



THE 2023 YITZHAK RABIN LECTURE

Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern

RESPONDENT: **Professor Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern**

is a historian of 20th-century Jewish women. Her field of expertise is women in Zionism, mostly in Eretz Israel and Israel. Her scholarly work combines immigration studies, nationalism, and transnationalism, among others, from a gender perspective. She is the co-editor of the Special Issue of *Israel Studies* titled *New Perspectives On Women In Israeli Society* (Spring 2023), the author of the Hecht prize-winning book *Redemption in Bondage: The Women Workers Movement in Eretz Israel 1920-1939*, and numerous articles. Her last book: *The Revolutionary: Ada Fishman Maimon-Biography*, (2018), won the prestigious Yad Izhak Ben Zvi Prize in 2019. This book gained wide attention and fostered a public initiative: In February 2023, the Israeli postal office issued a new stamp commemorating Ada Maimon on the fifty years of her passing. Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern teaches women's studies and Jewish history at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. She is currently working on new research focusing on radical Jewish women in the first half of the 20th century.

Prof. Nahum Karlinsky will serve as moderator and discussant.

With a Video Welcome from **Dalia Rabin**

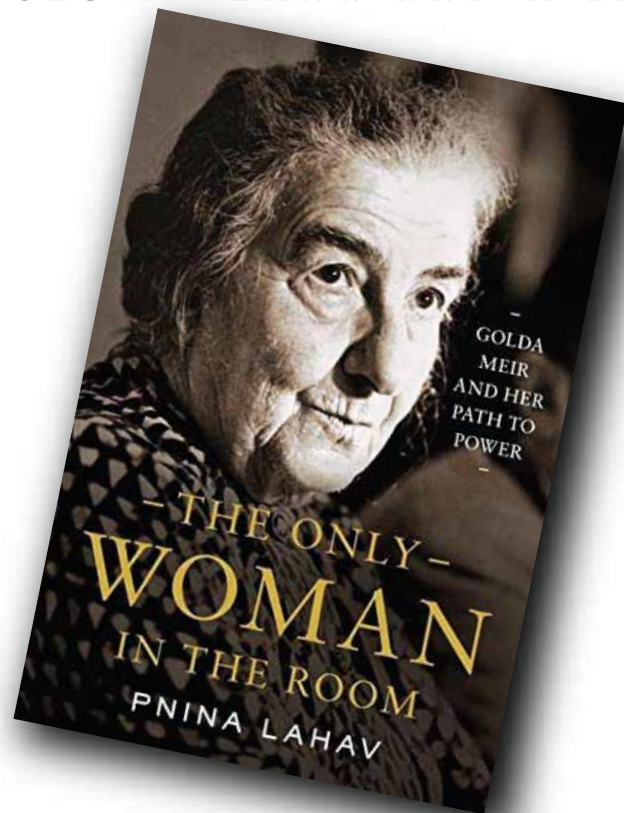


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THE ELIE WIESEL CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES





Pnina Lahav

Golda Meir was born to a poor and uneducated family in Kiev, Ukraine. At the age of eight her family settled in Wisconsin, USA. She became a passionate Zionist and immigrated to Palestine. Almost eighty years later she died in Israel, admired by people all over the world but also maligned by the Israeli public. She was Israel's fourth prime minister and except for her no woman had ever ascended so high. Clearly, there was deep seated misogyny in Israeli culture, that looked unkindly at women in power.

Prof. Lahav addresses this puzzle. How did Golda overcome the gender bias and fulfill her ambitions? Why were people attracted to her and trust her leadership? And then, in 1973, why did Israelis turn against her and conclude that a woman could not be trusted with security matters?

Pnina Lahav is a Professor of Law, Emerita and a member of the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University. Her fields of expertise are constitutional law, first amendment law and legal history. She is the recipient of, most recently, the Israel Studies Award for Lifetime Achievement (2017) and the Prime Minister Golda Meir for Society and Leadership Award (2021). She is the author of the acclaimed *Justice in Jerusalem: Chief Justice Simon Agranat and the Zionist Century*. Of late she has focused her attention on the status and history of women and her biography of Golda Meir, Israel's fourth prime minister, presents Golda Meir's life in the context of the twentieth century through the gender lens. This biography, titled *The Only Woman in the Room: Golda Meir and Her Path to Power* (Princeton University Press: 2022), is a part of the 2022-2023 book picks of the Jewish Women's Archive.