects. I appreciate a variety of experiences and that partially explains my eclectic choice of majors. Now heading into my fourth, but not last, year at the UW, I am majoring in Jewish Studies and Human Centered Design and Engineering. While Jewish Cultural Tradition and human-technology interaction seem unrelated, this path is reflective of my own diverse interests. I hope to merge my interests within community building through technology. My social media internship with the SJFF is just one example, and I look forward to the other opportunities that await.

SJSP Students

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO OUR 2010 GRADUATES!
Helen Bennett • Zachary Grashin
Emily Mapel • Raquel Rosen
Shayna Rosen • Ruben Shimonov

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2010-2011 SCHOLARSHIP & TRAVEL GRANT WINNERS!

I. Mervin & Georgiana Gorasht Scholarship in Jewish Studies

KYLE BOND
Graduate student
JSIS – Comparative Religion
Research Project: comparative study of oral tradition in early Rabbinic Judaism and classical Chan/Zen Buddhism

Rabbi Arthur A. Jacobovitz Memorial Scholarship in Jewish Studies

ETHAN CHESSID
Graduate student – Music
Research Project: the application of Jewish music and culture to music education, focusing on klezmer music

Richard M. Willner Memorial Scholarship in Jewish Studies

ANAT GOLDMAN
Graduate student
JSIS – Interdisciplinary Graduate Program for Near & Middle Eastern Studies
Research Project: comparative exploration of the role of public education in shaping national identity and social tensions in Israel and Turkey

Stroum Jewish Studies Advisory Board Scholarship

BRIAN HOEFGEN
Undergraduate student
Major: Environmental Studies
Minor: JSIS
Research Project: Studying at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel to explore water management and supply in the Middle East

Stroum Jewish Studies Program Travel Grants:

BRADLEY DAY-BAZHAW
Major: German Cultural Studies
Minor: Music; attended UW Israel Summer Seminar

WARREN ERRIG
Major: JSIS – Comparative Religion
Minor: NELC; attended Tel Dor Dig program in Israel

CYRUS RODGERS
Major: Russian Language, Literature, Culture
Minor: JSIS – EUROPE; traveling to Kiev to do research on Babi Yar

SCHOLARSHIP & TRAVEL GRANT WINNERS
Top row, from left: Kyle Bond Ethan Chessin Brian Hoeftgen
Bottom row, from left: Anat Goldman Cyrus Rodgers
New Online Tools for Hebrew Language Instruction

In 2010 the Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Department (NELC) and the Language Learning Center (LLC) received a Transitional Funding grant from the UW College of Arts & Sciences to develop new technological infrastructure for teaching first and second-year modern Hebrew. Professor Naomi Sokoloff, Research Assistant Or Rogovin, and William Reed (LLC) have developed a variety of interactive on-line course materials. Using MOODLE, an open-source course management system and virtual learning environment, they have designed a series of vocabulary building exercises, listening exercises, and grammar exercises that will supplement current textbooks, enrich curriculum, and enhance student learning. Students can also take proficiency tests and earn Credit by Exam on-line.

The Principal Investigators on the grant are Professor Naomi Sokoloff, NELC, SJSP, Coordinator of the Modern Hebrew Program; Professor Scott Noegel, Chair, NELC; SJSP; and Paul Aoki, LLC Director. With thanks to Hadar Horowitz (Teaching Assistant, NELC) and Tovi Romano (Lecturer, NELC) for their input on the creation of the tools.

Stroum Lectures

The Stroum JSP welcomed Professor Ilana Pardes from Hebrew University, Jerusalem in late April 2010, for the 35th Samuel & Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies. Professor Pardes presented a lecture series entitled Agnon’s Moonstruck Lovers: The Song of Songs in Israeli Culture. The audio of the lectures may be found on the Jewish Studies’ website.

Leading up to the Lectures, faculty and advisory board members worked to update the format of the lectures after 34 years of a three-lecture structure. The new format featured two public lectures and a new “learn-in” that provided an intimate venue in which to explore the lecturer’s research in more depth. In addition, the Program introduced a website dedicated to the lectures: www.stroumlectures.org, that included preparatory readings, a glossary of terms, the schedule of events and event registration.

Professor Gad Barzilai, Chair of the Stroum JSP, says “The new format of the Stroum Lectures was a great success. We wanted to respond to the changing needs and interests of the community and have done just that.”

The most up to date Jewish Studies event information may be found on our website at jsis.washington.edu/jewish.
Introducing Dr. Richard Benton
2010-2011 Hazel D. Cole Fellow

Dr. Richard Benton

The Stroum JSP is pleased to welcome Dr. Richard Benton, our 2010-2011 Hazel D. Cole Fellow, to the University of Washington. Dr. Benton completed his Ph.D. in Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation focused on linguistics and the Biblical Hebrew verbal system. At the University of Wisconsin and at Beloit College, he taught courses in Jewish studies, including Jewish cultural history, Jewish mysticism, and the Bible in the middle ages. Dr. Benton has also taught Hebrew Bible & Biblical Hebrew classes overseas. His research interests include linguistics, Hebrew Bible, and the history of interpretation of the Bible.

During his time as the Cole Fellow, Dr. Benton will research the use of the Hebrew Bible in the Jewish liturgical texts (“piyyutim”) of late antiquity. He is interested in answering several questions about the piyyutim: How did Jewish liturgical tradition teach the Bible? How did it use biblical imagery? What assumptions did it hold regarding the text of the Bible?

Spring quarter, Dr. Benton will teach the course The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in the Middle Ages. He will also give a public talk based on his research.

After his time as a Cole Fellow, Dr. Benton plans to develop his project into a broader one that includes comparing the answers to these questions with the methods and techniques displayed in Christian liturgical tradition of the same period.

HAZEL D. COLE FELLOWSHIP
The Hazel D. Cole Fellowship will next be offered for the 2012-13 academic year. Please check the Stroum JSP website next summer for application information.

Reflections from the 2009-2010 Fellow
Dr. Asya Vaisman

Dr. Asya Vaisman

I was very fortunate to spend one of my formative career development years as a Hazel D. Cole Fellow at the University of Washington. For the first month of my fellowship, I put the finishing touches on my dissertation, Being Heard: The Singing Voices of Contemporary Hasidic Women. During the year, one of the chapters was published in the Journal of Synagogue Music and I presented a different chapter to the Studies in Jewish Life faculty research forum led by Professor Paul Burstein.

Through that experience, I received important feedback from renowned scholars in the many disciplines represented in the Jewish Studies program.

In fall quarter 2009, I presented some of my research at a Stroum Jewish Studies Program colloquium. During the winter, I worked on expanding my research with Hasidic Yiddish into Hasidic children’s songs.”

Continued from page 4

Sino-Middle East Relations: Perspectives on China’s Strategy with the Arab World, Israel, Iran and Turkey
Professor Pan Guang, Shanghai Academy of Social Science
Co-sponsored with the American Jewish Committee, Seattle

Exile Reconsidered: German Emigres, American Jews and Anti-Semitism in the 1940s
Dr. Eva-Maria Ziege, DAAD
Acting Assoc. Prof., JSIS, UW

The Fourth Stage of the Arab-Israel Conflict
Dr. Alan Dowty, Professor Emeritus
University of Notre Dame

My Song in the Night: Hasidic Women’s New Yiddish Songs
Dr. Asya Vaisman, 2009-10
Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies
University of Washington

Lives, History, Memory:
The Spanish Civil War 70 Years After
Screening of Abe Osheroff’s award-winning 1974 personal documentary
Dreams & Nightmares
Co-Sponsored with UW Department of History, the Division of Spanish and Portuguese, Comparative History of Ideas (CHID), the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, the Center for West European Studies

Never a Dull Moment: Writing Alternative Literature in Israel
David Ehrlich, Schusterman Writer-In-Residence, Portland State University

Against the Tide
AJC Seattle Jewish Film Festival
With special introduction by UW Professor Paul Burstein

STUDIES IN JEWISH LIFE —
FACULTY RESEARCH FORUM
The Ethos of the Hebrew Prophets: A Philosophical Debate about Religion and The Nation During WWI, and Its Aftermath
Professor Michael Rosenthal, UW Philosophy Department

Made in the Image? Perpetrators in Jewish Holocaust Fiction
Or Rogovin, UW Ph.D. Candidate
Comparative Literature

Terror Plots: Criminal Syndicalism and the AMIA Bombing from Buenos Aires to The Triple Frontier
Nathaniel Greenberg, UW Ph.D. Candidate
Comparative Literature

‘Faith is My Foundation’: The Role of Song in Hasidic Women’s Lives
Dr. Asya Vaisman, UW 2009-10 Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies

The most up to date Jewish Studies event information may be found on our website at jsis.washington.edu/jewish.
Faculty News from the Past Year

Professor Jere Bacharach spent half the year based in Cairo and half in Seattle as he brings his two-year Mellon Foundation Emeritus Fellowship to a close. His research took him to Qatar, Oman, Germany and Britain. He also spent three weeks in Israel as part of an international team evaluating Middle East Studies/Middle East History departments at Israel’s five main universities. At the annual meeting of the international Middle East Medievalists, Professor Bacharach received The Middle East Medievalists Lifetime Achievement Award for a distinguished career in the field of Middle East and Islamic Studies and the promotion of the profession at large. Over the past year, Professor Gad Barzilai published articles in the Journal of Comparative Law and Law and Politics Book Review. He also published a new book that is a comparative study of 57 political regimes, focusing on their attorneys general and systems of criminal prosecution. Professor Barzilai continues to serve on the Board of Editors of Comparative Political Studies. He presented papers at international conferences and meetings in Toronto, Canada; Massachusetts; Chicago; and Haifa, Israel. During summer 2010, Professor Barzilai, with Professor Karine Barzilai-Nahon, led a very successful three-week summer seminar in Israel for UW students. Students visited nearly 110 different sites and communities and met with dozens of non-governmental organization activists, community members, politicians, and other public figures. In fall 2010, Professor Richard Block will introduce a new course SISJE 195 The Holocaust & Popular Film. The purpose of the course is to help students understand the challenge of attempting to represent in film something so horrible that it exceeds the limits of imagination. The other aim is to examine how Hollywood, in particular, has invoked the Holocaust to “pump up the volume” on what would otherwise be rather banal and formulaic plots. The question that emerges is whether such films contribute to our understanding of the Holocaust or diminish and demean the suffering of the victims. Scheduled for publication in upcoming editions, Contemporary Jewery will print three articles by Professor Paul Burstein: Jewish Nonprofit Organizations in the U.S.: A Preliminary Survey, What is Really Being Debated in the Debate on the Distancing Hypothesis?; a comment that is part of a symposium on whether American Jews are becoming more distant from Israel; and Social Networks and Jews: A Comment on Professor Kadushin, comments on a lecture given at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies. Professor Burstein gave two lectures in Herzl Ner Tamid’s annual Torahthon and gave a talk to the UW student group Israel Forever. Professor Burstein chaired the Stroum JSIP Studies in Jewish Life Faculty Research Forum and serves on the board of UW Hillel.

Professor Kathie Friedman introduced a new course entitled Doing Jewish Identity Studies in which students research the diverse Jewish identities of young people today. Through readings, interviewing young Jewish adults; transcribing and interpreting interviews; and crafting a qualitative research paper, students developed research skills as well as sensitivity to Jewish community values and concerns. Professor Friedman chaired the Stroum JSP’s curriculum review committee this past year.

Professor Barbara Henry has two forthcoming books: Rewriting Russia: Jacob Gordin’s Yiddish Drama, UW Press, and The Global Yiddish Stage: Essays on Drama, Performance, and Show Business edited with Joel Berkowitz, Wayne State University Press. She introduced the Yiddish film Mirele Efros (The Jewish Queen Lear) by Jacob Gordin at the Stroum Jewish Community Center in January. She also gave a lecture on Avrom Sutzkever, Partisan and Poet at Temple Beth Am in March and did an interview on the “state of Yiddish” for the Seattle website Jew-ish.com. Professor Henry chaired the 2010 Cole Fellow Selection Committee.

Dr. Julia Eulenberg wrote And He Made Ten, D’rush, Vol. IV, 2010. She also gave talks to the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild and the Association of Jewish Librarians (AJL) at their annual conference where she participated in a
panel with Cantor Isaac Asoze on the topic Jewish Entrepreneurs in the Pacific Northwest: Who They Were, and How I Found Them. The presentation will be published on the AJL website.

Professor Martin Jaffee was elected a Fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research, the original and oldest American scholarly organization promoting research into the Jewish tradition. Election signifies that the Fellow’s research has significantly shaped the field of Jewish research and made an important impact on Jewish studies. Professor Jaffee has been selected as the translator/annotator of Mishnah Avot in the forthcoming Oxford Annotated Mishnah, edited by Shaye Cohen & Haim Lapin. He continues to write a monthly column, A View From the U, for the JT News.

Professor Scott Noegel continues to serve as Chair of the UW Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization. He had several articles published ‘Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign’: Script, Power, and Interpretation in the Ancient Near East, Oriental Institute Seminars 6; Bodily Features as Literary Devices in the Hebrew Bible and The Ritual Use of Linguistic and Textual Violence in the Hebrew Bible, Studies in Bible and Exegesis 10; The Ritual Use of Linguistic and Textual Violence in the Hebrew Bible & Ancient Near East, Conference Proceedings on Ritual Dynamics and the Science of Ritual, University of Heidelberg, Professor Noegel gave multiple public lectures including Temple Beth Am’s annual University Lecture Series.

Professor Michael Rosenthal was a visiting Fellow last summer at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Frankfurt in Bad Homburg, Germany, where he researched and delivered a lecture on ‘Das Ethos der Hebräischen Propheten’: The Philosophical Debate in Germany about the Jewish Religion and Nation during the First World War, and its Aftermath. He published an article, Spinoza’s Philosophy of Religion, in History of Western Philosophy of Religion. He gave a talk, Hans Jonas and the Problem of a Jewish Philosophy of Life, at a conference sponsored by the Tikvah Program in Jewish Thought at Princeton University. He also finished editing a volume, The Cambridge Critical Guide to Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise, which will appear in print soon. Professor Rosenthal has been elected to serve as Editor of the Studies Spinozana, an international yearbook of Spinoza studies. In the coming year, he will be on sabbatical and plans to complete his book on Spinoza.


Professor Bob Stacey continues to serve as Divisional Dean of Arts and Humanities in the College of Arts & Sciences. He gave papers to two scholarly conferences: one held at Norwich on the local context for the earliest “blood libel” accusation, and the other on the origins of the Jewish exchequer in medieval England, in a conference commemorating the 1190 massacre of the Jews of York. He is also editing two volumes of collected essays for Ashgate/Variorum: one a volume of his own essays on the English Jews in the Middle Ages; the other, a selection of classic articles (some translated into English for the first time) on the history of Jews in medieval France and England.

A complete list of Jewish Studies faculty may be found on our website at jsis.washington.edu/jewish.

The Stroum Jewish Studies Program mourns the passing of Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt (a.k.a. S.N. Eisenstadt) on September 2, 2010 in Jerusalem.

A professor of sociology from Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Dr. Eisenstadt served as a Visiting Stroum Professor at the UW in 1985-1986. He is considered one of the most important sociologists in the world.

FACULTY BOOKS—NEW RELEASES

Susan A. Glenn
Naomi B. Sokoloff
Boundaries of Jewish Identity
University of Washington Press

Scott B. Noegel
Gary A. Rendsburg
Solomon’s Vineyard: Literary and Linguistic Studies in the Song of Songs
Inaugural volume of a new series; Society of Biblical Literature

Noam Pianko
Zionism & the Roads Not Taken: Rawidowicz, Kaplan, Kohn
Indiana University Press
IN HONOR OF
Dorothy and Jerry Becker
Gene and Gerry Huppin
Bob Center
For your work with the Stroum JSP
Bob and Lisa Low
Jennifer Cohen
NCJW Hannah G. Solomon Lifetime Achievement Award
Janet and Bob Lackman
Jennifer Cohen
Lenny and Beth Kashner
Herb & Lucy Pruzan
Eileen Gilman
Ben and Rochelle Goffe
Bob and Pamela Miller
Alex and Lucy Sztman
Irwin and Betty Lou Treiger
Naomi Sokoloff
Lenny and Beth Kashner
Joyce Shane*
Althea Stroum
Deborah and Doug Rosen

IN MEMORY OF
Gertrude Abramson
Professor Naomi Sokoloff
and Doug Berry
Shirley Berch
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Philip Flash
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Sonny and Gena Gorasht

IN APPRECIATION
Marty Jaffee
Beth Huppin and
David Bennett
Ruth Peizer,
For your contribution to
Yiddish
Murray and Sophie Meld

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE, WE MOURN THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THE SJSP:
Rabbi Arthur A. Jacobovitz
Joyce Shane
Stanley Tobin

Honor your friends and loved ones while supporting Jewish Studies at the UW. We’ll send your recipients a card notifying them of your thoughtful gift. To make a tribute gift, call 206-543-0138 or use the envelope included with this newsletter.

Double your gift today!
Take advantage of our $25,000 challenge match by an anonymous donor.
New gifts and increased dollar amount gifts from current donors to any Jewish Studies fund count toward the 1:1 match.

Thank you!
Donors to Jewish Studies (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010)

Thank you very much to our FY2010 donors, whose generosity enabled the Program to offer public lectures, meet the demand for Hebrew language instruction, create new courses, and provide scholarships and travel grants to UW students. We are grateful for your continued support of the Program especially through these challenging times.

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Professor Jere Bacharach  
Professor Gad Barzilai  
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DESIGN: Two Pollard Design / PRINTING: Alphagraphics

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