

Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1401

EMERITUS – September 2021



An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

ZOOM MEETING:

Our first meeting of the semester will be Friday, September 3, 2021 at 11:00 am. For now, we will continue to do these meetings via Zoom. Information will be sent to your Stony Brook emails a few days prior to the meeting. Meeting information is also listed below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/97145182623?pwd=YmNmSGREbkQ3UDk2S0N6QzNM Sy9UUT09>

Meeting ID: 971 4518 2623

Passcode: 275380

One tap mobile+16468769923,,97145182623#,,,,*275380# US (New York)

+13126266799,,97145182623#,,,,*275380# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 971 4518 2623

Passcode: 275380

Find your local number: <https://stonybrook.zoom.us/u/abK22MNo5I>

SPEAKER:

Our guest speaker will be Paul M. Goldbart, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Bio: Paul Goldbart was appointed Stony Brook University Provost in March 2021. Prior to that, he served as Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) the Robert E. Boyer Chair in Natural Sciences and Mary Ann Rankin Leadership Chair for UT Austin’s College of Natural Sciences.

Goldbart’s research centers primarily on the physics of condensed matter, which explores how large-scale features of matter emerge as consequences of the nature of the constituents and the interactions between them. He has also contributed to the fields of quantum entanglement and chaos, mesoscopic physics, nano-superconductivity, quantum gases, along with law and economics. He has co-authored approximately 150 journal articles and a textbook: *Mathematics for Physics — A Guided Tour for Graduate Students*.

Topic: *"Reflections on Our Trajectories"*.



SAVE THE DATES:

Here is a preview of our upcoming speakers.

October: Phil Palmedo, Physics & Astronomy (Science & Art)

November: Lori Flores, History (Mexican-American Culture & Food)



IN MEMORIAM:

Robert Goldenberg (1942-Aug. 4, 2021)

Robert Goldenberg died in early August after a long fight with cancer. Bob came to Stony Brook in 1979 and taught in Judaic studies, then in Com Lit, as units were shoved around, and finally in the History Dept. from 1998 until he retired in 2012. He served as director of the Judaic Studies program through those years, as well as serving a stint as

chair of Comp. Lit. Bob graduated from Cornell, was ordained a rabbi at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, and got his Ph.D. from Brown (which cluttered his History Dept. mailbox with begging letters long after he retired). Before he came to Stony Brook he had taught as George Williams in Montreal, NYU, and Wichita State (in Kansas!!).

At Stony Brook he both taught on Judaism, particularly in the ancient world, along with some general ancient history, and he published books on early Judaism that were both impressively scholarly and quite readable, particularly his *The Nations that Know Thee Not* (1998) and *The Origins of Judaism* (2007). He also published in *The Cambridge History of Judaism*, plus many articles and various items now available on podcast, and he had been on the editorial boards of a number of scholarly journals. At the very end he was still able to complete his share of work as a co-editor of the Oxford Mishna Project, a major enterprise of translation and commentary.

In the History Department Bob (no one ever called him Robert) was a pillar of common sense and judgement AND he was one of the great kibitzers of our generation. He was sorely missed when he retired and, for family reasons, moved to Princeton, though he kept in touch and offered perceptive and witty comments about academic matters whenever we contacted him. He is survived by his wife, Nina Wacholder, three children, two daughters-in-law, and a beloved granddaughter (for whom, when needed, he would come from N.J. to Brooklyn to baby sit).



Participate in "Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences"

Stony Brook University Libraries announced the establishment of “Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences,” a new digital archive project to collect, preserve, and publish the institutional history of Stony Brook University. The archive will primarily be formed from submissions received directly from students, faculty, staff, and alumni that document life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interviews, first-hand accounts, written narratives, photographs, and more will be important sources to consult in the future to study, interpret, and derive meaning from this historic time period. Members of the Emeritus Faculty Association are invited and encouraged to participate in the project. For more information, please visit: <https://library.stonybrook.edu/special-library-initiatives/documenting-covid-19/>



Participate in the Faculty Emeritus Documentation Project

In return for the light labor of arranging the calendar of speakers I claim the right to be a nag. Each month the SB Emeriti newsletter includes a plea for you to go to the Old Stony Brook memory project on the web site run by and preserved in the Melville Library's Special Collections. To date, only 19 retired SB faculty have filled out the forms designed to let you talk about the early days at SB and your retrospective views, both about what you expected (or were told) when you came and what you now have to say, looking back, on the experience. The responses are an open document and this paragraph is designed to make you feel guilty if you have not bothered to fill out the questionnaire. You can remedy this.

Joel Rosenthal

In an effort to document and preserve the unique and varied experiences of the university's emeritus faculty, a questionnaire has been designed to elicit the personal reflections of faculty members':

- impetuses for accepting academic positions at Stony Brook University.
- early experiences on the campus.
- views on the evolution and growth of the institution.
- contributions to departments and to the university.
- interactions with academic and administrative leadership.
- views on the institution's role in the community (local and wider).
- assessments of the university's mission and successes as a research university.



Your participation is vital to documenting Stony Brook University history.

Access information about the project and the questionnaire at:

<http://www.library.stonybrook.edu/special-collections-university-archives/university-archives/>

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Emeritus Faculty Association (EFA) Member Update:

The Provost's Office has updated the EFA's member list! Below is the link for the updated contact information for all members. Please take a look and let us know if you notice any out-of-date or incorrect information about yourself or a colleague, please contact us at provost@stonybrook.edu with any changes. Please remember, we are **only** using your Stony Brook emails.

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/members.html>



Joel Rosenthal is now chair of the Retirees Committee on the local UUP executive committee. Problems or questions about your union status or related matters can be addressed to him: joel.rosenthal@stonybrook.edu.

Visit our website: To visit our website, go to the University website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/index.html>. It always contains the latest emeritus news (click on "Next Meeting"), a list of members' email addresses, a list of officers, newsletter archives and many other useful links.