

Jewish Studies @ PENN

THE JEWISH STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

Penn, through its Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, offers one of the most comprehensive programs in Jewish Studies in America. The Jewish Studies Program (JSP) is an interdisciplinary academic group with twenty-one faculty members from eight departments that coordinates all courses relating to Jewish Studies in the university, as well as undergraduate majors and minors and graduate programs in different departments. JSP also sponsors many events, including two endowed lectureships and the Kutchin Faculty Seminars. The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (Katz Center) is a post-doctoral research institute that annually brings eighteen to twenty-five

distinguished scholars to Penn as fellows to pursue scholarly research on selected themes. These fellows are selected from the finest and most prominent Judaic scholars in the world. Every year several Katz Center fellows teach courses at Penn, and both graduate students and University faculty participate in the Katz Center's weekly seminars. The Katz Center is also home to one of America's greatest research libraries in Judaica and Hebraica and includes a Genizah collection, many manuscripts, and early printings. Together the Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies make Penn one of the most rich and exciting communities for Jewish scholarship and intellectual life in the world.



Loading of wheat in the Emek [Jezreel Valley], 1936. The Jewish Agency included this extraordinary image in an album given to General Waukhope on his departure at the end of his term as high commissioner for Palestine (Feb. 1938). Lenkin Family Collection of Photography, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

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Jewish Studies Program

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

It is no secret that this has been a difficult year throughout the country. Penn's Jewish Studies Program has not been immune to the vicissitudes of the economic downturn, but I am glad to report that despite some trimming of our budget, we remain as committed as ever to serving our students, supporting our faculty, and making sure that Jewish Studies at Penn continues to be a vital and thriving program. During these trying times, we are especially grateful to our donors, and thank them for their generous support of our program.

As always, this was a busy year in Jewish Studies. We were particularly pleased to sponsor – along with the Penn Museum and many other departments – a conference titled, “Tablet and Torah: Mesopotamia and the Biblical World.” Organized in honor of Professor Barry Eichler, the recently retired founding director of the Jewish Studies Program, the conference brought together distinguished colleagues and former students for a wonderful day of exploring the languages, literatures, and cultures of ancient Mesopotamia and the Biblical world.

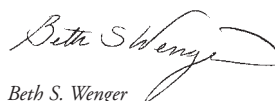
We are especially enthusiastic about plans for this year's conference. Together with the Middle East Center, our program is sponsoring a groundbreaking conference that will explore issues of gender in Judaism and Islam. Fostering this kind of cross-cultural dialogue and intellectual exchange remains a primary mission of Jewish Studies at Penn, made possible only within the open climate of the university.

In fact, if you were to drop in on one of our programs (as I welcome you to do), you would often find us bringing Jewish studies into conversation with other fields and disciplines across the university. Last spring, for example, the Silvers Visiting Scholar Program welcomed

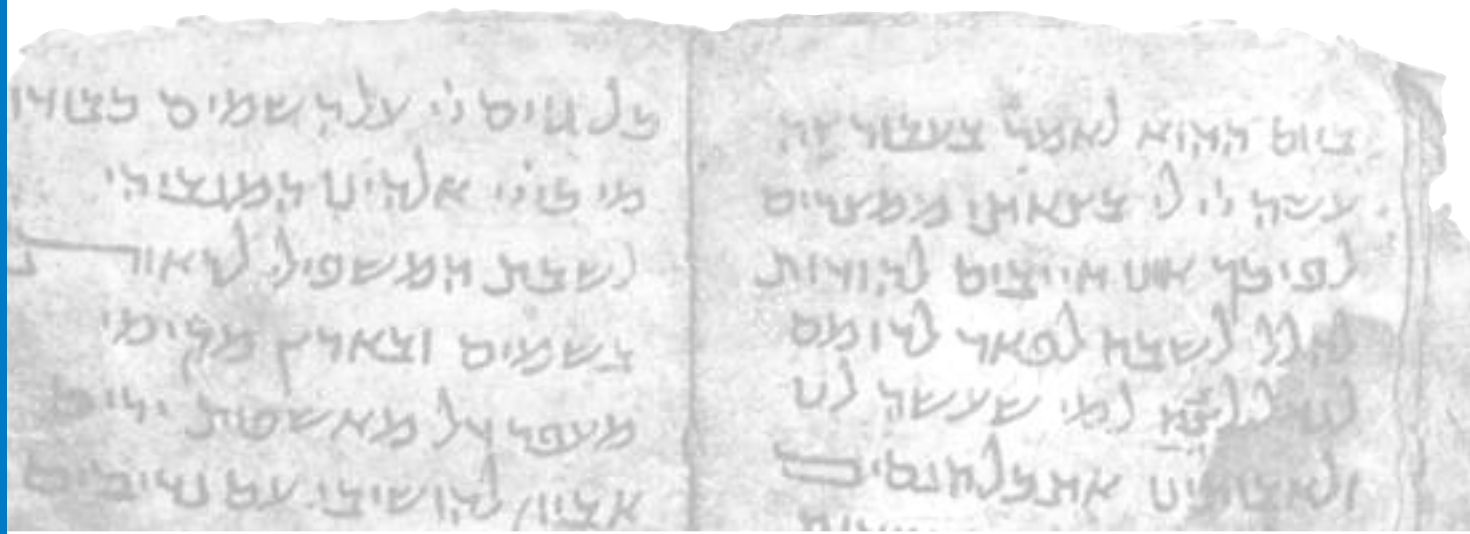
Professor Jonathan Karp of Binghamton University to present his work on Jewish musical entrepreneurs who pioneered the production and sale of commercial black music. We also invited Guthrie P. Ramsey Jr., of Penn's Music department, a specialist in African American music, to offer a response. What emerged was a lively discussion about race, ethnicity, and the music industry. Because our program defines itself as an integral and organic part of the humanities at Penn, we seek out opportunities to connect Jewish studies to other fields of inquiry, creating new ideas and generating fresh perspectives.

Jewish studies is, by definition, a multidisciplinary field. Our students' work spans the centuries and they study with professors in a variety of academic departments. If you were to have attended the Jewish Studies student research presentations at the end of last year, you would have heard our graduating seniors discussing projects that ranged from Biblical interpretation to the experience of Cuban Jewish refugees, from rabbinic preaching in the early modern period to Yiddish poetry. I welcome you to read more about our students' research inside this newsletter.

We thank the dedicated supporters of Jewish Studies at Penn whose generosity enables our Program to flourish. I hope you will join our community and I welcome you to contact me and to become a part of our Program in the coming year.



Beth S. Wenger
Associate Professor of History
Director, Jewish Studies Program



Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

It is a pleasure once again to report to you about the activities of the past year at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Focusing on the theme "Jews, Commerce, and Culture," the Center brought twenty outstanding scholars from all over the world to Philadelphia. They came from Poland, Australia, France, England, Belgium, Germany, as well as from Israel and North America. The fellows not only met in their formal weekly seminars but arranged study groups and informal seminars as well. The Gruss Colloquium was a major success, elevating a relatively new field of study in Jewish history.

In conjunction with the theme, the Center sponsored a series of three lectures with Wharton on Wharton's site. Each lecture brought 100-200 people. Several fellows were interviewed about our program in a feature article that appeared in the first page of the Business section of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Others appeared on the *Radio Times* program of National Public Radio for an hour-long interview on our annual theme. The *Pennsylvania Gazette* also featured our year in a lead story.

We also ran ten highly successful lectures in the larger Philadelphia community, a series at the Center for Jewish History in NYC, and several seminars for local rabbis. Our board retreat was held in October following parents' weekend and it continues to be the highlight of the year for board members and other invited guests. Many also returned for our annual conference and for the first time, we ran an evening program on the current economic woes especially afflicting the Jewish community. The panelists were board members and fellows who shared their wisdom and experience with each other. Yechiel Schur, our new director of public programs, now called the Klatt Family Director of Public Programs [we celebrated this naming at the conference dinner], launched an

e-mail newsletter for the Katz Center that has been sent to all former fellows, friends of the Katz Center, rabbis, educators and many others. (If you have not received a copy, please let Yechiel know so he can send you one: yschur@sas.upenn.edu).

The *Jewish Quarterly Review* continues to thrive and because of its popularity online, it attracts many readers who seek out individual articles. We continue to actively recruit new books for our monograph series, Jewish cultures and contexts, and to publish the annual volume of the Katz Center. Several new volumes are nearing completion or in press already.

As I complete my fifteenth year and begin a new term as director, I feel most privileged to have observed and participated in the Katz Center's emergence as the leading institution of its kind in North America and even beyond this continent. It is also most satisfying to have worked in tandem with the dynamic program in Jewish Studies at Penn. Penn has emerged as a major leader in Jewish studies in the world primarily because of this synergy between the two programs. We eagerly look forward to preserving and enhancing the excellence of both programs in future years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ruderman".

David B. Ruderman
Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History
Ella Darivoff Director, Herbert D. Katz Center
for Advanced Judaic Studies

The Jewish Studies Program at Penn produces the Jewish Studies @ Penn newsletter annually.

Editor: Christine Walsh

Assistant Editors: Beth Wenger and Rebecca Stern

We are grateful to Michelle and Peter, C'81/WG'85, Roth for their ongoing sponsorship of this newsletter, and for the Newton Family Fund's support this year.

Jewish Studies Program News

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Graduation

Eleven students graduated with majors or minors in the different Jewish Studies departmental tracks.

Five seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Major: **Rebecca Bootin, Jonathan Klatt, Yael Landman, Adam Teitcher, and Drew Feith Tye.**

One student completed the Jewish History Major in the Department of History: **Max Greenky.**

Five seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Minor: **Benjamin Bernstein, Ryan Bernstein, Jennifer Guttman, Lindsay King, and Rikki Steil.**



Undergraduate Director, Professor Kathryn Hellerstein, welcoming students and faculty to undergraduate student research presentations.

Undergraduate Student Research

In 2008-2009, five graduating Jewish Studies majors and one minor submitted senior theses, which they presented to a large, appreciative audience on April 21.

"The Struggle for Community: Mordecai Kaplan and the Jewish Center," by **Benjamin Bernstein**

"From Potatoes to Coconuts: The Ashkenazi Jewish Community of Cuba Through the Eyes of My Grandfather, Leon Mucasey: 1924-1941," by **Rebecca Bootin**

"Crossing the Boundaries: Rabbi Ezekiel Landau from Elite Scholar to Popular Preacher (Prague Sermons, 1754-1793)," by **Jonathan Klatt**

"Lot-casting for Legitimation: The Function of the *Goral* in the Bible," by **Yael Landman**

"From Confrontation to Confirmation: Arguing with God in the Bible and Early Palestinian Rabbinic Literature," by **Adam Teitcher**



Benjamin Bernstein, C'09, (center) listening to fellow Jewish Studies students presenting their research.

"I Dance Between Daggers: The Audacious Poetry of Celia Dropkin," by **Drew Feith Tye.**

Prizes and Honors

The **Moshe Greenberg Prize for Excellence in Hebrew**, awarded to a graduating senior who began the study of Hebrew at Penn and who shows exceptional proficiency in the language, was awarded to **Marissa Steinberg.**

The **Workmen's Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize in Yiddish Studies** is supported by a gift from the Philadelphia Branch of the Workmen's Circle and the United Worker's Educational Organization to reward excellence in Yiddish Studies. The prize was awarded to **Drew Feith Tye.**

The **Merle Saunders Schaff Memorial Award** is awarded annually by the Department of Religious Studies for the best essay demonstrating creative thinking on any subject related to the archaeology of Ancient Israel or to Judaic religious thought through the Middle Ages. The recipient was **Yael Landman.**

In addition, JSP has established the **Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies** (replaces the B'nai Zion Award). The award was given to **Tali Yahalom.**

Thanks to a \$15,000 endowment gift by Ms. **Julia Goldin** and the late Dr. **Rosaline Goldin** of Bala Cynwyd, JSP was able to create **The Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award Fund** to benefit an outstanding student majoring or minoring in Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. The award recipient last year was **Jonathan Klatt.** We are deeply grateful to the Goldin family.

STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Philip E. Goldfein Award in Jewish Studies

The **Philip E. Goldfein Awards in Jewish Studies**, supported by a generous gift from **Robert, C'63, and Philip, C'34, Goldfein,** are awarded to both undergraduate and



Undergraduate major, Drew Feith Tye, C'09 (r) pictured with Reuben Asia, C'08.

A few thoughts from a Jewish Studies major, Drew Feith Tye, C'09:

"Being a Jewish Studies major was an invaluable experience. Not only did I have the privilege of interacting with and learning from incredible professors, I re-asserted my Jewish identity in the most multi-faceted way: taking four semesters of Yiddish, studying the Tanakh, reading Jewish literature and poetry, learning about different facets of Jewish history, writing a thesis on Yiddish poetry, and so much more. I strongly encourage anyone who is even remotely interested in Jewish studies to take classes – it was the best academic decision I ever made."

graduate students to support research projects and unusual academic experiences. This past year's recipients were:

Graduate Students:

Cornelia Aust, for conference participation in Jerusalem

Andrew Berns, for research in Israel

Jacob Eder, for research in Germany

Aviad Eilam, for research in Israel

Benjamin Fisher, for research in Israel

Dana Herbergs, for conference participation in Denmark

Ellie Schainker, for travel to conferences in London and Budapest

Undergraduate Student:

Alexandra Leavy, for research in Israel

Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies

The **Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies** are granted for special opportunities in Judaic Studies. This award was established through the generosity of **Raymond and Ruth Brenner** (parents of **Jason, W'05, Adam, W'01, and Gregory, W'99, Brenner**) and their family. This past year's recipients were:

Graduate Student:

Tammy Jacobowitz, for conference participation

Undergraduate Students:

Emma Morgenstern, for research in Greece

Stephanie Winer, for research in Israel

Andrew Kibert, for research in the Middle East

Mark Andrew Lester, for research in Israel

JEWISH STUDIES INTERNSHIPS

The Jewish Studies Program continues to sponsor its Jewish Studies Internship program. This program, supported by a gift from **Emilio, C'71, and Reina, C'72/71, Bassini**, is designed to encourage students to explore aspects of Jewish studies outside the classroom. Under the direction of the Undergraduate Director, **Kathryn Hellerstein**, and graduate student coordinator, **Gabriella Skwara**, students initiated, organized, and produced the following events during the academic year:

Rebecca Gerr and **David Stark** organized a program in which Professor **Yechiel Schur** spoke about the treatment of the dead and emotions

surrounding death in medieval Judaism.

Mia Brill organized a program in which Holocaust survivor, **Harry Brill**, spoke about his experience traveling aboard *Exodus 1947*, a ship that brought 4,500 Jewish survivors from Europe to Palestine, only to be turned back to Europe by the British Mandatory authorities.

Michael Rubin and **Dina Bleckman** organized a program with Professor **Shawn Zelig Aster** (Yeshiva University), who engaged students in a discussion of "TAMATS: The Birth of the Messiah: Traditional and Modern Approaches to Torah Study: Isaiah 11."

John Whitham, Malka Fleischmann and **Esther Katkoff** organized a discussion panel entitled, "Homosexuality and Religion," in which various panelists spoke and answered questions about their personal experiences reconciling their sexual orientations with their religious identities.

Ari Tolwin and **Nancy Wang** organized a tour of Old City, Philadelphia and a trip to the exhibit on the synagogue and "Jewish Life on the 'Inside'" at Eastern State Penitentiary.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

As the new National Museum of American Jewish History takes shape on Philadelphia's Independence mall, interns from the University of Pennsylvania's Jewish Studies Program continue to make important contributions to the core exhibition that will be its centerpiece. "We're committed to providing opportunities for Penn students to enrich their classroom work with hands-on experience," stated Josh Perelman, Deputy Director for Programming and Museum Historian at the NMAJH. "The projects they complete at the Museum get them involved in the development of a major new national institution and help grow their academic skills."



l to r: 2009 Bassini interns, Dina Bleckman and Michael Rubin

Student interns from Penn have played a central role in the Museum's life for more than ten years. Now, they play an even more prominent role, helping the Museum prepare for its new home and researching exciting stories that will be told in the new building. All interns at the Museum work in conjunction with the curatorial and registration staff to gain hands-on experience with the Museum's collection. This includes researching new accessions and processing objects.

This past year, the Museum welcomed three interns. **Ezra Geggel** researched Nat Holman and the college basketball gambling scandal of 1951, in addition to assisting the Museum's Education Department on an oral history project. **Laura Mandel** wrote about Black Jews in New York City and worked hands-on with the Museum's Collection. **G.J. Melendez-Torres** researched the development of Reconstructionism in America and helped the curatorial staff organize information about objects that will be used in the core exhibition.

Scheduled to open in the fall of 2010, the Museum is constructing a landmark building. With a total building size of 100,000 square feet,



Artist's rendering of the new NMAJH building

and 25,000 square feet dedicated to its core exhibition, the Museum's new building will be the largest institution of its kind devoted specifically to exhibiting and educating about the American Jewish experience. Using historical objects, cutting-edge technology, hands-on interactives, and narrative storytelling, the Museum's core exhibition will highlight how and when Jews immigrated to America, the choices they faced, the challenges they confronted, and the ways in which they shaped, and were shaped by, their American home.

JEWISH LANGUAGES AT PENN

Hebrew

The Modern Hebrew Language Program offers four semesters of coursework in Hebrew, stressing oral communication, reading with comprehension, and written expression, plus a third year of courses designed to serve as a bridge to reading modern Hebrew literature and expository texts. Program faculty, under the supervision of Coordinator **Ronit Engel**, have been pioneers in developing web-based instructional materials. This year Professor Engel supervised the creation of a new website for the program, which provides a portal to a wide range of information and activities concerning Hebrew and Israeli culture. The program also offers students the opportunity to meet with major Israeli writers whose works they have studied in class and to discuss their work with them in Hebrew. During the past year writers **Hamutal Bar-Yosef** and **Yehudit Katzir** came to campus to speak to Hebrew students, and the program hosted **David Polansky**, chief illustrator and art designer of the highly acclaimed Israeli film, *Waltz With Bashir*.

Yiddish

Since 1993, Penn has offered regular courses in Yiddish language and courses in translation, on Jewish American literature, Yiddish writing in Eastern Europe, women writers, Jewish film and literature, and issues of cultural translation. Last year, the Jewish Studies Program offered three courses in Yiddish language, as well as an independent study, and three in Jewish literature and culture in translation. Last year, both beginning and intermediate level Yiddish classes were offered. Continuing the practice of previous years, **Kathryn Hellerstein** and

Alexander Botwinik enriched the classroom experience by introducing their students to Yiddish and Jewish culture through resources in Philadelphia. In Spring 2009, the students in Hellerstein's GRMN 263 took a walking tour of Jewish Philadelphia from the Colonial period through the early 19th century. Botwinik led the Yiddish students in two Yiddish sing-alongs in November and in March, joined by the Penn Klezmer Orchestra, a new student ensemble. In addition, the students from YDSH 101, 102, and 103, attended sessions on Yiddish songs and culture, by **Bob Freedman** in the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive at Penn. The students in GRMN 263 had a session in the Freedman Archive on Yiddish American songs and the students in GRMN 264 had a session in the Freedman archives on translating songs.

Ladino

In the last three years, the Jewish Studies Program has also begun offering a new course in Ladino, also known as Judaeo-Spanish. Taught by visiting lecturer **Daisy Braverman**, this new course has broadened Penn's instruction in Jewish languages and has linked our program to Penn's Spanish program.

KEDMA

Thanks to a generous gift from the **Newton Fund**, the Jewish Studies Program supports the student-led journal, *Kedma: Penn's Journal on Jewish Thought, Jewish Culture, and Israel*. In addition to providing funding for the journal, several JSP faculty members serve as advisors to the undergraduates who publish the journal. *Kedma* is embarking on its fifth year and ninth issue. Featuring a wide assortment of essays, reviews, interviews, creative pieces and more, *Kedma* is a forum for Penn students and faculty to discuss, debate, and challenge ideas about Judaism, Jewish society, and Israel. It seeks to bridge the political and religious spectrum by providing an open and intellectually honest forum for both Jews and non-Jews, conservatives and liberals. It also seeks to engage and excite Jews at Penn who are not normally active within the Jewish community, and to stimulate and challenge those who are. For more information, go to *Kedma's* website at <http://www.hillel.upenn.edu/kedma/about.html>, or email kedmajournal@gmail.com.



Kedma's Issue 8: Spring 2009 cover

GRUSS VISITING PROFESSOR IN TALMUDIC LAW

In 1987, Mr. Joseph S. Gruss, through a bequest from his wife Caroline's estate, established the **Caroline Zelasnik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Chair in Talmudic Civil Law** at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Since then, nearly every year, the Gruss Chair has brought a distinguished scholar specializing in some area of Jewish law to the Penn Law School. Past chair holders include Professors Hayyim Soloveichik, Josef Stern, Aaron Kirschenbaum, and Moshe Halbertal, and Israel Supreme Court Justices Manahem Elon and Yitzhak Englard.

This year, **Suzanne Last Stone**, Law School Professor at Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, served as the Gruss Professor. Professor Stone taught a course in the Penn Law School and delivered the Gruss Lectures. The lectures focused on the subject of "Religion and the State of Israel: Views from Within Jewish Law." The lectures were widely attended.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Jeffrey Tigay was honored at a session of the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. The session was called "Biblical Narrative, Law, and History: Interrelationships and Methods. In Honor of Professor Barry L. Eichler and of Professor Jeffrey H. Tigay, on the Occasion of their retirement from teaching at the University of Pennsylvania." Prof. Tigay was honored with a *Festschrift* entitled *Mishneh Todab: Studies in Deuteronomy and Its Cultural Environment in Honor of Jeffrey H. Tigay*, edited by Nili Sacher Fox, David A. Glatt-Gilad, and Michael J. Williams. It was published by Eisenbrauns (Winona Lake, Indiana) in 2009.

Jessica Goldberg won the 2009 Charles Ludwig Distinguished Teaching Prize from the College Alumni Society and received a University Research Fund Grant for research for a project entitled "Waterlogged flax, Syrian soap, and spicy cinnamon: Geographies of trade and traders in the Medieval Mediterranean."

Liliane Weissberg was awarded an Honorary Membership from the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia.

Nili Gold's book, *Yehuda Amichai: The Making of Israel's National Poet*, was awarded the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) publication grant for 2008.

About Our Faculty

Dan Ben-Amos taught a Freshmen Seminar on Problems in Folklore and Jewish Folklore in the fall and Jewish Humor and Narrative Across Cultures in the spring. The May 22, 2009 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* included an article on folklore and fairy tales for which Ben-Amos was interviewed.

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik is a Yiddish lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching Yiddish, Alexander teaches music and choir at Har Zion Temple, and music at the Kaiserman JCC, and coordinates the annual choral youth-Zimria (song festival) sponsored by United Synagogue. In the fall of 2008, Alexander performed with the singer Sherm Labovitz in two Yiddish concerts: at the University of Pennsylvania and at Haverford College, and in June at a concert in Germantown. Haverford College was also the location of another concert, in May, featuring tenor Richard Lenatsky and soprano Judith Bro Pinhasik, with special guest Dina Malka Botwinik. The concert featured music by David Botwinik, whose compositions have been compiled and engraved by his son, Alexander. The League for Yiddish, New York, is publishing the songbook, entitled "From Holocaust to Life," in 2009.

Daisy Braverman, lecturer of Judeo-Spanish, worked on the translation into English of contemporary Judeo-Spanish poetry and collaborated on the editing of the translations. She also delivered a lecture on Judeo-Spanish at the University of Delaware and was on a panel in New York City this spring, where she lectured on the history of the Jews in the Republic of Turkey and on the language of the Sephardic Jews there during that period.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, continues to teach Biblical Hebrew at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College as well. This year he published the *Leviticus* volume of *The Commentators' Bible*, his English translation of the traditional commentaries of the *Miqra'ot Gedolot*. Work on the *Numbers* volume is well advanced. He continued to publish book reviews and is still patiently waiting for his legendary article on "Syntactic Double Translation in the Targumim" ("forthcoming" since 2004) to appear in print. He did have the honor to publish an article on "A Deuteronomic Voice in the Joseph Story" in *Mishneh Todah*, the *Festschrift* for Jeffrey Tigay. This past summer, he led a weekly class on the story of David and Solomon for Minyan Sulam Yaakov in Center City. He also started a weekly "Torah Talk" podcast, which can be found at <http://torahtalk.michaelcarasik.com/>.

Ronit Engel continued to work on her various projects in curriculum development and instructional materials, including a graded reader of texts from the contemporary Israeli newspaper and periodical press and a web-based interactive program for teaching Hebrew grammar. She also continued to play an active role in activities aimed at bringing the

contemporary Israeli literary scene to the attention of Penn students, most notably by initiating the visit to campus of the noted Israeli novelist and short-story writer Yehudit Katzir. Professor Engel spent the summer in Israel and Europe participating in an international conference marking the ninetieth anniversary of Habima, Israel's national theatre, and the annual meeting of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH), in addition to several symposia devoted to the work of various Israeli authors and workshops on the latest techniques in Hebrew language pedagogy.

Natalie Dohrmann is Adjunct Assistant Professor in Religious Studies. She is also the Executive Editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and Director of Publications at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Penn Press recently published *Jewish Interpretation and Cultural Exchange: Comparative Exegesis in Context*, which she co-edited with David Stern. There, she has an article titled "Law as Cultural Narrative: Reading Slavery in Tannaitic Sources." She is currently co-editing a volume with Annette Yoshiko Reed, which builds from the May 2008 conference, Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity at the Katz Center.

Talya Fishman, Associate Professor and Acting Chair of Religious Studies, served as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Toronto's Centre for Jewish Studies in January of 2009. Her public lecture was entitled, "From Oral Torah to Glossed Text: The Changing Uses of Talmud in Medieval Ashkenazi Culture," and the seminar for faculty and graduate students that she led concerned "Medieval Responses to the Textualization of Jewish Culture." An article she completed this year, "Guarding Oral Transmission: Within and Between Cultures," to be published in the journal *Oral Tradition*, explores whether the motives that led rabbis of late antiquity to insist that some knowledge was only to be transmitted orally were identical to the motives that led early Muslim scholars to insist that *hadith* traditions not be committed to writing. Prof. Fishman also gave a presentation entitled "How Disparate Modes of Transmitting Ancient Rabbinic Tradition Shaped Medieval Jewish Subcultures" at a works-in-progress seminar of the Jewish Studies Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania.

Nili R. Gold, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, released an English language book *Yehuda Amichai: The Making of Israel's National Poet* last fall. In addition to teaching, Gold was on an extensive lecture tour last year. In the fall, she presented her linguistic findings on Amichai at the international conference on "German and German Culture in Hebrew Literature" at the University of Heidelberg, Germany and traveled to Israel, where her book, and the archival findings included in it, were the topic of a symposium at Ben Gurion University. At the Association for Jewish Studies' annual conference, Gold presented a paper



Robert Freedman, L'54, and Molly Freedman on their 50th anniversary.

on Amichai and the construction of the Israeli self. In the spring, she delivered the 52nd Annual Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture and spoke at NYC's 92nd Street Y, Georgetown University, Brandeis University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and other venues. Over the summer, Gold began research for her next book about an Israeli city.

Jessica L. Goldberg, Assistant Professor of Medieval History, is on leave this year. Having been awarded a Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors by the School of Historical Studies, she is a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, NJ, for the full academic year. She is working on a new project entitled "Syrian soap and spicy cinnamon: trade in the twelfth-century Mediterranean." She will also be a participant in the Social Norms Workshop at Princeton University, where she presented an invited talk last fall, "Business, businessmen and work in the medieval Mediterranean: reconsidering the 'Maghribi' traders." She is currently revising an article on the same subject for publication, and completing her book manuscript "A Bale on the Beach: the World of Medieval Mediterranean Business." Goldberg offered three new undergraduate courses last year (Holy Wars: Medievals and Moderns, The Mediterranean, 1000-1300, and Medieval Lives) and received the 2009 Charles Ludwig Distinguished Teaching Award of the College of Arts and Sciences for her work. The work done by the freshmen in her Holy Wars course with materials in Penn's Rare Books and Manuscripts Collections was featured in the *New York Times*' "Education Life." She participated in this year's seminar at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, "Jews, Commerce, and Culture" as an adjunct fellow, chairing sessions of the Meltzer seminar and Gruss colloquium.

Kathryn Hellerstein, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages, continues to serve as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program. Hellerstein's recent articles appeared, or are forthcoming, in *Zutot* (Amsterdam); *Modern Jewish Literatures: Intersections and Boundaries*, eds. Sheila Jelen, Michael Kramer, Scott Lerner (University of Pennsylvania Press); and *Radical Poetics and Secular Jewish Culture*, eds. Stephen Paul Miller and Dan Morris (University of Alabama Press). Her translations of Yiddish poetry by Kadya Molodowsky, Rivke Basman Ben-Hayim, Hadassah Rubin, and Miriam Ulinover appeared in *A Sea of Voices: Women Poets in Israel* (ed. Marjorie Agosin, Sherman Asher Publishing, 2008) and in *Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality: A Sourcebook*, (revised edition.

(continued on page 18)

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies



Robin and Brad Klatt during the dinner program of the Fifteenth Annual Gruss Colloquium in April.

THE KLATT FAMILY GIFT

Robin and Brad Klatt have made a major gift to endow the position of Director for Public Programs at the Katz Center. Acknowledging the generosity of the Klatt family, David Ruderman spoke during the Fifteenth Annual Gruss Colloquium about the special rapport between this family and the Katz Center. Brad Klatt expressed his appreciation for the Center as a pivotal landmark of Jewish education and highlighted the significance of creating exciting and relevant public programs for various audiences.

2008–2009 AT THE KATZ CENTER

Jews, Commerce, and Culture

The participants in this year's program, "Jews, Commerce, and Culture," were an impressive group of scholars from countries around the

world including Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, and Poland, as well as the United States and Israel. This year provided an exciting opportunity for reconsidering Jewish economic history unapologetically and rethinking the multiple connections between Jews' commercial and cultural lives. The conversation was extraordinarily fruitful as was evidenced by the diversity and range of topics of the fellows and other scholars. **Rebecca Kobrin** (Columbia University) and **Adam Teller** (Haifa University) have been appointed the editors of a volume that will include the scholarly fruits of this year at the Katz Center. The Gruss colloquium is made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W'64**.

Fall 2008 Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History

In November 2008, **Derek Penslar** (University of Toronto) delivered the Twelfth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture. In his lecture "The Military as a Jewish Career in Modern Europe," Penslar spoke about the military careers of Jewish officers, particularly those in France. The collective memory of Jewish military experience in France has long been shaped by the Dreyfus Affair and its aftermath. It has been assumed that Jews were both underrepresented and discriminated against in the French ranks in the 19th and 20th centuries. Through meticulous archival research, Penslar showed that the presence of Jews in the French military was far greater than previously believed—hundreds of Jewish officers enrolled in French preparatory institutions for military officers, for example, and Jewish officers were highly visible in the

engineering and artillery corps. From the existing record, there is little evidence of systemic prejudice prior to the zenith of the Dreyfus Affair at the end of the 1800s. Moreover, Jewish officers routinely married Jewish women of elevated social status, suggesting that the French army enhanced the social and economic mobility of Jewish males who pursued military careers. Through the life stories of Jewish officers, Penslar was able to shed new light on the relationship between Jews and French society as a whole.

2008–2009 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

This year's fellowship program generated great interest in the wider Jewish community and beyond. As in previous years, fellows from the Katz Center participated in a series of lectures in synagogues throughout Greater Philadelphia from January through March. Reflecting the richness and relevance of this year's program, the lectures included such topics as Jewish art patronage in America, Jews trading in old clothing, and the contribution of Jews to the production of rock-'n-roll music. Fellows also participated in a three part lecture series in New York City under the auspices of Centro Primo Levi. For the first time, the Katz Center collaborated with the Wharton School in a series titled "Jews and Business: Myth and Reality." This series attracted hundreds of people and was covered by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. On *Radio Times*, Marty Moss-Coane interviewed fellows **Jonathan Karp** and **Adam Teller**. They, along with other fellows, brought nuance and historical perspective to this relatively neglected chapter of the Jewish past.



Professor Glenn Dynner (Sarah Lawrence College) speaks on "Jews and the Liquor Trade in Nineteenth-Century Poland" at Beth Sholom Congregation in March.

The fellows participating in the 2009–2010 fellowship program, “Secularism and Its Discontents,” are a remarkable group of scholars, and come to us from Germany, Israel, and the United States. The fellows will engage in a critical analysis of the notions of secularization, the secular, and secularism and their effects on religious, intellectual, and political life. The topics explore both the theological aspects of secularism and the inseparability of the secular from any modern idea of religion. Such an analysis will deepen our understanding of modern Jewish history and culture, as well as the relationship between Jews and non-Jews from antiquity onward.

2009–2010 Fellows:

Annette Aronowicz

The Secularism of a Yiddish Communist: Haim Sloves
Franklin and Marshall College
Martin Gruss Fellowship
Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship

Michal Ben-Horin

New Music and Jewish Secularization
University of Florida
Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship

Yael Feldman (F)

The Contested Near-Sacrifice: Rewriting Isaac in Tel-Aviv
New York University
Selma Ruben Fellowship

Jonathan Gribetz

Religion, Religious Reform and Secularism in the Nationalisms of Late Ottoman Palestine
Columbia University
Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship

Alexander Jaskowicz (S)

Anticlericalism and the Birth of Jewish Secularism in Germany and France, 1783–1905
Vanderbilt University
Albert J. Wood Fellowship

Ethan Katz

Jews and Muslims in France: Conflicting Identities and Republican Culture in the Twentieth Century
University of Cincinnati
Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (S)

Secularism and Orientalism from a Jewish Perspective
Ben-Gurion University
Samuel T. Lachs Fellowship
Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship

Eva Lezzi

Nineteenth-century Civil Marriage & Inter-marriage: Within the Contexts of Secularization and Neo-Orthodoxy
University of Potsdam
Primo Levi Fellowship

Rachel Manekin (S)

The Struggle of Galician Maskilim against Religious Enthusiasm: The Roots of Secularization
University of Maryland
Rebell Family Fellowship

David Myers

An American Shtetl: Politics and Piety in Kiryas Joel, New York
University of California, L.A.
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship

Ilana Pardes (F)

The Song of Songs in Israeli Culture: Agnon’s Somnambulist Lovers
Hebrew University
Golub Family Fellowship

2009–2010 Public Programs

The fellows participating in the public programs this year will challenge the common belief that modern Jewish life traces a linear trajectory from the religious to the secular. Just as it is clear today that religion remains an important factor despite the dominance of secularism in modern Jewish life, so the relationship between the two poles is complex and evolving. The fellows will ask such questions as how did Jews respond historically to seemingly “secular” concepts such as science, toleration, or the state? How did the advent of the State of Israel redefine the categories of “religious” and “secular”? How did Jewish poets, novelists, and musicians reconcile the tension between religion and secularism in their cultural products? The 2010 Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies will run from January to March in the greater Philadelphia area. If you would like more information about our public programs, please contact **Etty Lassman** at lassman@sas.upenn.edu or consult our website at: <http://www.cajs.upenn.edu> and click on Public Programs.

Rachel Rojanski

Secular Jews and their Shulkhan Arukh: Religion and the Secularization of American Jewry, 1881–1950
University of Haifa
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship

Andrea Schatz (F)

Fragments of Visibility: Religion, Culture, and the “Orient” in Western Ashkenaz, 1700–1840
King’s College London
Ella Darivoff Fellowship

Christoph Schulte

Jewish Philosophy of History and Messianism
University of Potsdam
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship

Daniel Schwartz (F)

The First Secular Jew: Spinoza and the Making of an Image
George Washington University
Louis and Bessie Stein Fellowship

Galili Shahar

The Un-Sacred Language: Metaphysics of the New Hebrew and the Dialectic of Secularization
University of Florida
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship

Scott Ury (F)

Individual and Community in Lodz, Odessa and Warsaw, 1861–1914
Tel-Aviv University
Weiner Family Fellowship
Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship

Yael Zerubavel

Out of Time: Remembering the ‘Bygone’ in Israeli Culture
Rutgers University
Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship

Adjunct Fellows

- Arye Edrei**, Tel-Aviv University
- Carlos Fraenkel**, McGill University
- Larry Silver**, University of Pennsylvania
- Michael Steinlauf**, Gratz College
- Adam Teller**, University of Haifa
- Short Term Fellows**
- Michael Brenner**, University of Munich
- Shmuel Feiner**, Bar-Ilan University
- Maurice Kriegel**, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales/Paris
- Vivian Liska**, University of Antwerp
- Shira Wolosky**, Hebrew University



Fellows and guests during a seminar in April of Jonathan Dekel-Chen (Hebrew University) titled “Mapping Transnational Jewish Philanthropy.”

2008-2009 Special Events and Programs

MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Thirteenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History was a lecture entitled "The Military as a Jewish Career in Modern Europe" with **Derek J. Penslar** (University of Toronto) on November 17, 2008. The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program Kutchin Faculty Seminar Series, the Department of History, and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

The Meyerhoff Lecture was established in 1997 through the generosity of a gift from the **Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Foundation** to honor the appointment of the late **Herbert Katz, W'51**, as the chair of the Board of CAJS. Herb and Ellie Katz have been among the most devoted supporters of Jewish Studies at Penn. Their gifts include the Joseph Meyerhoff Chair in Modern Jewish History, the Katz Family Term Chair in American Jewish History, and the Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship at the Center.

SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Thirteenth Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program was a talk by Professor **Jonathan Karp** (SUNY Binghamton), entitled "Jews and the Business of Rock 'n' Roll." Karp discussed significant roles that Jews in the 1940s and 1950s played in the entertainment industry, especially the production and sale of commercial black music, "rhythm and blues." **Guthrie P. Ramsey Jr.**, of Penn's Music department, a specialist in African American music, served as the respondent and initiated a lively discussion about race, ethnicity, and the music industry.

The lecture on February 17, 2009, was co-sponsored with the Center for Africana Studies and the Department of History.

The Silvers Visiting Scholar program, endowed by **Patricia, CW'72**, and **David Silvers, C'71**, was established to bring distinguished scholars to campus to interact with students and other members of the university community.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium was a talk entitled "Piety and Gender: Toward an Outline of the Religious Practice of Medieval Jewish Men and Women," by **Elisheva Baumgarten**, a senior lecturer in the Department of Jewish History and the Gender Studies Graduate Program at Bar Ilan University, on October 28, 2008.

The Joseph Alexander Colloquium, Penn's oldest endowment lectureship in Jewish Studies, is supported through the generosity of the **Joseph Alexander Foundation** and the **Mackler Family**.

KUTCHIN SEMINARS IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Kutchin seminars are supported by the generosity of **Mel Kutchin, C'50**, and the late **Mitzi Kutchin**.

"The Secret War with Iran: The 30-Year Clandestine Struggle Against the World's Most Dangerous Terrorist Power," with **Ronen Bergman**, senior security and intelligence correspondent and analyst for the Israeli newspaper, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, co-sponsored by Penn Hillel, on September 12, 2008.



l to r: Professors Beth Wenger (Penn), Elisheva Baumgarten (Bar Ilan University), and Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn) before the Alexander program.

"How Do We See Each Other? Classic and Contemporary Views of Jews, Christians, and Muslims Toward the Other," with **Reuven Firestone** (Hebrew Union College), co-sponsored by Penn Hillel, KESHER, Christian Association, Newman Center, PRISM, Greenfield Intercultural Center, and the Office of the Chaplain, on September 17, 2008.

"Screening of *Nuremberg, The Nazis Facing Their Crimes*," with **Christian Delage** (Yeshiva University), co-sponsored by Cinema Studies, on September 17, 2008.

"*Anti-Semitism in the Freud Case Histories*," with **Harold P. Blum**, Executive Director of The Sigmund Freud Archives and **Benjamin Nathans** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia, on September 24, 2008.

"Christianity, Idolatry, and the Question of Hebrew Figural Painting in the Middle Ages," with **Katrin Kogman-Appel** (Ben Gurion University), co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and the History of Art department, on November 3, 2008.

"Yiddish Concert," with **Sherm Labovitz** and **Alexander Botwinik**, co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Penn Hillel, on November 11, 2008.

"The Synagogue and European Jewish History," with **David Sorkin** (University of Wisconsin-Madison), co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Department of History, on November 11, 2008.

"The Affair on Screen," co-sponsored by the Rare Book and Manuscripts Library in conjunction with the Lorraine Beidler collection of the Dreyfus Affair, on November 13, 2008.



(l to r) Professors Guthrie Ramsey, Jr. (Penn), Beth Wenger (Penn) and Jonathan Karp (SUNY Binghamton) before the Silvers program.

“The Military as a Jewish Career in Modern Europe,” with **Derek J. Penslar** (University of Toronto), co-sponsored by the Department of History, and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, on November 17, 2008.

Book discussion: *Dearest Anne* with Israeli author, **Yehudit Katzir**, co-sponsored by the Middle East Center, on November 24, 2008.

“Refined Jews’: Yikhes and Social Status in the (Post)-Soviet Shetl,” with **Anna N. Kushkova** (European University at St. Petersburg), co-sponsored by the Folklore and Folklife Program, on November 24, 2008.

“The New Face of Holocaust Denial: The Case of Lithuania,” with **Dovid Katz** (Vilnius Yiddish Institute), co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Penn Hillel, on November 24, 2008.

“Public Panel on Islamophobia and Comedy,” with **Dr. Rahim Armat** (Kodoom.com), **Mucahit Bilici** (CUNY John Jay), and **Jordan Elgrably** (The Levantine Center and Sultans of Satire), co-sponsored by the Middle East Center, Center for Africana Studies, and South Asia Center, on January 16, 2009.

“A Head Without a Body? Reconstructing the History of Jews in Business,” with **Jonathan Karp** (SUNY Binghamton), co-sponsored by the Wharton/Katz Center Lecture Series on “Jews in Business: Between Myth and Reality,” on January 20, 2009.

“Richard Popkin’s Jewish Questions,” with **Jeremy Popkin** (University of Kentucky), co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, on January 21, 2009.

“Kinship, Commerce, and Trade Networks: The Early Modern Sephardic Diaspora,” with **Evelyne Oliel-Grausz** (University of Paris I, Sorbonne), co-sponsored by Wharton/Katz Center Lecture Series on “Jews in Business: Between Myth and Reality,” on January 28, 2009.

A discussion with **Natan Sharansky**, Israeli politician, co-sponsored by Jewish National Fund, Penn Hillel, Penn Israel Coalition, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, on February 2, 2009.



Professor Dovid Katz (Vilnius Yiddish Institute) giving his talk at Steinhardt Hall in November.



Professor Raymond Scheindlin (Jewish Theological Seminary) speaking at Kelly Writers House in February.

Book Discussion, *Song of the Distant Dove: Pilgrimage Poems by Judah Halevi* (Oxford University Press, 2007), with **Raymond Scheindlin** (Jewish Theological Seminary of America), co-sponsored by the Kelly Writers House, on February 3, 2009.

“Before Rothschild: Jewish Businessmen in Eighteenth Century Eastern Europe,” with **Adam Teller** (University of Haifa), co-sponsored by the Wharton/Katz Center Lecture Series on “Jews in Business: Between Myth and Reality,” on February 4, 2009.

“Jews in China: Legends, History, and Perspectives,” with **Guang Pan** (Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai, Shanghai Center for International Studies), co-sponsored by Penn Hillel, and the Center for East Asian Studies, on February 20, 2009.

Film Screening: *Adio Kerida*, with **Ruth Behar** (University of Michigan), co-sponsored by the Annenberg School, the Department of Anthropology, Cinema Studies, and the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, on February 20, 2009.

“The Rhetoric of the Stereotype: MISreading Medieval Jewish-Christian Relations,” with **Anthony Bale** (University of London), co-sponsored by Comparative Literature Program, the Department of History, and the Department of Religious Studies, on March 24, 2009.

“The Possible Worlds of Bruno Schulz,” with **Michal Pawel Markowski** (Jagiellonian University and Brown University), co-sponsored by Theorizing-Series, the Department of History, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, on April 6, 2009.



Historian Jeremy Popkin (University of Kentucky) speaking to faculty and graduate students in January.

Upcoming in 2010

A conference on “Gender in Judaism and Islam”

Monday, March 22, 2010

This conference will help to elicit and engage emerging ideas in these two rapidly evolving fields. This conference presents a unique opportunity for Penn to promote a cross-cultural dialogue of great contemporary relevance. At a time when political and cultural events often position these cultures in opposition, it is especially worthwhile to explore the relationship between them. We hope this conference will be a catalyst for discussion and intend to continue the dialogue with seminars and speakers after its conclusion. Moreover, given the dearth of comparative writing on gender in these two cultures, the volume that emerges from the conference will make a lasting scholarly contribution.

Judaica at Penn's Libraries

JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt Library, at the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library and at the University Museum—continue to grow as an integrated unit within the University Libraries system under the management of **Arthur Kiron**, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections. The staff of the Library at the Katz Center – **Michelle Chesner**, Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist; **Judith Leifer**, who oversees the Inter-Library Loan program for the Fellows, and **Josef Gulka, G'70**, who supervises circulation – provided an exceptionally high level of service, both in terms of quantity and quality. Overall, Penn's Judaica staff responded to over 5,000 public service contacts, shelved over 5,000 volumes, administered the circulation of over 1,000 rare items, and filled over 500 Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.



Michelle Chesner, new Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist at the Katz Center.

NEW JUDAICA PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST HIRED!

We are delighted to announce that Michelle Chesner began working as the Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist at the Penn Libraries on January 5, 2009. Chesner comes to us with impressive credentials. In December of 2008, she completed a joint Masters degree, called the Masters and Mentors program at New York University in Hebrew and Judaic Studies and at Long Island University in Library and Information Sciences (MLIS), with a certificate in Rare Books and Special Collections. Before that, Michelle graduated

summa cum laude from the University of Maryland. In addition to her strong background in Jewish Studies, Michelle has specialized training in the field of rare books, archives, and manuscripts. As part of her graduate training she interned at the Special Collections department of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She also completed a course on manuscripts and incunabula at the University of Virginia's renowned Rare Book School and has worked for the Kestenbaum and Company auction house and thus has an insider's view of the world of the book trade. Her office is at the Library at the Katz Center and she also serves as the Judaica reference resource contact for the entire Penn community.

NEW KATZ CAJS/LIBRARY WEB EXHIBIT!

To mark the conclusion of the 2008-09 year of research, the Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a beautiful virtual exhibit "Jews, Commerce, and Culture." To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows09/>. To view past Katz CAJS/Library Web exhibits, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/>.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

50th Anniversary Concert and Celebration in Honor of Robert and Molly Freedman

Le-hayim! Fifty years of marriage and music! 2009 marked the fiftieth anniversary of **Robert Freedman, L'54**, and **Molly Freedman's** marriage and the fiftieth birthday of their world-famous collection of Jewish sound recordings. To honor the Freedmans and to celebrate the occasion, the Penn Libraries organized a public concert at Irvine Auditorium on Monday, April 6, 2009, featuring **Ken Ulansey** and the Ken Ulansey Ensemble. The Freedmans are native Philadelphians who grew up in bilingual Yiddish and English speaking homes. Their common backgrounds and common love of *Yiddishkayt* – Jewish culture made for a perfect match. Shortly after they married, Molly suggested they should buy Jewish musical recordings wherever they traveled. Thanks to her foresight, the Freedman collection contains the broadest spectrum of Jewish music from across the U.S, Canada, Argentina, British Isles, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Russia, and Ukraine. The Freedman Jewish Sound Archive is also the beneficiary of gifts of recordings, books, sheet music, and ephemera from myriad donors. Today, the

Freedman Archive has grown to be one of the largest in the world and without question the most accessible resource of its kind because of the Freedman's unparalleled public database of over 30,000 searchable sound recordings. The Freedmans themselves are unique cultural treasures who voluntarily provide a worldwide music reference service. Queries have been received from Alaska to Uzbekistan, from performers, composers, clergy, educators, choral directors, music therapists, audio, video and film producers, authors and representatives of various libraries, academic and research institutions. Most interesting are the requests from individuals searching for a song or prayer sung by a parent or grandparent from only the memory of a fragment or phrase. The Freedmans also regularly deliver public lectures to Penn classes, community groups, and are invited to speak at prestigious institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

Ninth Annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book

On May 10 and 11, the Penn Libraries joined with the Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to host the ninth annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the history of the Jewish book. This year's topic was "The Traditional Eastern European Jewish Book, 1500-1900." Professor **Moshe Rosman**, of the Department of Jewish History at Bar Ilan University, led the sessions. Once again, the Lehmann workshop, held at the Katz Center, attracted a full house. We extend our thanks to the **Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation** for their generous support, and also recognize and thank **Albert Friedberg**, the **Lucius N. Littauer Foundation**, the **University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation**, and **Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66**, for additional funding.



Professor Moshe Rosman (Bar Ilan University), speaker at 2009 Lehmann Workshop



Group of librarians, faculty, and graduate students at 2009 Lehmann Workshop.

Special Feature: Penn Libraries Acquire Lenkin Family Collection of Photography

A major gift from **Edward Lenkin, C'71, PAR'12**, has enabled the Penn Libraries to acquire an outstanding collection of historical photographs of the Holy Land and Middle East. The Lenkin Family Collection of Photography at the Penn Libraries comprises 3,763 original photographs, primarily of Jerusalem and Palestine, taken from 1850 to 1937. These photographs will serve as primary source materials for teaching and research across a broad spectrum of disciplines, including the history of photography, architecture, regional planning, religious studies, history, and political science. In addition to cataloging and conserving the photographs, Penn plans to digitize them, making the Lenkin Family Collection available to scholars and researchers worldwide. Edward Lenkin is an active supporter of Penn's undergraduate financial aid and alumni development initiatives, and has an avid interest in photography. He saw in this collection the compelling beauty of the images, captured by some of the world's first photographers, and was captivated by the ways in which the collection illustrates the transformation of photography from a rudimentary means of visual representation to a new form of art.

The photographs were collected over the course of some 35 years by **Paola and Bertrand Lazard**. What began as a way for Paola to maintain a connection with her life in Israel after moving to France developed into what is regarded by experts as the finest private collection of its kind. These photos are original witnesses to the architecture, topography, and archeological exploration of the Holy Land from the earliest days of photography into the 1930s. The collection also includes 813 additional photo-reproductions, a reference library

of nearly 100 secondary sources, and an extensive archive of notes and documents. Among the photographs are dozens of images of the Wailing Wall and stunning panoramas of Jerusalem as seen from the Mount of Olives and Mount Scopus.

Complementing the Lenkin Family Collection of Photography are 151 rare and important books also collected by the Lazard family, and purchased at auction in 2008 by the Penn Libraries through a generous gift from **Jay Penske, W'01**, a member of the Penn Libraries Board of Overseers. The books document five centuries of western engagement with the Holy Land, and include travel narratives and guides, memoirs, missionary accounts, maps, and reports from engineers, archaeologists, and geologists.

Taken together, the Lenkin Family Collection of Photography and the rare books acquired through Jay Penske's gift will benefit the research community at Penn and beyond. The unique and comprehensive scope of the collections make them valuable resources for interdisciplinary scholarship, particularly in Penn's School of Design, the School of Arts and Sciences, the Annenberg School for Communication, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the University Museum. It also complements Penn's outstanding existing institutional holdings in the early history of photography, such as the famous Muybridge instantaneous photographs of animal locomotion, published under Penn auspices in 1887.

Thanks to the generosity of **Audrey Merves, CW'56, PAR'79, PAR'92**, and the **Louie and Bessie Stein Foundation #2**, we are building a special, state of the art housing unit to store the photographs at the Library at the Katz Center.

NEW ACQUISITIONS:

The Samuel T. Lachs Collection Gift

We are delighted to announce that the family of the late **Samuel T. Lachs, C'46, PAR'74**, a distinguished professor of rabbinic literature and the early history of Christianity at Bryn Mawr College, has donated the precious and important library collection of their husband and father to the Penn Libraries. This collection reflects the passionate interest Professor Lachs took in all aspects of Jewish culture. Among the many treasures our students will now be able to consult in person are select tractates from the first printings of the Bomberg Talmud (Shavu'ot, Hulin, Hagigah, Yoma), published in Venice between 1520 and 1523. There are also important sixteenth-century imprints from the printing house of Bragadin in Venice and from Abraham Usque in Ferrara. The Lachs collection includes some of the first Hebrew books ever printed in the Ottoman Empire, such as rare first editions of midrashic literature (Istanbul, 1512) and early talmudic tractates (Istanbul, 1588). The collection will be known as the Samuel T. Lachs collection. The Katz Center and its library extend our deepest appreciation and thanks to **Phyllis Lachs, CW'52, I'82, PAR'74, Susanna Lachs, CW'74, ASC'76, PAR'11, Michael Lachs, and Joshua Lachs** for this most generous and important gift.

The Israel Biderman Library of Judaica

Rachel Biderman has donated the library collection of her late husband Professor **Israel Biderman**, a scholar, educator, and biographer of Meir Balaban, the outstanding historian of Polish Jewry. The Biderman collection consists of 498 volumes of scholarly and literary works in Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Polish, Russian, and English and is particularly strong in its holdings of early State of Israel publications.

Margy and Martin Meyerson Collection of Early State of Israel Ephemera

Margy Meyerson, G'93, has donated, in memory of her late husband **Martin Meyerson, HON'70**, former president of the University of Pennsylvania, a collection of 113 items, consisting of ephemeral pamphlets, maps, photographs, brochures, bulletins, policy papers, booklists, investment prospectuses, tourist industry material, as well as government publications, off-prints, monographs and individual serials volumes, documenting the early decades of the modern State of Israel. In addition to these printed works, Margy Meyerson also donated four beautiful hand-painted Oriental Jewish amulets written on the back of manuscript leaves written in Arabic. They are undated but appear to have been made sometime in the first half of the 20th century,

perhaps for a tourist market, as **Shalom Sabar**, a professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a world authority in the field of Jewish art history, has been kind enough to suggest to us.

The Rin Library

We are delighted to share the news that **Ruth Rin, CW'66, CGS'04, PAR'05**, Hebraica Cataloging Librarian at the Penn Libraries, has donated the scholarly library of her parents – Prof. Svi Rin and Shifra Rin. The collection consists of 494 titles in twelve languages, including Akkadian, Arabic, Aramaic, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Sumerian, Syriac, and Ugaritic. Its wide-ranging subject matter covers the history of Semitic and Biblical studies, culture, linguistics, and literature. The late Prof. Rin was a leading authority in the field of Semitic studies and taught at Penn from 1960 to 1982 in the Department of Oriental Studies (now called Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations or NELC). Among his published books are two editions of *Acts of the Gods: The Ugaritic Epic Poetry* (1968 and 1996) the latter co-authored with his wife, Shifra Rin; *Biblical Aramaic* (1972); and *Third Column of Acts of the Gods* (1979 and 1992). He also published a collection of short stories and poetry. Shifra Rin is a retired Penn librarian, who served as Hebraica Cataloger and Bibliographer from 1964 to 1983. The collection, now fully cataloged and searchable on-line, again thanks to Ruth Rin, is officially titled “From the Library of Prof. Svi Rin and Shifra Rin.”

Oriental Torah Scroll donated to the Penn Libraries

In December of 2008, the Penn Libraries received an Oriental Scroll of the Pentateuch (*Sefer Torah*) from an anonymous donor. This *Sefer Torah*, which originates possibly from South Arabia, and dates from the 18th or 19th centuries C.E. contains the first Five Books of Moses handwritten in black ink on parchment according to the strictest rules of rabbinic practice. This particular *Sefer Torah* reveals how such scrolls were made in the Near East: clearly visible are its stitching, writing surface (deerskin), scribal hand and column layout, featuring the somewhat unusual method of inscribing 50 lines per column, a characteristic of the Yemenite tradition. Each column of the scroll begins with the Hebrew letter vav, bearing witness to the compositional practices of Oriental Torah scribes.

The eminent collector **Michael Zinman** donated an extensive run of the 20th century American Jewish periodical: *The Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The Jewish Telegraph Agency*

(JTA) was founded after the First World War to provide a reliable, professional source of information about events affecting Jewish communities around the world. It contains a treasure trove of primary source English-language journalism which chronicles the fate of world Jewry through the Holocaust, the creation of the State of Israel and the post-war period. The JTA also regularly ran advertisements which today offer a unique window for looking back into the social and economic history of the Jewish people during the 20th century. The Library at the Katz Center (formerly the Annenberg Research Institute) also received as a bequest from the late Ambassador **Walter Annenberg, W'31, HON'66**, and the Annenberg Foundation a select group of thirty-one Judaica titles dealing with the Holocaust, the modern State of Israel, Jewish history, and American Jewish culture from Ambassador Annenberg's personal library. Thanks to the efforts of **Judith Leifer** and the kindness of **Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom** and Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park, PA, we received a gift collection of prayer books, hymnals, selihot, High Holy Day sermons, sound recordings and a DVD, a rabbinical report, and occasional print materials that document the history and one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation (1858-2008).

In addition to these and other individual gifts received during the last year, Penn's Judaica collections also purchased a number of significant rare and special items related to this past year's research topic at the Katz Center: “Jews, Commerce and Culture.” Chief among them are the first Hebrew book to be published on commercial trade, *Sefer ha-terumot*, printed in Salonika in 1596; a commentary on Jewish monetary laws by Avraham Antibi entitled *Pene ha-bayit* printed in the Tuscan port city of Livorno in 1849; several prized Jewish book trade catalogs, including an especially beautiful first Hebrew and German printing in Odessa in 1845. These acquisitions were made possible in part by endowment income from the **Albert J. and Ele Wood, CGS'65, G'78**, Judaica book fund. Thank you to the Wood family!

GRANT PROJECTS

Rare Pennsylvania Judaica Americana now available in full-text format on-line!

The University of Pennsylvania Libraries, funded by a matching grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is partnering with Lyrasis and the Internet Archive to digitize Penn's collection of rare Judaica Americana printed in the state of Pennsylvania before 1901. This

effort complements our ongoing American Genizah Project, funded with a generous gift from **Erik Gershwind, W'93**, and **Jackie Gershwind**, and **Stacey Bennett, C'95**, and **Michael Bennett**, in which the Penn Libraries leads a consortium of public institutions and private collectors who are working together to locate, catalog, transcribe, and digitize some of the most important documents of early American Jewish history. Our pilot project has been to digitize the personal papers and print publications of Isaac Leeser, the foremost Jewish communal leader in antebellum America. You can now view the full-texts of our scans of nearly forty Leeser publications, which are now freely available on the Internet Archive site. To view them, go to: <http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=leeser>.

Penn's School of Arts and Sciences Learning and Technology Committee awarded the Penn Libraries an Instructional Technology Grant to fund the digitization of our Judeo-Arabic manuscript codices. To date, dozens of Arabic and Judeo-Arabic manuscript codices and fragments have been scanned. A new, open-access webpage featuring faceted searching of these rare handwritten documents will be made public this academic year. Great thanks and appreciation to Professor **Heather Sharkey**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC), for making this initiative possible!

We are especially happy to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and institutions for their gifts and donations:

Jean Shaw Adelman, CW'52, PAR'76; American Jewish Archives; Aviva Astrinsky; Beki L. Bahar; Adina Bar-El; Miriam and Ben-Zion Barlev; Nira Bartal; Carlos Benaim; Hakan Bengtsson; Stacey, C'95, and Michael Bennett; Charles Berlin; Terri Binder and Joseph Koschitzki; Howard A. Blum; Ann Bonn and Helen Weindling; Ruth and Raymond Brenner, PAR'99, PAR'01, PAR'05, and the Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies in honor of Gregory Brenner, W'99; Adam Brenner, W'01; Jason Brenner, W'05; Viviana Bromberg; Roger Chartier; Petr Charvat; Albert Gleaves Cohen; Alma Orlowitz Cohen, FA'44; Boris Cohen, PAR'76; Dov ha-Cohen; Ida Shahar Cohen; Martin Cohen; Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66; Gloria Cohn; Julie L. Coleman; Congregation Adath Jeshurun; David G. Cook; Flora Campos Cornfield, CW'66, G'68, GR'74, PAR'97; Alon Dahan; Muhammad A. Dandamayev; Avi Decter; Yvonne Edels; Alfred H. Eidlisz; Michael E. Eigen, C'57; Mohamed El-Hawary; Murad El-Kodsi; Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg; Sara Feinstein; Sandra Fifer; Jonathan Fishburn; Pamela Foa; Megan Foley; Elan

Frank; John L. Frank; Robert, L'54, PAR'82, and Molly Freedman; Annette Freund; Jack and Naomi Friedman; Michal Galas; Gilad J. Gevaryahu, PAR'05, PAR'13; Erik, W'93, and Jackie Gershwind; Howard M. Girsh, W'56, L'59; Joann S. Girsh, CGS'07; Andrew Gluck; Yosef Goldman; Allen and Adele Gottfried, PAR'06; Michael Graves; Helaine Shoag Greenberg, SW'86, GRS'89, CGS'07; Adele and Bertram Greenspan; Guido Guastalla; Silvia Guastalla; Gail Morrison-Hall; Marjorie Hassen; Leonard Hayflick, C'51, GR'56; Marvin Heller; Richard Henriquez; Alice Herman; Bruna Herzfeld; Irwin Hochberg; Eric Hoffman, GR'78 L'84; Irving Horn; John R. Hose; Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.; Seth Jerchow; Jewish Museum of Maryland; Jewish Publication Society of America; Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Maxine Kalina; Michael Kaplan; Deborah Karp; Melvin Kates; Jon Kean, C'89; Jeffrey Keil, W'65, PAR'91; Yaacov Kotlicki; Norman Kransdorf; Judith Korman Langsfeld, CW'67, PAR'94, PAR'02; Eric M. Lankin, W'78; Eric Laupot; Mordecai Lee; Judith Leifer; Marvin Lessen, EE'57; Walter A. Levy, G'73, PAR'93; Lenora M. and John E. Link; Long Island Association of Jewish Libraries; Jack Lunzer; Jane Moskowitz Mack; Barbara Magalnick, GED'67; Mona Magnis; Paul David Mandel; Eugene Mark; Yaakov Mashiah; Gilbert Mathews, W'70, PAR'04; Barbara Matt; Selly Mizrahi; Eleanor Chana Mlotek; Tamara Morgenstern; Musee d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme; Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah; National Museum of American Jewish History; Iris Newman, CGS'07;

James W. Nelson Novoa; Jeffrey I. Pasek, L'76; Penn Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS); Edward M. Peters; Seymour Piwoz, C'52; Jerry and Ellen Prince, G'74; Hilda Pring; Jackie Ranston; Rose Rechnic; Frieda Reider; Ruth Rin, CW'66, CGS'04; Evelyn Ringold; Barry S. Robbins, PAR'00, PAR'02; Lena Roos; Faye S. Rosenthal, CW'71; Jack Roth; David Ruderman; Victor D. Sanua; Lois Satalof; Avi Schmidman; Peter Schulman, W'83; Robert Seltzer; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian; Morris Shelanski; Harvey Sheldon; Adele Silver; Francine and Marvin Silverstein; Flor Siperstein, GEN'97, GR'00; Robert St. George; Eric L. Stern; Harry Stern; Ione Apfelbaum Strauss, CW'54, PAR'82, in honor of Erika A. Strauss; Paul A. Tanker; Yirmiyahu Ahron Taub; Selig A. Tauenblatt; Neville Teller; Mr. and Mrs. D. Stephen Toback, PAR'88, PAR'95; Fortunee Franchetti Treves; Irvin Ungar; Iosif I. Vaisman; Wout Jac. Van Bekkum; Marvin Verman, GAR'06; Saul Viener; Naomi Vogelmann-Goldfeld; Temira Volcani; Bert Vorcheimer; Christine Walsh, CGS'00; Kevin Walsh; Lewis Wechsler; Bella Hass Weinberg; Meier Weisblum; Yitschok Weisblum; George H. Weiss; Ruth Westheimer; Norma R. Weiser; Falk Wiesemann; Anita J. Willens; Stephen M. Wind, C'00; Lynne Winters; Gerald Wolpe, PAR'78, PAR'81; Albert J. Wood; Ele Wood, CGS'65, G'78; Leonard Wood; Dan Wyman; Sharon Yannay; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Gilbert Young; Roza Zaks; Joseph Zernik; Michael Zinman.

The following CAJS Fellows and guests have donated copies of their scholarship to the CAJS Library collection: Michela Andreatta; Doron Bar; Adina Bar-El; Hamutal Bar-Yosef; Israel Bartal; Elisheva Baumgarten; Malachi Beit-Arie; Dan Ben-Amos, HOM'71, CGS'97; Yaron Ben-Nach; Shlomo Berger; Adele Berlin, CW'64, GR'76, PAR'93; Francesca Bregoli, G'06, GR'07; Mirosława Bulat; Stephen Burnett; Alan D. Crown; Yaacov Deutsch; Aron Dotan; Harold Allen Drake; Glenn Dynner; Jacob Elbaum; David Engel; Paula Fredriksen; Shamma Friedman; Seymour Gitin; Sylvie Anne Goldberg; Paul Grendler; Alessandro Guetta; Joseph Hacker; Orna Has; Galit Hasan-Rokem; Elliott Horowitz; Adiel Kadari; Tamar Kadari; Marion Kant; Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett; Samuel Z. Klauzner; Michael Kramer; Sara Japhet; Ruth Kartun-Blum; Robert Kraft; Daniel Lasker; Fabrizio Lelli; Lee I. Levine; Gideon Libson; Berahyahu Lifshitz; Ora Limor; Yehiel Limor; Aharon Maman; Rachel Manekin; Roger G. Ousterhout; Richard Popkin; Riv-Ellen Prell; Stefan Reif; Dalit Rom-Shiloni; Alan Rosen; Tovah Rosen; Moshe Rosman; Shalom Sabar; Gerson Shaked; Jeffrey Shandler; Adam Shear, G'02, GR'03; Daniel Sheerin; Jeffrey Shoulson; Marcos Silber; Mark S. Smith; Haym Soloveitchik; David Stern; Sarah Stroumsa; Adam Teller; Stephen Tinney; Smadar Tirosh-Heyd; Chava Turniansky; Veerle Vanden Daelen; Carsten Wilke; Marcin Wodzinski; Israel Yuval; Mordechai Zalkin; Ziony Zevit.

Graduate Studies

GRADUATE STUDIES IN PENN'S JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

Thirty years ago, Jewish Studies at Penn was mainly geared toward training graduate students for doctorates, with a heavy focus upon the Ancient Near East, the Bible, and early Post-Biblical literature and Rabbinics. Since then, Jewish Studies—along with the university in general—has changed radically, with a massive shift toward undergraduate education. In the meantime, Penn's Jewish Studies faculty and programs have become as strong in the modern period as in the ancient and medieval, and our courses and students have changed in corresponding ways as well.

Our graduate programs, though small and highly selective, nonetheless remain among the strongest in America in our various fields of specialization: Bible and the Ancient Near East, Rabbinics and Biblical Interpretation, Jewish Intellectual History from the Medieval through Modern periods, Early Modern, Modern, and American Jewish History, and Jewish literatures in many languages. The Jewish Studies Program itself does not run graduate programs—those continue to be located in graduate groups run through departments, such as the Department of History, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Department of Religious

Studies—but the Jewish Studies Program sponsors a student-run graduate seminar. It also awards research stipends as well as special-needs and research grants to support graduate education and scholarship.

THE FALK FELLOWSHIP

The Jewish Studies Program administers the **Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Fellowship**, the only graduate fellowship awarded directly by the Jewish Studies Program. Because the cost of graduate school has risen sharply, fellowship support has become virtually indispensable, both for supporting graduate students once they enter the program, and for recruiting the very best candidates. The Falk Fellowship was endowed by **Edward Falk, W'66**, in memory of his mother, **Margaret Schoenfeld Falk**, to support a graduate student who works specifically in the area of Jewish Studies. Current Falk Fellows are third-year student **Konstanze Kunst** (History), sixth-year student **Kerry Wallach** (Germanic Languages), and fifth-year student **David Shyovitz** (History). Kunst is working in the field of medieval and early modern Jewish history, Wallach is studying modern German-Jewish literature and culture, and Shyovitz, early modern Jewish history.

(continued on page 16)

Graduate Studies (continued from page 15)



New Falk Fellow,
Akhmad Sahal

We are pleased to welcome a new incoming Falk fellow this year. **Akhmad Sahal** brings a cross-cultural perspective to his Jewish studies focus. As a student from Muslim Indonesia, he wishes to explore the question of why and how Jewish societies have managed to sustain a robust culture of secularism and of liberal thought, at the same time that religious faith communities thrive. He enters as a graduate student in the Religious Studies department this year.

Through the years, Ed Falk has been one of Jewish Studies' most faithful and generous supporters. Ed began to make annual gifts in 1991, and from the beginning, he focused upon Jewish Studies, primarily because he wished to endow a fellowship in memory of his mother, who had been a deeply observant and committed Jew. From the beginning, Ed also concentrated upon graduate students because of their seriousness and commitment. This was the genesis of the Falk Fellowship, which, over the years, turned from one to two fellowships.

The Falk Fellowship is one of the most valuable elements of the Jewish Studies Program at Penn. Because of Ed's foresight in establishing the fellowships, Penn is able to ensure the future of Jewish studies in America, and educate and produce the scholars and teachers of tomorrow. As the following portraits of our graduate students will tell you, the Falk Fellowship has been a major boon for Jewish Studies at Penn. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Ed Falk for his generosity!

JUDAH GOLDIN GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR

Initiated in January 2000 by Professor **Jeffrey Tigay**, and named after late professor of Postbiblical Hebrew literature and long-time faculty member, Judah Goldin, the Goldin Seminar consists of a series of lectures presented throughout the academic year in Biblical studies and related fields. Coordinated and delivered by graduate students, the Seminar was chaired last year by **Stephen Kim**.

The following papers were delivered at the Seminar last year:

Karen Sonik, Art and Archeology of the Mediterranean World, "Breaking Bread with Huwawa: What Gilgamesh Should Have Done."

Stephen Kim, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "A Mesopotamian Parallel of Qoheleth's Hakkol Hevel."

Spencer Allen, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "Another Persian World in Ezra 7:13-26?"

Susan Zeelander, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations "Ritualizations in Narrative Endings in Genesis."

Professor **Mayer I. Gruber** of Ben-Gurion University, "Discovering Two More Israelite Prophetesses."

Yehuda Kraut, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "The Ancient Near Eastern Evidence for Staircase Parallelism in Deuteronomy 6:4."

V. Kerry Inman, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "Textual Criticism on the Qur'an."

More information on the Judah Goldin Graduate Student Seminar can be found at its new website: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/JudahGoldinSeminars.htm>

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Spencer Allen spent the 2008-2009 school year as a visiting scholar at the King Fahd Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Center (MEST) at the University of Arkansas, teaching introductory Bible courses and Characters Common to the Bible and Koran, the MEST colloquium for the year. He will continue teaching there during the 2009-2010 school year. Allen presented two dissertation-based papers on the Mesopotamian pantheon: "Using Sargonid God Lists to Evaluate the Neo-Assyrian Pantheon" at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting and "State of the Pantheon" at the American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, and his article "Understanding Amos 6:12 in Light of his other Rhetorical Questions" appeared in the journal *Vetus Testament*.

Cornelia Aust, a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History, expects to complete her dissertation on networks of Jewish merchants in eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Central and East Central Europe this year. This past year, she was a fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and participated in the 15th Annual Gruss Colloquium on "Jews, Commerce, and Culture." She also presented her research at the meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies and at a conference on "Research on the History and Culture of Polish Jewry and Polish-Jewish Relations in Jerusalem." In the summer, she taught a course on the history of Zionism at the Penn College of Liberal and Professional Studies.

Andrew Berns is a sixth-year graduate student in the Department of History. He is writing his dissertation about natural science and biblical studies in sixteenth-century Italy. He spent the summer conducting archival research in Bologna, and in the last year has presented his work at conferences in St. Louis, Los Angeles, Cambridge (UK), and Mantua (Italy).

Rebecca Cutler, a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History, is currently working on her dissertation, tentatively titled "American Jews and the Transnational Politics of Medicine in the Post-World War II Era." This year she is conducting research in New York City as a fellow at the Center for Jewish History. This past winter Cutler along with her husband Robert Kalmar welcomed their first child, Nisim Cutler Kalmar, into the family.

Benjamin Fisher, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, continued researching and writing his dissertation on Sephardic Jewish biblical studies in seventeenth-century Amsterdam, and the central place of the Bible in the community's religious culture, education, and scholarship. He was invited to participate in the Max and Hilde Kochmann Workshop for graduate students in Jewish studies at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. He also received a Jewish Studies Program Goldfein Award to attend the "Hebraic Aspects of the Renaissance" conference at the University of Haifa.

Tammy Jacobowitz is working to complete her dissertation on Leviticus Rabbah, which explores the rabbinic discourse of the body, illness, and gender. For 2008-2009, she was awarded a Memorial Foundation dissertation grant to support her work. She presented a paper entitled, "'Candle in the Womb': Discourse of the Body in Leviticus Rabbah" at the Association of Jewish Studies conference in Washington, DC. She teaches Rabbis for Me'ah and lectures in communities in the NY and NJ area. Jacobowitz has recently completed the co-writing of a Bible curriculum for day school students, commissioned by JOFA (Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance) and is working to implement it in a variety of day schools. She lives in Teaneck, NJ with her husband and three children.

Stephen Kim is a graduate student majoring in Biblical studies. He has presented papers including “Ilu’s Epithet Thoru in Ugaritic Literature” at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in November 2008, “Ecclesiastes in Light of Contact Linguistics” at the Center for Ancient Studies of the University of Pennsylvania in March, “Horus and the Tabernacle Cherubim” at the Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society 2009 Annual Meeting also in March, and “Contact Linguistics and Ecclesiastes” at the Society of Biblical Literature New England Regional Meeting in April 2009. He is planning to publish some of the papers. He gave a special lecture on “Eye for Eye in the Bible” in the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Delaware in May. He is writing a dissertation on “Linguistic and Thematic Relations of Ecclesiastes to Mesopotamian Literature.”

Konstanze Kunst, a Falk fellow, finished her course work in her second year and is preparing for the exams and the writing of her dissertation.

Ellie Schainker, a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History, is currently completing her dissertation entitled: “Imperial Hybrids: Jewish Converts in Nineteenth-Century Russia.” This past year, Schainker presented papers on her research at the: Center for Jewish History in New York; Association for Jewish Studies conference in Washington, D.C.; Max and Hilde Kochmann workshop for PhD students in European Jewish History and Culture held at the Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies; and the International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry held in Budapest and sponsored by the Nevlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Yehuda Seif, a William Penn fellow, completed his sixth year in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry. He is currently working on his dissertation on “Charity and Poor Law in Medieval Ashkenaz.” This past year, he was also a fellow at The Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Yeshiva University’s Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he led text study groups dedicated to Philanthropy and Jewish Law. Seif recently started working as a Senior Program Officer for the Tikvah Fund, a foundation dedicated to promoting Jewish excellence through ideas.

Gabriella Skwara, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed her fourth year in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. She presented on her dissertation topic, “Interfaces between German and Yiddish in Vienna during the Fin-de-siècle and Interwar Period” at the Duke German and Jewish Studies Workshop in February. For the 2009-10, academic year she is serving as the director of the New England College Consortium Salzburg Program in Austria where she is teaching courses on Austrian cultural and literary history, while also working on her dissertation.

David Shyovitz, a Falk fellow and former Wexner fellow, is a fifth year doctoral candidate in the Department of History. His dissertation examines attitudes toward science and the natural world among thinkers in medieval Ashkenaz. Last year, he presented his research at a number of conferences, was a faculty member at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, and was a Resident Scholar at the Riverdale Jewish Center in Riverdale, NY. David spent this past summer conducting manuscript research in Jerusalem, and participating in a seminar at Princeton University. This year, he is continuing his dissertation research, and spending his second year as a Fellow at the Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at the Cardozo School of Law in New York.

Kerry Wallach, a Falk fellow and Benjamin Franklin fellow, held a Leo Baeck Fellowship in German-Jewish History and Culture for 2008-2009. She spent the year conducting dissertation research in Berlin, in other German archives, and at the Center for Jewish History in New York. A doctoral candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, she is currently writing her dissertation entitled “Advertising the Jewish Woman: The Jewish Press in Weimar Germany.” This past spring, she presented her work at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and at the University of

Cambridge. Her article, “Mascha Kaléko Advertises the New Jewish Woman,” will appear in the 2009 volume *‘Not an Essence but a Positioning’: German-Speaking Jewish Women Writers 1900-1938*.

Susan Zeelander is a doctoral student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. The topic of her dissertation is “Endings in Short Biblical Narratives.” She is examining narratives in Genesis to demonstrate how biblical writers and editors used literary and thematic devices to bring closure to their stories. In December, she presented topics from her dissertation at the Judah Goldin Seminar. At the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference in Washington D.C., she presented a paper, “Ritualizations in Endings in Biblical Narrative.” She continues to teach adult education courses. Last year she taught “Moral themes in stories of the patriarchal families and how they are presented,” at Tiferet Bet Israel in Blue Bell, PA.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

Every year in this newsletter we include short updates from all our current graduate students. But our grad students do eventually finish our programs. Over the past five years, some eight of our graduate students have completed their doctorates, and left the comfortable halls of Penn for the “real world.” Here’s an update on what some of them have been doing.

Kevin M. McGeough is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography (Archaeology) at the University of Lethbridge. Oxford University Press released his book, *The Romans: An Introduction*, in paperback last spring. His next book, *Ugaritic Economic Tablets: Text, Translation and Notes*, is forthcoming from Peeters Press in the Ancient Near Eastern Studies Supplement Series. McGeough is currently working on a project investigating how the study of the ancient Near East played an important role in 19th century intellectual history and popular culture. He is currently the editor of the American Schools of Oriental Research’s (ASOR) Archaeological Report Series.

Susan Marks, Religious Studies 2003 Ph.D., received tenure this year and is now the Klingenstein Associate Professor of Judaic Studies at New College of Florida, the Honors College of the State of Florida.

Matthew Rutz, a former William Penn and Louis J. Kolb fellow, completed his dissertation and graduated in 2008. In July 2008, he began a postdoctoral research position in the NELC department, here at Penn, working with Professor Grant Frame on the Royal Inscriptions of the Neo-Assyrian Period project, which is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In September 2009, he began a tenure-track assistant professorship in the Department of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies at Brown University.

Adam Shear was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh as of September 1, 2009. Last year, he published a monograph on the reception of Judah Halevi’s *Kuzari*, a twelfth-century apologetic and philosophical work. *The Kuzari and the Shaping of Jewish Identity, 1167-1900* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) grew out of his Penn dissertation work and was awarded the National Jewish Book Award for Scholarship, the Morris D. Forkosh Prize for the best first book in intellectual history, and the Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award for 2008. This academic year, he is serving as Convener for a Scholars’ Working Group on the Jewish Book, part of a new project at the Center for Jewish History in New York that brings together scholars at different career stages for discussion of a specific field in Jewish studies. The work of this group will focus on the role of books and reading in Jewish history, with a special focus on the effects of technological change in the distribution of texts.

About Our Faculty (continued from page 7)

Eds. Ellen M. Umansky and Dianne Ashton Brandeis University Press, 2009). Her own poems were published in *Bridges 14.1* (Spring 2009), *Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality: A Sourcebook, and Our Common Suffering: Anthology of Poets in Memoriam 2008 Sichuan Earthquake* (Shanghai Foreign Languages Education Press, 2008), including, in the latter, two poems translated into Chinese. Hellerstein chaired a panel on "Yiddish Poetry and Prose," at the AJS annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in December, and lectured on "Women Yiddish Poets in Israel," at the National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA, on "Ariel Sabar's *My Father's Paradise: Jewish Languages, Jewish Stories*," at Temple Shalom, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania for the "One Book, One Jewish Community Program," and on "Yiddish Women Poets" at the Jewish Studies Institute, Nanjing University. She continues to serve as Coordinator of the Yiddish Literature Section for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, as poetry editor of *Kerem and Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, as well as on the Editorial Advisory Boards for *Nashim and Yiddish*, and on the Jewish Publication Society's National Council.

Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, oversaw the acquisition of the Lazard Holy Land photo collection; organized a private showing of the Valmadonna Library on exhibition at Sotheby's in New York exclusively for Penn Library board members and special friends; organized the 50th anniversary program for the Freedman Jewish Sound Archive; organized the 2008-09, Katz Center Fellows' web-exhibit on the theme of "Jews, Commerce, and Culture"; chaired a successful search committee to hire a new Judaica public services librarian and archivist; delivered several public lectures, including "Digitizing Genizot" to the University of Pennsylvania Women's Committee at the University Museum and "Oriental Clubs: The Library and Archival Collections at the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning," before the Oriental Club of Philadelphia; and led numerous tours of the rare book room at the Katz Center. Kiron continues to direct the American Genizah Project, co-direct the Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the Jewish Book with his colleague David Stern, and serve on six library committees and on a number of academic advisory boards. Kiron also continues to serve as a trustee of communal organizations such as the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center and the American Veterans of Israel (Machal).

Robert Kraft, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, is available for directed reading and

research with graduate students (RELS 999) but is not offering any scheduled courses this year. He continues to pursue the long-range projects that include describing and digitizing Penn's papyri collections (as part of the Advanced Papyrological Information System [APIS] project) and creating electronic files for the textual variants in the manuscripts of Greek Jewish scriptures (as part of the Computer Assisted Tools for Septuagint/ Scriptural Studies [CATSS] project). Details of these and other activities may be found on his web page at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rs/rak/kraft.html>, including descriptions of the long range project to update and expand on M. R. James' *Lost Apocrypha of the Old Testament* (1920), and a sister project to update the English edition of Harnack's *Mission and Expansion of Early Christianity* (1908, 1924 German). A collection of several of his essays is scheduled for release in fall 2009 under the title "Exploring the Scripturesque: Jewish Texts and their Christian Contexts" (Supplements to the *Journal for the Study of Judaism*; Brill), and will also appear in electronic form on his web page.

Ian S. Lustick, Bess W. Heyman Professor in the Political Science department, published an article in September 2008 in *Middle East Policy* entitled "Abandoning the Iron Wall: Israel and the Middle Eastern Muck." His essay "Between Samson and Jeremiah" was featured in the Middle East Institute's publication *Israel: Growing Pains at 60*. Lustick's most recent books are *Trapped in the War on Terror and Exile and Return: Predicaments of Palestinians and Jews*, edited by Ann M. Lesch. In June 2009, he was a keynote speaker at an international conference in Toronto entitled "Israel/Palestine: Mapping Models of Statehood and Paths to Peace."

Benjamin Nathans, the Ronald S. Lauder Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, continued his research and writing on the study of Soviet dissidents and the human rights movement in the USSR. He is also editing the first English edition of the memoirs of the great Russian-Jewish historian Simon Dubnov, *The Book of Life*. Nathans served as historical consultant to Ralph Appelbaum Associates (New York), an interpretive museum design firm currently creating a museum of Russian-Jewish history in Moscow.

Annette Yoshiko Reed is Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and in the Graduate Group in Ancient History. Last year, she presented papers at the Warburg Institute, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, and Penn Classical Studies conference on "Meat in Human Society," and delivered the plenary address for the Mid-Atlantic Region Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Publications

appearing last year included "Blood and the Boundaries of Jewish and Christianity Identities in Late Antiquity" (a special issue of the journal *Henoch*, co-edited with Ra'anan S. Boustán); articles in the *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, *Journal of Theological Studies*, and *History of Religions*, and contributions to the volumes *The Reception and Interpretation of the Bible in Late Antiquity* (ed. L. DiTommaso and L. Turcescu), *Nouvelles intrigues pseudo-clémentines* (ed. F. Amsler, et al.), *Heresy and Self-Definition in Late Antiquity* (ed. E. Iricinschi and H. Zelletin), and *Antiquity in Antiquity: Jewish and Christian Pasts in the Greco-Roman World* (eds. G. Gardner and K. Osterloh). Reed also wrote the entries on Jewish figures in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient Natural Scientists* (eds. P. Keyser and G. Irby-Massie). She continues to serve on the Editorial Board of the book-series *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism* and as Program Unit Chair of the Hellenistic Judaism Section of the Society of Biblical Literature. In addition to her ongoing research on the Pseudo-Clementines and "Jewish-Christianity," she is working on a new book about angels, demons, and writing in the *Book of Jubilees*. She is also co-editing a volume with her colleague, Natalie Dohrmann, that builds from the 2008 Katz Center conference on "Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity."

David B. Ruderman completed his fifteenth year as the Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. He completed a new book entitled *The Transformation of Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: An Interpretation*, which will be published by Princeton University Press in early Spring 2010, as well as "Looking Backward and Forward: Rethinking Modernity in the Light of Early Modernity," to appear in the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Judaism VII: 1500-1815*. Ruderman gave lectures at Centro Primo Levi in New York, the Graduate Student and Faculty Seminar and the Religious Studies Seminar at Tel Aviv University, the Shoshana Sheir Memorial Lectures at the University of Toronto, the Interdisciplinary Seminar for the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Early Modern Period at the Free University, Berlin, and at the Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem. He also gave lectures at the Universities of Antwerp, Frankfurt and Amsterdam. Ruderman finished his term as Sackler University Scholar at The Mortimer and Raymond Sackler Institute of Advanced Studies at Tel Aviv University. He also held the University Centre Saint Ignatius /Institute for Jewish Studies Visiting Chair for Jewish-Christian Relations at the University of Antwerp; and was a fellow at the Institute of Medieval-Renaissance-Early Modern Studies at the Free University of Berlin. Ruderman continues to edit the series

Jewish Cultures and Contexts for the University of Pennsylvania Press and to serve on the international advisory committee of the Scholion Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Jonathan Steinberg, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, spent the 2008-2009 academic year on sabbatical, during which he completed the manuscript of a new biography of Bismarck entitled: "Bismarck's Sovereign Self: The Demonic Power of the Iron Chancellor, 1815-1898." Bismarck's ambivalent relationship to Jews and to liberalism with which Jews were strongly identified, forms one of the central themes of the work, much more so than in previous biographies. The book will be published in 2010 by Quercus Press.

David Stern, formerly Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, was appointed Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures. Stern published several articles during the year including an appreciation of his colleague, Jeffrey Tigay, in a *festschrift* in Tigay's honor, and he completed several additional articles while working on two books, which are nearing completion. He also signed a contract with Princeton University Press to write a major history of the Jewish Book. During the past year, Stern delivered lectures at several universities in America. In May, he served on the faculty of a graduate student conference on Rabbinics held at Princeton University. In June, he spoke on "Teaching Jewish Civilization in China" at an international conference at the City University of Hong Kong entitled "Teaching and Learning World Civilizations," and delivered an invited lecture at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the University of Nanjing. Stern was also appointed to the Executive Committee of the American Academy for Jewish Research and, for the ninth year, directed the Manfred R. Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book. For the third year, he also taught the Rabbinics semester in the Meah Program in the greater Philadelphia area.

Jeffrey Tigay, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, served as Acting Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations this past spring. He and Professor Barry Eichler were jointly honored at a session of the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting in December. The session was called "Biblical Narrative, Law, and History: Interrelationships and Methods. In Honor of Professor Barry L. Eichler and of Professor Jeffrey H. Tigay." In March, Tigay was honored with a *Festschrift* entitled *Mishneh Todah: Studies in Deuteronomy and its Cultural Environment in Honor of Jeffrey H. Tigay*. He is currently completing a revised Hebrew version of his 1996 commentary on *Deuteronomy*, which will be published in the Israeli commentary series *Mikra le-Yisrael*. He co-edited a *Festschrift*, *Birkat Shalom*, "Studies in the Bible, Ancient Near Eastern

Literature and Post-biblical Judaism presented to Shalom M. Paul on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday," which was published in fall 2008. His own article in *Birkat Shalom* is entitled "'The Voice of the Lord Causes Hinds to Calve' (Psalm 29:9)." Another article, on the midrashic saying "Some are mentioned and blessed, others are mentioned and cursed," will appear in a forthcoming volume in memory of Shmuel Leiter, currently in press. Tigay is working on two multi-year publication projects: a full-length Hebrew commentary on *Exodus*, for the *Mikra Le-Yisrael* series, and the first volume (on the Biblical period) of "The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization: Anthology of Primary Sources, Documents, Texts, and Artifacts," a ten-volume series being published by Yale University Press. He was a keynote speaker at a seminar on "Authorship and Textual Adaptations: the Juggling of Spoken Words and Written Letters in the Studies of the Bible and Homer" held at the International Institute for Advanced Studies, Kyoto-Nara, Japan, in August 2008. While in Japan, he also spoke to graduate students and faculty at the Doshisha School of Theology of Doshisha University in Kyoto on the subject of the training of Biblical scholars. In May, Tigay presented a paper on "The Torah Scroll and God's Presence" at the conference "Biblical Poetics and Interpretation" held at the University of Maryland. He presented a public lecture on "The Exodus: Fact or Fiction?" at Limmud Philadelphia in February. On campus, he gave a talk on the *Kedushah* prayer at one of the Bassini seminars at Penn Hillel in March. His most interesting project this past year was teaching a new course on the *Targumim*, the ancient Aramaic translations of the Bible. It attracted thirteen students in all, mostly undergraduates. The course focused on the different approaches—often highly creative—of the various *Targumim* to the challenge of translation and their relationship to other genres of Jewish Bible interpretation. Not only was the number of students unexpectedly high, but what he enjoyed most was the impressive ability of the students, most of whom had never before studied Aramaic formally, to dive into the *Targumim* and study them at a high level and make original observations about their interpretations of the Biblical text.

Liliane Weissberg is the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science. In the fall, Weissberg taught an interdisciplinary graduate course on Trauma, Memory, and Culture that brought together students from various departments to discuss Holocaust documents, literature, art, and modes of memorialization. She was on leave from Penn in the spring, and assumed a Visiting Professorship at the Fritz Bauer Institut and Department of History at the Universität Frankfurt (Germany). Following the German term, Weissberg co-directed a doctoral seminar on Philosophy, Anthropology, and Psychology and did archival work at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach in Germany. In March, Weissberg organized a meeting

on "Posthumous Lives: Archives in the Twenty-First Century" with members of the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach and Penn faculty; the meeting was accompanied by exhibits both at Penn and the German Society Library as well as various other events. Weissberg published papers on Freud, Handke, Heine, and Hannah Arendt; early nineteenth-century Berlin Jewry; and the state of German-Jewish Studies in American, French, and English publications. She presented papers at the German Studies Association (St. Paul) and the Modern Language Association (San Francisco) conferences, and gave lectures in Frankfurt, Berlin, Hanover, Bochum, Munich, Marbach, Bad Aussee (Austria), Camden, and Philadelphia. She conducted workshops for the Leo Baeck Institute (London) doctoral programs in Sussex, England, and Berlin, and served on the selection committees for the doctoral fellowship programs of the Studienstiftung/LBI, the GSA, and of professional fellowships awarded by the LBI (New York) and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, among others. She continued to serve on the board of a good number of institutions, including the Jewish Studies Program at the Universität Graz. In the spring, Weissberg was honored for her work on Freud with an honorary membership from the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia.

Beth S. Wenger, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program, continues to speak widely on her most recent book, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*, which is a companion volume to the 2008 PBS documentary titled *The Jewish Americans*. During the 2008-2009 academic year, Wenger was a Mellon research fellow at the Penn Humanities Forum. The time provided by that fellowship enabled her to complete her next book, "History Lessons: The Invention of American Jewish Heritage," which will be published by Princeton University Press in the summer of 2010. Wenger's article, "In Search of American Jewish Heritage, the David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs," was published by the University of Michigan in 2008. Her essay, "Mapping the City," also appeared in the journal, *Contemporary Jewry* 28:1 (Dec. 2008). Wenger delivered several public lectures this past year, including the Herbert D. Katz Memorial Lecture at the University of Miami, the Gus & Libby Solomon Lecture at Portland State University, as well as talks at the University of Oregon and other venues. She also participated in several conferences, including a panel on "Jews and the American Nation" at the Association for Jewish Studies conference. Wenger serves as a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and on the Academic Board of the Association for Jewish Studies. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Historical Society's Academic Council, and continues to serve as an historical consultant for the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

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