



“Reb Zalman celebrating at Skye (Adam) Pelicrow's conversion ceremony in Oct 1987 at Marin Headlands.” Photo credit: Yehudit Goldfarb, Kirby Cove, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin Headwaters, © 1987 all rights reserved

NEW EXHIBIT! Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and the Origins of Post-Holocaust American Judaism

Now featured on the 2nd floor southeast of the Norlin Library, this exhibit explores the life and work of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and his role in shaping contemporary Judaism as a religion, social movement, and philosophy of spiritual transformation. Reb Zalman's life is a rich tale of spiritual innovations sparked within a dynamic historical context and in relationship to many of the world's great philosophers and spiritual teachers.

From his 1924 birth in Poland, childhood in Vienna, and harrowing flight from Nazi oppression through Belgium, France, North Africa, and the Caribbean, until they finally landed in New York City in 1941 to his honorary doctorate of theology from the Starr King School for the Ministry in Oakland, California, in 2012 (which occasioned a popular series of lectures on the “Emerging Cosmology” as a part of its inaugural symposium, “Living in the Differences”), Reb Zalman's life and living legacies bespeak a man of his times for all time.

His work shifted paradigms in Jewish law, prayer, religious practices, and diversity and led to the development of Jewish Renewal. As a pioneer in inter-faith dialogue, he is friend to many of the world's great philosophers and spiritual teachers, including Gerald Heard, Father Thomas Merton, the Rev. Howard Thurman, Pir Vilayat Inayat-Khan, Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Father Thomas Keating, Ken Wilber, and the 14th Dalai Lama.

Schachter-Shalomi is widely considered one of the most significant Jewish spiritual leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries, having taught mysticism and psychology of religion at several universities, including Naropa. He also founded the influential Spiritual Eldering movement.

Many of the images and artifacts in the exhibition come from the CU-B Zalman M. Schachter-Shalomi Collection (<http://libcudl.colorado.edu/zss/index.htm>), which includes personal papers, manuscripts, publications, as well as audio and visual materials on Jewish Renewal, Hasidism, Kabbalah, Deep Ecumenism, Psychology of Religion, and Spiritual Eldering. The Collection anchors the CU-B Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archive, which includes collections that document Judaism from the late 1940s to the present. The CU-B Program in Jewish Studies is an active collaborator on the development of the Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archive.

This exhibition was curated by Stephanie Yuhas, Netanel Miles-Yepetz, Deborah Fink, Sue Salinger, and David Shneer, and designed by Andrew Violet. The curators would like to thank the Bender Family and Yesod Foundations, donors to the Program in Jewish Studies, and the University of Colorado College of Arts and Sciences, Program in Jewish Studies, University Libraries, and Archives and Special Collections.