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UNIVERSITY

Author set to give presentations

By Catherine Hawley **Emerald Associate Editor**

Irena Klepfisz, an award-winning writer and founder of a Jewish peace organization in New York City, will be on campus this week to read from her two new books and to deliver a talk on the role of women in the Palestinian-Israeli peace movement.

Klepfisz, a childhood survi-vor of the Holocaust who came to New York at the end of World War II, writes fiction. poetry and essays about Jewish culture, the peace movement and women's issues. She was co-editor of one of the earliest feminist magazines, Conditions, from 1976 to 1981.

Her experiences as a college student led her to criticize the pressure she felt to distance herself from her ethnic background and become "Americanized." In her writings, she now stresses the need for pride in one's own ethnic background to be able to understand other cultures.

"I believe that only when we ourselves are firmly rooted in our cultural soil do we understand the commitment of others to their cultures," Klepfisz wrote in an essay titled "Secular lewish Identity.

Her belief in cultural understanding has translated into political work in the Middle East. Klepfisz founded the Jewish Women's Committee to End the Occupation, a New York-based organization that supports work for peace in Israel and the occupied territories.

"The organization supports and publicizes coalition work



Irena Klepfisz

between Jewish and Palestinian people on both sides of the green line in Israel and shows

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