

# Jewish Studies @ PENN

THE JEWISH STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2006



Heinrich Heine, *Der Rabbi von Bacherach*, published in Berlin by Euphorion Verlag in 1921 with beautiful woodcut illustrations by Joseph Budko. Purchased with the support of Annette Freund.

## *Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania*

Penn, through its Jewish Studies Program and the 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 ten 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 Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS) 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 CAJS fellows teach courses at Penn, and both graduate students and University faculty participate in the Center's weekly seminars. The 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 Center for Advanced Judaic Studies make Penn one of the most rich and exciting communities for Jewish scholarship and intellectual life in the world.

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*Jewish Studies*

# Jewish Studies Program

## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

My first year as Director of the Jewish Studies Program has been both productive and rewarding, as our program continues to flourish. It is a pleasure to be a part of such a dynamic group of faculty and students working in Jewish studies.

Our program defines itself as an integral part of the humanities at Penn, both in the courses we offer and in our extracurricular activities. A year in the life of Jewish Studies at Penn is punctuated by lectures delivered by distinguished visiting scholars, programs organized by students, and a host of seminars, colloquia and social occasions that bring different groups together across campus. Just last year, we offered courses in ten departments and also provided our students the opportunity for museum internships and other programs outside the classroom.

A few months ago, I was asked to write an article for the Association for Jewish Studies about Penn's undergraduate major in Jewish Studies. Writing about our major provided me the opportunity to reflect on the uniqueness of our program and the many different options we offer our students. Most leading universities offer a Jewish Studies major, but at Penn, students who decide to specialize in Jewish Studies are able to choose from four different majors, each with a distinct emphasis. The interdisciplinary Jewish Studies major allows students to take an array of courses in Jewish history, literature, culture, and religion. At the same time, three other Penn departments offer majors that include a Jewish specialty: Within the history major, students may elect a concentration in Jewish history that focuses on the evolution of Jewish life in the various societies where Jews have lived. The Religious Studies department's concentration in Judaism provides students the opportunity to explore Jewish religion within the context of other world religions. Finally, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations sponsors a Hebrew and Judaica concentration that contains a specific focus on Hebrew language, literatures, and texts. Penn is distinct in offering students so many ways to specialize in Jewish studies. This means that our students are able to follow their particular interests and

that they are taught to understand Jewish studies as a field that is diverse and multifaceted. It also demonstrates that Jewish Studies is part of the organic fabric of the liberal arts curriculum at Penn, situated in departments across the university. Our faculty takes pride in this unique model of teaching Jewish Studies that reflects our deep roots and integration within intellectual life at Penn.

I have enjoyed my first year as Director enormously, but I am taking a scholarly leave during the 2006-2007 academic year. A fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies has enabled me to spend the year working on my own scholarship. During this year, my colleague Jonathan Steinberg will serve as Acting Director of the Program. Jonathan is an expert in European history and has written extensively about Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. A former Chair of the History department, Jonathan will be an excellent leader for the program. I look forward to returning as Director in the fall of 2007.

This promises to be an exciting year for Jewish Studies on campus. In November, we will sponsor a conference on "Jews in France: Crisis and Continuity" that will explore contemporary Jewish life in France in its historical context. Our program will also be co-sponsoring a museum exhibition, titled "CHOSEN! Philadelphia's Great Hebraica," opening this spring at Philadelphia's Rosenbach Museum. You will read more about these upcoming events inside this newsletter and we welcome you to join us.

As always, 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 Wenger  
Katz Family Chair in American  
Jewish History  
Associate Professor of History  
Director, Jewish Studies Program



# Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

This has been another wonderful year of programming at the Center. Focusing on the theme of the Jewish book as a material text, we partnered with Professors Peter Stallybrass and Roger Chartier and their exciting history of the book seminar at Penn, with Arthur Kiron and Michael Ryan of the Penn library, and with Tony Grafton of Princeton, in trying to create a meaningful dialogue between scholars of Judaism and other historians of the book. The results were marvelous. The twenty fellows carefully chosen from around the world benefited from the regular attendance of these distinguished scholars and others at our weekly seminars. Our graduate students, many of them students of Chartier as well, participated eagerly in the seminar. In a graduate conference on the book held on campus half of the presenters were our own students who simultaneously studied with the fellows as well as with Professor Chartier. I could not have imagined more integration and synergy than this! We have become a resource for the humanities in every sense of the word and many faculty and students at Penn visit us and interact with us regularly.

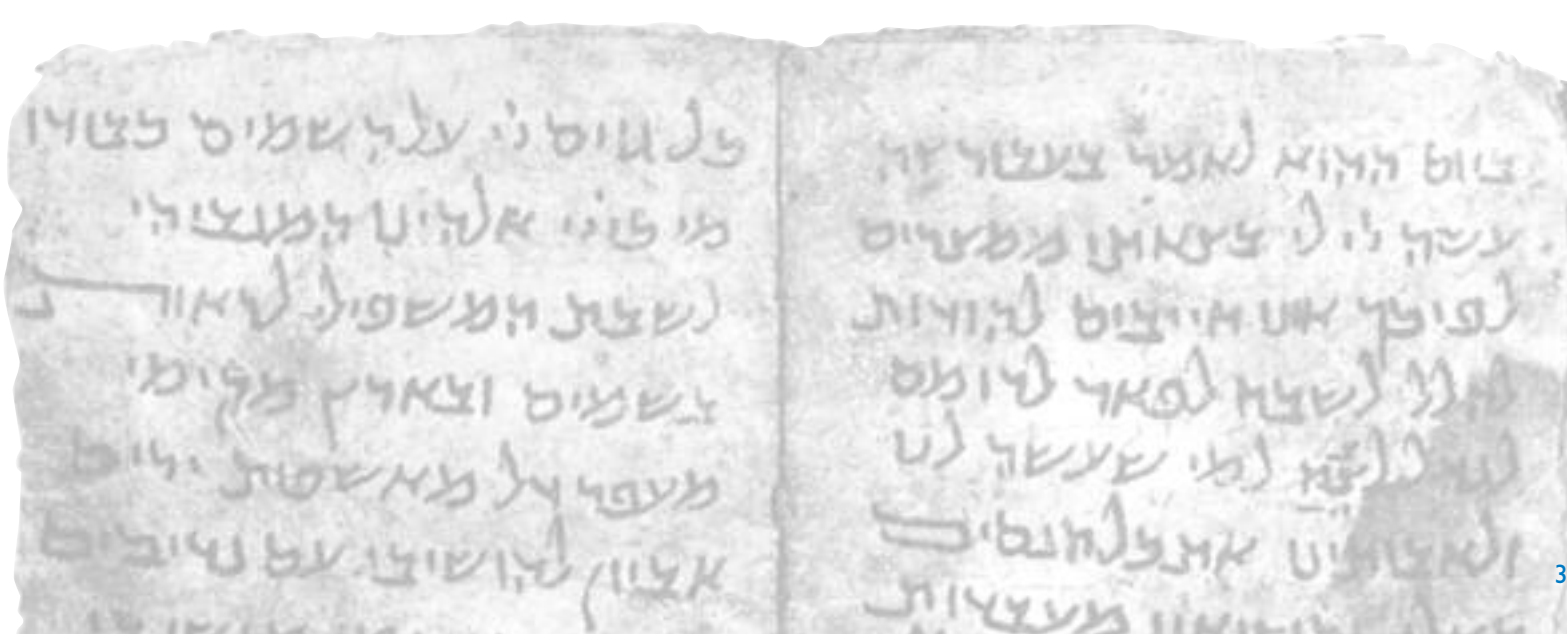
Our final Gruss colloquium was also a major success attracting large audiences throughout its three days, along with board members and other community people who attended many of the sessions. Our publishing also continues to flourish. Our monograph series at Penn has published several new books. Three of our annual volumes produced by the fellows are now in press. Our journal, brilliantly organized by Professor Natalie Dohrmann, who also is a highly successful lecturer in the Religious Studies department, has become the leading journal of Jewish studies in this country. Our outreach program, under the able

supervision of Professor Elsie Stern, is improving and expanding both locally and nationally. We offered some 15 successful lectures throughout the greater Philadelphia area this year, ran a successful mini-course with the College of General Studies, as well as a local "friends" group. We are partnering with highly visible adult education programs of large synagogues throughout the country in New York, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Florida. We have just announced a new travel seminar with Penn Alumni Travel which I will lead in the spring of 2007 to Germany. We are mounting plans to create a pilot program, a seminar for rabbis and educators, run for a week in the summer and taught by fellows.

This year's group on Judaism and Islam has been selected. It includes 22 fellows, including two new SAS faculty, Jessica Goldberg and Jamal Elias. Our topic for 2007-8 has just been announced on Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire and is already generating considerable interest among historians of late antiquity and classicists.

Looking both back at our achievements and forward towards our hopes and dreams, we have much for which to be thankful. As always, you are invited to visit the Center or our website and to take advantage of our outreach programs.

David B. Ruderman  
Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern  
Jewish History  
Ella Darivoff Director of the Center for  
Advanced Judaic Studies



Jewish Studies

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Assistant Editor: Jonathan Steinberg  
We are grateful to Michelle and Peter, C'81/WG'85, Roth for their ongoing sponsorship of this newsletter.



The Jewish Studies Program would like to thank the following alumni and friends for their generosity during the 2005-06 academic year:

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### July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006

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The late Albert J. Wood

Eric Zoller, C'98, L'01

Andrew E. Zolot, W'76, Janet Heicklen Zolot, ED'52, Stanley Zolot and the Yetta Deitch Novotny Charitable Trust

*If you, too, would like to support Jewish Studies at Penn, please contact the School of Arts and Sciences Office of External Affairs at (215) 898-5262.*

## JS GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

The newly revived Jewish Studies Graduate Student Colloquium had an exciting year! Co-coordinators **Jennifer Glaser** and **Conny Aust** focused their restructuring of the Colloquium on creating community for graduate students within Jewish studies and benefiting from the inherently interdisciplinary nature of the field by stimulating discussion between students across disciplines at Penn. Based on the approach taken by the Penn Ethnohistory workshop, each colloquium session featured a presenter and a respondent from a different discipline who stimulated discussion about the presenter's work. The informal atmosphere of the meetings provided graduate students with a chance to showcase their dissertation work and conference papers before a friendly crowd of participants from both inside and outside their field of inquiry. Last year's program consisted of:

**Karolin Machtans** from the German department presented a work entitled "Between Scholarship and Personal Text: Saul Friedländer's Poetic Concept of Memory"

**Sayumi Takahashi**, Respondent

**Francesca Bregoli** from the History department presented a work entitled "Jewish Literacy and the Republic of Letters: Joseph Attias in Eighteenth-century Livorno"

**Ben Huberman**, Respondent



Francesca Bregoli (far right) delivering her paper at a JS Graduate Colloquium.

**Shari Gottlieb** from the Comparative Literature program presented a work entitled "The Told Wedding Dress: Narrative Formation in Modern-day Jewish Madrid"

**Joan Perez**, Respondent

**Naftali Cohn** from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations presented a work entitled "To Enter The Temple: Narrative, Rabbinic Authority, and the Passover Sacrifice"

**Alex Novikoff**, Respondent

Participation in the series was high and plans for the future of the Colloquium include not only more informal interdisciplinary meetings meant to give graduate students a chance to present their work, but also lectures and readings presented by outside scholars and a graduate student-organized conference. For more information about the colloquium, please contact Jennifer Glaser at [jglaser@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jglaser@sas.upenn.edu) or Conny Aust at [austc@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:austc@sas.upenn.edu).

## JEWISH STUDIES INTERNSHIPS

In 2005-2006, JSP continued 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 graduate student coordinator **Kerry Wallach**, a number of students initiated, organized, and produced the following events during the year:

In November, 2005, **Brian Cohen** and **Deena Feinstein** organized a panel discussion on the history and practices of the Jewish Renewal movement with Nachshon Mahanyimi (co-founder of Philadelphia's Tikkun movement), and Chava Weissler (Lehigh University).

In November, 2005, **Stephanie Gantman** and **Rachel Kohn** organized a CPR certification and talk by Bioethicist and Professor Paul Root Wolpe (University of Pennsylvania, Psychiatry) entitled "Bioethics & Judaism: The Importance of Saving a Life."

In March, 2006, **Cecilia Rabess**, **Joe Scherban**, and **Ruthie Storch** organized a talk by Joel Hecker (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College) on "Kissing Kabbalists: Mystical Perspectives on an Intimate Gesture" to consider the role of the kiss in Jewish mysticism.

In March, 2006, **Stephanie Gantman** and **Jenn Endzweig**, and organized a panel discussion with Paul Rozin (University of Pennsylvania, Psychology) and Adam Cohen (Philadelphia University) on "Challah and Hummus and Lox - Oh My!" to explore the connection between Jewish culture and food.

In April, 2006, **Ashley Steinberg** and **Jessica Karp** organized a screening and discussion of the *Port of Last Resort*, a riveting documentary about Jewish refugees who fled to Shanghai during World War II.



(L to R) Stephanie Gantman, Paul Wolpe, and Rachel Kohn.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, graduate student **Kerry Wallach** continues in her role as graduate student coordinator.

In addition to supporting the Jewish Internships, the **Bassini Fund** also continues to fund the Bassini Dinners, our continuing and very successful program to support student-faculty dinners (or lunches) that seeks to extend faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

For the past three years, the University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies program and the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) have participated in an exciting collaboration endeavor. Together, the institutions offer a Postdoctoral Fellowship to teach American Jewish History at the University and serve as the historian at the Museum. The joint project has been an enormous success, benefiting both institutions and strengthening ties between them. **Josh Perelman**, the current Postdoctoral fellow, did his graduate work at New York University and has worked with numerous historical organizations developing public programming, research agendas, and exhibitions.

This is an especially important time for deepening the connection between the Museum and Penn's Jewish Studies Program. The Museum will break ground on its new home on Independence Mall in spring 2007, and it is actively engaged in developing a world-call core exhibition for its new building. "Connecting the University of Pennsylvania and the National Museum of American Jewish History is a major step for historical scholarship and opens up exciting new opportunities for Penn students to explore the history of American Jews and



participate in the life of a major public institution,” said Perelman.

Student interns from Penn have played a central role in the Museum’s life for more than ten years, increasingly so since the addition of the Postdoctoral fellowship. Penn interns work in the museum’s collection, conduct historical research, and help develop content for the new core exhibition. For example, during the 2005-2006 school year, interns helped the Museum sort, catalogue, and research, the newly received Peter H. Schweitzer Collection of Jewish American, the largest of its kind. **Elizabeth Jefferson, Ariel Tichnor, Uri Friedman, and Alana Weiner** helped the Museum’s curatorial staff sort and research the Schweitzer collection. Out of their work, they produced fascinating papers on department stores, reprints of early 20th century recordings of cantors, kashruth in the Catskills, and the origins of the Bat Mitzvah in America. The students presented



Students gather to hear NMAJH interns’ presentations over dinner.

their research to a forum of their peers in the spring of 2006.

Beginning in the fall of 2007, a new group of interns—**Josh Diskin, Sarah Waxman, and Amy Shilane**—are working closely to help the Museum staff develop parts of the new core exhibition. As the Museum constructs its new building and new exhibitions in Philadelphia, the Jewish Studies program plans to sustain and heighten the collaborative relationship between the two institutions.

## STUDENT RESEARCH

Undergraduate student research continues to be one of JSP’s priorities. Last year a number of students in both the Jewish Studies major and in History wrote senior thesis projects on Jewish topics. Thanks to the generous support of **Phillip, C’34, and Robert, C’63,**



(L to R): Josh Perelman, Alana Weiner, Ariel Tichnor, Uri Freidman, Elizabeth Jefferson, and Beth Wenger

**Goldfein and Raymond and Ruth Brenner, PAR’99/01/05,** JSP annually awards some \$10,000 to support student research projects. Among the theses and projects supported last year was the following:

**Jay Solomon** wrote a senior thesis about “Loving Thy Neighbor as Thyself: The Place of Judaism in the Identity of the English Unitarians.” For this he won two prizes: The Lynn M. Case Prize for the best senior honors thesis in European history and The Samuel and Esther Goldin Endowment Award in Jewish Studies.

Goldfein Research Awards are intended to cover research projects and study programs, and Brenner Special Opportunity Awards finance special needs not otherwise covered by grants, such as travel to conferences or special courses of study. The 2005-2006 award winners are:

**Rachel Adler,** for archaeological research in Israel

**Sarah Breger,** for senior thesis research on the legitimacy of the “pre-conditional get” during wartime

**Livia Levine,** for research on the clash between Israeli communities as affected by varying fiscal policies

**Yuval Masory,** for language study in Israel

**Sharon Wolf,** for research in Israel on a senior thesis on the psychology of land

**Rebecca Cutler,** for dissertation research on the medical activities of American Jews in the post-World War II era

**Jennifer Glaser,** for travel to conferences to deliver papers

**Tammy Jacobowitz,** for dissertation research on six chapters of Leviticus Rabbah

**Julie Lieber,** for dissertation research on Jewish women in fin de siecle Vienna

**Ellie Schainker,** for archival research in Jerusalem on Russian-Jewish converts in the 19th century

**David Shyovitz,** for travel to the Association for Jewish Studies conference in D.C.

**Gabriela Skwara,** for tuition costs for the YIVO language program

**Kerry Wallach,** for travel and research costs in Germany and Austria

## Reflections of a Jewish Studies Minor

Many Penn undergraduates choose a minor in Jewish Studies as a way to complement the academic work of their majors and to enrich their educational experiences. **Sam Nathan,** a history major and Jewish Studies minor graduated in the spring of 2006, and shares his reflections about the Jewish Studies minor:

Sam Nathan writes, “*As a Diplomatic History major, I felt a Jewish Studies minor that focused on history would complement my studies as well as my interests. The classes I took did just that. By taking Jewish culture, religion and literature classes in addition to the Jewish history classes, I was able to explore my culture and heritage and expand my academic perspective. As Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary minor, the classes can complement many different courses of study. What is more, the professors, who taught my Jewish Studies courses, were consistently some of the best I had over four years at Penn.*”

## JEWISH EDUCATION UPDATES

In 2005-2006, JSP continued its commitment to expose undergraduates at Penn to Jewish education. For the sixth time, JSP sponsored last spring its annual course, “Teaching Jewish Texts,” taught by **Dr.**

**Joshua Levisohn,** the chair of the Jewish Studies program at Akiba Hebrew Academy in Merion Station, Pennsylvania. The course—which combines both pedagogy and content—focused on the teaching of TaNaKh and was enormously successful with four students enrolled. This spring the course will be offered again, and taught by **Dr. Karen Reiss-Medwed,** Adjunct Professor of Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. This course in Jewish education has been made possible through the generous gifts of **Jeffrey Schwarz (W’80, MBA’81)** and from the Lindenbaum Family (parents of **Abigail, C’97**).

Penn graduate students participated in various teaching venues. **Jennifer Glaser** designed and taught a Penn College of General Studies summer course, “Gender and Society,” and she also taught a creative non-fiction workshop for Antioch University’s MFA program. **Tammy Jacobowitz** taught Bible and Midrash in Drisha’s full-time program and Rabbinics for Meah, NYC. **David Shyovitz** last year taught a series of adult-education classes at the Lower Merion Synagogue, and this summer he taught a course at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. **Moriah Simon Hazani** taught a semester at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College entitled “Introduction to Codes,” and “The Book of Job” at Gratz Hebrew High School for college credit. She also taught adult education sessions and a session with the Rosh Chodesh Group at Temple Beth Hillel Beth El in Wynnewood, PA. **Susan Zeelander** taught a series on aspects of the Documentary Hypothesis and focusing on the Creation story, the Flood, the promise to Abraham, and organization of the judiciary, in the Adult Education Institute at Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell PA.

## 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 Soloveitchik, Aaron Kirschenbaum, and Moshe Halbertal, and Israel Supreme Court Justices Menahem Elon and Yitzhak Englard.

This past fall, **Dr. Yair Lorberbaum,** Law School professor at Bar Ilan University in Jerusalem, served as the Gruss Professor. Lorberbaum taught a course in the Law School on the Image of God

in Rabbinic Literature and delivered the Gruss Lectures. The lectures focused on the subject of “Halakhah, Aggadah, and the Limits of Law.” The lectures were widely attended.

## HEBREW



Jesse Rubinfeld, W’00, playing music composed for Dahlia Ravikovitch’s poems

Gutfreund visited students in their classes and discussed his work with them in Hebrew. In addition, together with the Middle East Center and the Jewish Studies Program, the MHLP organized an evening in memory of the great Israeli poet and novelist **Dahlia Ravikovitch,** featuring scholarly and artistic presentations and personal reminiscences. Finally, the program and the Middle East Center arranged for the screening of an award-winning Israeli documentary film, *After the Marriage*, followed by a meeting with the film’s director, **Ayelet Bechar.** Bechar also visited classes and spoke with the students about the film in Hebrew.

## YIDDISH

Penn continues to offer regular courses in Yiddish language and literature, as well as seminars in “Women and Jewish Literature” and “Translating Cultures.” In addition, the Yiddish program conducted two annual Sing-alongs (Zingeray) led by **Alexander Botwinik.** As they have done in the past, Botwinik and Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish **Kathryn Hellerstein** assigned their students projects utilizing the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive at Penn.

Hellerstein and Botwinik also enriched the classroom experience by introducing students to Yiddish culture through resources in the Philadelphia and New York areas. Thanks to a generous annual gift from the Charlotte Yiddish Institute, they took the Yiddish language students to the Folksbiene Yiddish theater production in November 2004. Botwinik and other Penn faculty

and CAJS fellows participated in the Modern Jewish Poetry Slam, organized by Hellerstein in April 2005, at the Kelly Writers House.

We welcome contributions to the Yiddish program that will provide continued support for Yiddish instruction.

The 2005 Workmen’s Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies at Penn was awarded to **Jonathan Ludmir (CAS, ’07).**

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We wish a fond farewell to **Maurice Samuels,** Assistant Professor in Romance Languages, who left Penn last spring in order to take a position at Yale. We will miss him, but we wish him well at Yale and thank him for his wonderful collegiality as a member of the Jewish Studies Program.

## FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

**Talya Fishman,** Associate Professor of Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History of the Medieval and Early Modern Periods in Religious Studies, received tenure.

**Kathryn Hellerstein,** Ruth Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish and Jewish Studies, won a Penn SAS Language Teaching Innovation Grant.

**Benjamin Nathans,** Associate Professor of History, was the recipient of a New Directions Fellowship from the Mellon Foundation to pursue legal and human rights studies.

**David B. Ruderman,** Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Jewish History, was awarded the Distinguished Humanist Award for 2006 from the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State University, and was elected Sackler University Scholar at Tel Aviv University.

**David Stern,** Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, received the Moses Aaron Dropsie Fellowship last year at Penn’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies where he participated in the research group on The Jewish Book: Material Texts and Comparative Contexts.

**Beth Wenger,** Katz Family Associate Professor of American Jewish History, received a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for the 2006-2007 academic year to work on her new book, “History Lessons: The Invention of American Jewish Heritage.”



# Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

## 2004-5: MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE AT CAJS

2005-2006 was a groundbreaking year at CAJS. For the first time ever, scholars gathered from across a wide range of disciplines to discuss, evaluate and in many cases, articulate for the first time, the history of the Jewish book. While the history of the book has become an increasingly important field in the humanities in general, it has received little focused attention in Jewish studies. It was this lack that led to the creation of last year's fellowship that brought together scholars who study manifestations of the Jewish book from antiquity to modernity. These scholars researched how the production, sale, and use of Jewish books affect not only the history of Jewish literature, but of Jewish culture itself. During their time at CAJS, the fellows shared their research and insights with other members of the academic community at weekly seminars and the annual Gruss Colloquium, with students on the Penn campus through semester long courses and other formal and informal presentations, with CAJS' board and friends group, and with the hundreds of interested learners who attended our public lecture series.

## 12th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Jewish Studies

On May 1-3, CAJS hosted its culminating conference for the year on the Penn campus. The colloquium was organized around the leading figures in book production and use: the author, the printer, the censor, the Jewish and Christian readers, and the librarian. By collectively exploring these roles, the colloquium participants made a unique contribution both to the history of the Jewish book and the history of the book at large. Two 2005-2006 fellows, **Joseph Hacker** and **Adam Shear (GSAS '03)** have begun editing a volume of essays derived from papers delivered at the conference. The Gruss Colloquium is made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W'64**.

## Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History

On February 1, **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin**, CAJS fellow and senior lecturer at Ben Gurion University, was the featured speaker at the ninth annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History. Dr. Raz-Krakotzkin is a scholar of early modern Jewish history and contemporary Israeli history and appears frequently in the Israeli media as a commentator on current events. The Meyerhoff lecture centered around a

lively conversation among Dr. Raz-Krakotzkin, **Dr. Ian Lustick**, Bess W. Heyman Professor of Political Science at Penn and **Dr. Jonathan Steinberg**, Walter Annenberg Professor of Modern European History at Penn, and members of the audience on the subject of Dr. Raz-Krakotzkin's paper, "Exile, History and the Nationalization of Jewish Memory."

The annual Meyerhoff lecture was established by the **Joseph Meyerhoff Memorial Trusts** in 1997 to honor the appointment of **Herbert D. Katz, W' 51** as the chair of the Board of Overseers of CAJS and to honor the generosity and service of **Herbert D. Katz** and **Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz** to Penn's History department and CAJS.

## 2006 Public Programs

The **Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies** continue to flourish throughout the Philadelphia area. The 2006 lecture series, "High Points and Highlights: Reflections on Jewish Culture" was one of our most successful series ever. The series, which included lectures on topics as diverse as the history of Yiddish, the Passover Haggadah and Jewish art and architecture, drew hundreds of people to programs in Philadelphia and the neighboring Pennsylvania and South Jersey suburbs. As always, the lecture series gives our fellows a chance to share their knowledge and insights with eager and enthusiastic audiences. CAJS also offered a mini-course, taught by Penn's own **Dr. Arthur Kiron**, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica, on the history of the Jewish book. This course offered participants a more comprehensive survey of the Jewish book from its origins in the Ancient Near East through early modern times. In addition to these Philadelphia area programs, CAJS fellows presented programs in Los Angeles and Miami. The Center also embarked on a series of partnerships with selected synagogues across the country. Through these partnerships, synagogues will have the opportunity to host a lecture by a CAJS fellow each year.

## 2006-2007 AT CAJS: JEWISH, CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM LIFE UNDER CALIPHS AND SULTANS

Especially in America, the history of Ashkenazi communities and their relationship to their Christian host countries has dominated the field of Jewish history while the rich history of Jews under Islam has received far less attention. This year's CAJS

fellowship represents a step toward redressing this imbalance. This year, twenty-two scholars from the United States and Israel will convene at the Center to explore and re-evaluate the history of Jews and Christians under Islam in the period stretching from the 7th-late 19th centuries. As always, the individual projects of CAJS fellows are quite varied. Fellows will be working on aspects of the political, social and religious histories of Jewish communities spread throughout the Muslim world. Together, their investigations will serve to paint a fuller and more nuanced picture of this central aspect of the Jewish past. This year's fellowship will also provide a very exciting opportunity for collaboration at Penn. The fellowship is being co-sponsored by Penn's Middle East Center and two new Penn faculty members, **Dr. Jessica Goldberg** (History) and **Dr. Jamal Elias** (Religious Studies) will also be fellows at the Center.

## Publications

2006-2007 will be an exciting year for CAJS' partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Press. Two new books are coming out this fall in the Center's series Jewish Culture and Contexts. They are *A Kingdom of Priests: Ancestry and Merit in Ancient Judaism* by Martha Himmelfarb and *A Sufi-Jewish Dialogue: Philosophy and Mysticism in Bahya ibn Paquda's Duties of the Heart* by Diana Lobel.

Under the leadership of **Elliott Horowitz**, **David Myers** and **Natalie Dohrmann**, the *Jewish Quarterly Review* continues to publish cutting-edge research that brings the field of Jewish Studies into conversation with the hottest issues and methods in the wider humanities. The fall issue is a special issue on *Judaism and Language*, which draws together a wide range of thinkers including scholars Nicolas De Lange and Kirsten Fudeman, musicologist Jehoshua Hirschberg, novelist Dara Horn, and journalist, now translator, Leon Wieseltier. Next year is also in production, as we are assembling a special issue for Fall 2007 on the legacy of Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi's seminal 1982 book *Zakhor, Jewish History and Jewish Memory*. In between these special issues, *JQR* readers will find fascinating articles and stimulating discussions of major books on Jewish myth, philosophy, history and literature.

## 2007 Outreach Program

In the current political climate, there is a pressing interest and urgent need to understand the history and historic

Yaron Ben-Naeh (S)  
Jewish Family in the Ottoman Empire  
Hebrew University  
*Primo Levi Term Fellowship*

Haggai Ben-Shammai  
Scriptural Exegesis in Medieval Judaism and Islam  
Hebrew University  
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz  
*Distinguished Fellowship*

Sagit Butbul  
Judeo-Arabic Bible Translations in the Middle Ages  
Hebrew University  
*Selma Ruben Term Fellowship*

Yossi David (F)  
Imagination and Religious Identity in Early Medieval Jewish-Arabic Writings  
University of Haifa  
*Martin Gruss Fellowship*

Jonathan Decter (S)  
Hebrew Panegyric, Jewish Court Culture, and the Articulation of Legitimacy  
Brandeis University  
*Albert J. Wood Term Fellowship*

Jamal Elias  
University of Pennsylvania

David Freidenreich  
Foreign Food Restrictions in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Legal Sources under Islamic Rule  
Columbia University  
*Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship*

Gad Freudenthal (F)  
Science and Philosophy in Medieval Centre National de la Jewish Cultures  
Recherche Scientifique  
*Primo Levi Term Fellowship*

Mordechai Friedman (S)  
Maimonides' Prayer Reforms in Light of Geniza Documents  
Tel-Aviv University  
*Ruth Meltzer Distinguished Fellowship*

possibilities of the relationships among Jews, Christians and Muslims. CAJS is privileged to have a group of expert scholars who, through their scholarship and teaching can contribute to this effort. Our 2006-2007 fellows will be sharing their insights and research with the Penn community through formal undergraduate and graduate teaching, guest lectures in classes and departments, and formal and informal visits to Hillel. CAJS fellows, **David Freidenreich**, **Miriam Goldstein**, and **Charles Manekin** will be teaching undergraduate courses while **Haggai Ben-Shammai**, **Gad Freudenthal**, **Daniel Lasker** and **Sarah Stroumsa** will be team-teaching a course for graduate students.

Through the Center's public programs, fellows will also share their knowledge with audiences outside of the university. The 2007 Penn Lectures

CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES  
University of Pennsylvania  
2006-2007

THE JEWISH BOOK: MATERIAL TEXTS AND COMPARATIVE CONTEXTS



Fall 2006 CAJS fellows

Jessica Goldberg  
University of Pennsylvania

Miriam Goldstein  
Muslim/Christian Influences on Judeo-Arabic Biblical Exegesis  
Hebrew University  
*Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship*

David Hollenberg (F)  
Jews and Christians in Medieval Ismaili Doctrine and Fatimid Policy  
University of Pennsylvania  
*Louis and Bessie Stein Term Fellowship*

Alfred Ivry (F)  
Shi'ism and Judaism in the Middle Ages  
New York University  
*Ruth Meltzer Distinguished Fellowship*

Milka Levy-Rubin  
From Ahd to Shurut: Interrelations between Muslim and dhimmi communities  
Hebrew University  
*Ella Darivoff Fellowship*

Gideon Libson (F)  
Maimonides' Halakhic Writing and Muslim Law  
Hebrew University  
*Moses Aaron Dropsie Fellowship*

Aharon Maman  
Rav Hal Gaeon's Kitab-Al-Hawi  
Hebrew University  
*Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship*

Charles Manekin (S)  
Maimonides' Religious Development  
University of Maryland  
*Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship*

Vera Moreen  
Bridging Cultures: Two Texts from the Iranian Milieu  
Independent Scholar  
*Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship*

Robert Morrison (S)  
Jewish Science at the Intersection of Islamic Astronomies  
Whitman College  
*Martin Gruss Fellowship*

Sarah Stroumsa  
New Perspectives in the Philosophy of al-Andalus  
Hebrew University  
*Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship*

Daniel Tsadik (S)  
Shi'ite and Jewish Scriptural Exegesis of Jewish Texts in Pre-Modern Iran  
Hebrew University  
*Moses Aaron Dropsie Fellowship*

Yaron Tsur (F)  
Jewish Inclusion in Algerian and Tunisian Networks  
Tel-Aviv University  
*Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship*

## SHORT-TERM FELLOW

Daniel Lasker

## ADJUNCT FELLOWS

Ross Brann  
Mark Cohen  
Patricia Crone  
Raymond Scheindlin  
Abraham Udovitch  
Lucette Valensi

in Judaic Studies will run from February to May in Philadelphia and the surrounding Pennsylvania and South Jersey suburbs. We will also offer a three-session mini-course in May at CAJS on the topic of Jews under Islamic rule. The mini-course offers interested learners a chance to learn from current fellows in a more interactive and sustained setting. In addition to the programs in Philadelphia, the Center will also sponsor programs by current fellows at synagogues in the Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and Washington, D.C. areas. This year, the Center will also be launching a new initiative to provide programming opportunities for rabbis and other professionals who would benefit from advanced studies in Jewish Studies. If you would like more information about our public programs, please contact Dr. Elsie Stern at [erstern@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:erstern@sas.upenn.edu) or consult our website at: [www.cajs.upenn.edu](http://www.cajs.upenn.edu)



# 2005-2006 Special Events and Programs

## MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Tenth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History was a lecture entitled, "Exile, History and the Nationalization of Jewish Memory," with **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin** (Tel Aviv University) and respondents **Ian Lustick** (University of Pennsylvania, Political Science) and **Jonathan Steinberg** (University of Pennsylvania, History), on February 1, 2006. The event was co-sponsored by CAJS and the History Department.

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 **Herb Katz, W'51**, as 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



Jeffrey Gurock addressing a student panel of Jesse David, Lauren Weinstein, and Erica Denhoff.

On February 22, 2006, Professor **Jeffrey Gurock** (Yeshiva University) gave a public lecture "American Judaism's Scorecard: Sports and American Jewish Culture" and a student panel following the lecture included **Jesse David, C'06**, **Erica Denhoff, C'08**, and **Lauren Weinstein, C'06**.

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



Israel Finkelstein with Helen Mackler, donor.

On October 27, 2005, Professor **Israel Finkelstein** (Tel Aviv University) delivered a lecture to a packed audience on "In Search of the Bible's Sacred Kings: David and Solomon in History and Myth."

The Joseph Alexander Colloquium, Penn's oldest endowed 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, C'50**, and **Mitzi Kutchin**.

"The Semantic Sea: On Translating Modern Israeli Literature," with translator **Betsy Rosenberg** on September 20, 2005.

*Walk on Water Israeli 'Drive In' Movie*, co-sponsored with Penn Hillel's Israel Cultural Committee on September 29, 2005

"Halakhah, Aggadah, and the Limits of Law," with **Yair Lorberbaum** (Bar Ilan University) giving the Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law: Halakhah, Aggadah, and the Limits of

Law, co-sponsored with the University of Pennsylvania Law School on October 11, 2005.

"Maimonides on Aggadah and the Limits of Law," with **Yair Lorberbaum** (Bar Ilan University) giving the Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law: Halakhah, Aggadah, and the Limits of Law, Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law, co-sponsored with the University of Pennsylvania Law School on October 20, 2005.

"Don't Get Me Started: A Meditation on the Future of Jewish Stand Up Comedy," with **Donald Weber** (Mount Holyoke College), co-sponsored with the National Museum of American Jewish History on November 8, 2005.

"A Good Place for the Night," with author **Savyon Liebrecht**, co-sponsored with the Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia, and the Middle East Center at Penn on November 15, 2005.

"An Economist Reads the Mishna," with **Tamara Lefcourt Ruby** (Israel Center for Teaching and Learning), co-sponsored with the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Mathematics on January 31, 2006.

Annual Meyerhoff lecture on "Exile, History and the Nationalization of Jewish Memory," with **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin** (Tel Aviv University) and respondents Ian Lustick (University of Pennsylvania, Political Science) and **Jonathan Steinberg** (University of Pennsylvania, History), co-sponsored with the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and the History Department on February 1, 2006

"The Ordeal of the Adulteress: Priestly, Rabbinic and Magical Attitudes," with **Yuval Harari** (Ben Gurion University) co-sponsored with Folklore and Folklife and Religious Studies on February 6, 2006.

"Turbulent Times in the Middle East - Where to Next?: A Journalist's Perspective," with



(L to R) CAJS fellows Chava Turniansky, Moshe Rosman, Iris Parush listen to Ben Nathans at a roundtable discussion



(L to R) Kathryn Hellerstein, Donald Weber and Beth Wenger.

**Yaron Deckel** (Israel Broadcasting Authority's Washington Bureau Chief), co-sponsored with Annenberg School of Communication, Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia, Middle East Center, Solomon Asch Center, Fox Leadership Program, Wharton Global Consulting Practicum, Graduate and International Programs of Penn Law School, Penn Israel Coalition, and Hillel of Greater Philadelphia on February 27, 2006.

"A Memorial in Piano, Poetry, and Song: Dahlia Ravikovitch (1936-2005)," an Israel Prize Laureate and an internationally known and translated poet, co-sponsored with the Middle East Center, Hillel, and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures on March 21, 2006.

"The History of Jews in the Middle Ages from the North Sea to the Southern Alps: A Description and User's Guide," with **Ed Peters** (University of Pennsylvania) on March 22, 2006.

"Computerized Lexicography: The Jewish Aramaic Dialects of the First Millennium C.E.," with **Michael Sokoloff** (Bar Ilan University), co-sponsored with the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations on March 23, 2006.

Conference on "Tradition and Trends: Where Judaism and Body Image Meet, Miss, and Collide," co-sponsored with Penn Hillel, Tradition Confronts Innovation, Office of Health Education, and Active Minds on March 26, 2006.



(L to R) Nili Gold with guest, Savyon Liebrecht.

Roundtable Discussion on "Interpreting East European Jewry: New Horizons/New Perspectives," with **Iris Parush** (Ben-Gurion University), **Moshe Rosman** (Bar-Ilan University), **Chava Turniansky** (Hebrew University) and moderator, **Benjamin Nathans**, University of Pennsylvania, History), co-sponsored with the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures on March 30, 2006.

"The Stuff of American Jewish History: Why Things Matter" A Presentation by Penn Student Interns at the National Museum of American Jewish History on April 4, 2006.

"Ensouled Laws (Abraham and Moses): Sage as Text and Text as Sage in the Writings of Philo of Alexandria," with **Hindy Najman** (University of Toronto), co-sponsored with the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins on April 27, 2006.

## 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 is a graduate student seminar in Biblical studies and related fields. Coordinated by the graduate students, the Seminar was chaired last year by Bill Zimmerle and Spencer Allen.

The following papers were delivered at the Seminar last year:

**Spencer Allen** (University of Pennsylvania, NELC) "Springsteen and Theology" (i.e., "Springsteen and the Puritan Ideal of the Promised Land" and "Mary, Queen of Arkansas; Mary, Queen of Heaven")

**Shalom Holtz** (University of Pennsylvania, NELC) "Royal Judges in Achaemenid Babylonia."

**Prof. Ran Zadok** (University of Tel-Aviv) "Connections Between Babylonia and Elam in the Chaldean and Achaemenid Periods"

**Spencer Allen** (University of Pennsylvania, NELC) "Understanding Amos 6:12 in Light of his other Rhetorical Questions"

**Judah Kraut** (University of Pennsylvania, NELC) "The Literary Role of Reuben and Judah in the Book of Genesis."

**Shannon Martino** (University of Pennsylvania, Art History) "Alternate Representational Systems: Vinça Cultural Priorities from the 6th- mid 4th millennium B.C."

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### Rosenbach Exhibition

In spring 2007, Penn's Jewish Studies Program will be co-sponsoring a major exhibition of rare Jewish books from Philadelphia public collections at the famous Rosenbach Library and Museum in Center City. Entitled "CHOSEN! Philadelphia's Great Hebraica," the exhibit is being curated by **David Stern**, Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, who has spent the last five years searching through various collections in the Philadelphia area for important and all but unknown Jewish books.

The exhibit will include some fifty items—among them, handwritten manuscripts going back to the early Middle Ages, early printed books, and illustrated Esther scrolls—drawn from the collections of the University of Pennsylvania libraries (including the Dropsie College collection), the Free Library, Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College, Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Kneseth Israel Temple, Congregation Mikveh Israel, and the Rosenbach Library and Museum. "Stars" of the show include the earliest surviving near-complete Passover haggadah, a 13th-century Spanish Bible, Jewish books censored by the Inquisition, the first printed prayerbook, and a 6" by 4" leaf of parchment containing the entire scroll of Esther with six illustrated medallions.

By bringing these dispersed treasures together, the exhibit hopes to show the rich stories that these books tell about the Jewish historical and cultural experience as well as the tales of the collectors who brought these books to Philadelphia to their present homes. The exhibit is scheduled to open on March 28, 2007 through July 29, 2007, and will include regular tours and public programming. More information will be forthcoming.



## JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt Library, at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library and at the University Museum—continue to grow as an integrated unit within the University library system under the management of **Arthur Kiron**, Curator of Judaica collections. The Library staff of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies – **Judith Leifer**, who oversees the Inter-Library Loan program for the Fellows, **Seth Jerchow**, the CAJS Public Services Librarian, and **Josef Gulka**, who supervises circulation – once again received outstanding reviews from this past year's research Fellows. Overall, the CAJS library received nearly 3,000 public service contacts, shelved nearly 6,000 volumes, produced almost 900 digital images, administered the circulation of over 300 rare items, received over 900 inter-library loan requests and had a remarkable average turn-around time of two days for filled requests. To mark the conclusion of the 2006 CAJS seminar year, **Seth Jerchow**, in collaboration with CAJS Fellows, designed, edited and mounted a beautiful virtual exhibit based on the year's research theme, CAJS Fellows' 2005-2006 web-exhibit "The Jewish Book: Material Texts and Comparative Contexts," May, 2006.

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows06/>

## NEW PENN JUDAICA HOMEPAGE

For the first time the entirety of Penn Judaica is now accessible via a new web presence located within the Library's Area Studies group. Check-it out at:

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/judaical/>

## COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

Fundraising efforts have begun to make an important difference as the Judaica collections received nearly \$250,000 in pledges, grants, and gifts in kind during the last year. Among the most exciting new acquisitions was a rare sixteenth-century printed edition of David de Pomis' *Discorso intorno a l'humana miseria e sopr'al modo di fuggirla* ["A Discourse on Human Suffering and How to Escape it"] (Venice: Giordano Ziletti, 1572). This treatise, composed by one of the leading rabbis and physicians of 16th century Rome, uniquely includes two and half pages after the end of the printed book penned in contemporary Italian hand describing an effort by the Irish to rebel against the rule of

Queen Elizabeth with the support of troops dispatched by the Vatican. We extend our deep thanks and appreciation to Penn Library Board of Overseer **Jeffrey Keil, W'65** for making it possible to acquire this unique treasure for the Penn Library.

We are especially grateful to Penn Library Board Overseer **Erik Gershwind, W'93** as well as **Jackie Gershwind**, and **Stacey Bennett, C'95** and **Michael Bennett** for a substantial gift, which includes support to create acquisitions endowment, public programs and a new grant project (see below, **American Genizah Project**)

Thanks to the generosity of Penn Library Board of Overseer **Gilbert Mathews, W'70**, the Library was able to acquire a collection of forty rare Livornese Hebrew books, many of which were printed at the famous Italian Jewish press of Solomon Belforte and Co., from the collection of **Rabbi Ezekiel and Margaret Musleah**. A portion of these precious copies contains inscriptions in Bengali and distinctive ownership marks from Calcutta, reflecting the Indian heritage of the Musleah family.

**Mr. Henry Frommer, W' 64**, has established a Judaica book fund in memory of his parents, **Barney and Eleanor Frommer**. The Fund will support the purchase of books, manuscripts, and other materials for the Judaica collections at Penn in perpetuity.

The Jewish Studies Program continues to contribute money towards special purchases, including a recent gift received from **Ruth and Raymond Brenner** and the **Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies** in honor of **Gregory Brenner, W'99; Adam Brenner, W'01; Jason Brenner, W'05**, for the purchase at auction of a copy of an 1858 prospectus for the printing of the rare Warsaw edition of the Talmud. The JSP also devoted a portion of a generous gift from **Annette Freund** towards the purchase from a private bookseller, **Eric Chaim Kline**, of a rare edition of Heinrich Heine's *Rabbi von Bacherach* (Berlin: Euphorion Verlag, 1921). The rare edition is beautifully illustrated with a number of woodcuts signed by the artist Joseph Budko.

**David Cook**, a senior associate, gave a gift of a new, critical dictionary of Biblical Hebrew by Menahem Zevi Kaddari (Bar Ilan University press, 2006) for the Weigle JANES room in honor of Prof. Jeffrey Tigay.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

In conjunction with the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies' 2005-2006 research theme, "The Jewish Book: Material Texts and Historical Contexts," **Arthur Kiron** curated



(L to R) David Stern with Lehmann Workshop speaker, Joseph Hacker.

an exhibition entitled "Printer, Publisher, Peddler: The Business of the Jewish Book." It was on display from October 14, 2005-March 1, 2006 at the **Kamin Gallery in the Van Pelt Library**. To view the on-line version, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/PrinterPublisherPeddler/>

Penn's Curator of Judaica also spoke at a number of conferences and public events, including the Third EVA (Electronic Imaging & the Visual Arts)/Minerva Europe Conference on the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage, held at **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA, September 22, 2005; an international conference on Judeo-Spanish (Ladino), held in the **Palazzo Granducale, Piazza del Municipio Livorno, Italy**, on November 6, 2005. In March 2006, at the **Penn Club of the Palm Beaches** (Florida), he delivered an alumni presentation entitled "Parchment, Paper, Print: A History of the Jewish Book"; in April of 2006, he delivered the opening remarks, "Collectors, Collecting, and the Valmadonna Library Collection," at the **Centro Primo Levi**; and in May of 2006, he served as a respondent to the panel on "The Printer" at the CAJS 11th Annual **Gruss Colloquium**, "The Jewish Book: Material Texts and Comparative Contexts."

On May 6 and 7, 2006, the Library joined with the Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to host the sixth annual **Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop** on the history of the Jewish book. This year's topic was the Yiddish and Ladino printed book. **Shlomo Berger**, of the University of Amsterdam and **Joseph Hacker** of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, led sessions on their respective areas of expertise. As has been customary, the Lehmann workshop, held at the CAJS, 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, and the **University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation**, and **Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66**, for additional funding.

## GRANT PROJECTS

Penn Judaica is leading a consortium of public institutions and private collectors to locate, catalog, transcribe, and digitize some of the most important, founding documents of American Jewish history. This **American Genizah Project**, funded with a generous start-up gift from **Erik Gershwind, W'93**, and **Jackie Gershwind**, and **Stacey Bennett, C'95** and **Michael Bennett** began work in the summer of 2006 with a pilot project focusing on the correspondence of Isaac Leiser (1806-1868), considered the most-important mid-19th century American Jewish minister, editor, translator and communal leader. Relying on the successful proof-of-concept employed in the Penn-Cambridge Genizah digitization project, the American Genizah undertaking will similarly seek to provide on-line access to physically dispersed yet intellectually related materials. The short-term goal of the project is to produce a standards-based electronic edition of the extant correspondence of Leiser. Our long-term hope is that this project will serve as a model for collective efforts to digitize related archival collections around the U.S. and internationally.

The Penn Library implemented a successful grant proposal "Integrating Information Technologies with the Humanistic Study of Religion and Urban Civil Society in the Middle East," funded by the **Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS)**. The dynamic new site can be viewed on-line at:

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/research/prruc/index.html>

The remarkably career of Penn Library's pilot project with the **Taylor-Schechter Genizah Unit at the Cambridge University Library, the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America** in New York City, **Prof. Ezra Chwat** at the **Institute for Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in Jerusalem**, and **Ms. Heidi Lerner** at the **Stanford University Library**, nears completion. All the scanning and cataloging of Penn's fragments as well as a sampling of related fragments located the CUL and at the JTSAL have been finished. The results may be viewed on-line at: <http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/genizah/index.cfm>

## DEPARTURES: MICHAEL T. RYAN

**Michael T. Ryan**, Director of the Annenberg Rare Book and Manuscript Library and supervisor of Penn's Judaica collections, accepted the Directorship of Columbia University Library's Special Collections and began work there on May 1, 2006. Dr. Ryan, who first came to Penn from Stanford University in 1992, was deeply committed to Jewish studies and took a keen interest in the building of the Penn library's Judaica collections. Dr. Ryan oversaw the merger

of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library with the Penn Library system in 1994 and worked closely with Prof. David Ruderman to create the Library's first Curatorship of Judaica. We wish Dr. Ryan continued success in his new position and extend to him our deep thanks and appreciation for his years of devoted service to the Penn Library and its Judaica collections.

## IN MEMORIAM: ALBERT J. WOOD

The University of Pennsylvania Library and its Judaica collections staff mourn the passing of **Albert J. Wood**, who died on Monday, August 7, 2006, just three days shy of his 96th birthday. Mr. Wood was a native Philadelphian and the son of poor, Russian-Jewish immigrants who rose by dint of hard work from humble beginnings to pioneer the industry of market research. He used his success in business for substantial philanthropic ends. Most notably, he led the effort to transform the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, the first state-accredited doctoral program devoted to Jewish Studies, into a post-graduate research center. Mr. Wood served as founding chairman of the board of the newly established Moses Aaron Dropsie Research Institute in 1985. Through Mr. Wood's efforts the Hon. Walter Annenberg made what proved to be his largest donation to a Jewish-related institution. The Dropsie Institute's name subsequently was changed to the Annenberg Research Institute (ARI) in honor of its principal benefactor. In 1993, as a member of the ARI's board of trustees, Mr. Wood participated in the merger negotiations that brought the ARI to Penn. Today it is called the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS) at the University of Pennsylvania. On the occasion of his 95th birthday on August 10, 2005, Mr. Wood endowed a term fellowship at the CAJS and earlier that year he and his wife Ele created the Penn Library's first endowed Judaica book fund. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Wood family, his friends and many admirers.

## THANK YOU!

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

**Jean S. Adelman; Aviva Astrinsky; Beki L. Bahar; Adina Bar-El; Nira Bartal; Miriam and Ben-Zion Barlev; Hakan Bengtsson; Stacey and Michael Bennett, Terri Binder and Joseph Koschitzki; Howard A. Blum; Ann Bonn and Helen Weindling; Ruth and Raymond Brenner and the Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies in honor of Gregory Brenner, W'99; Adam Brenner, W'01; Jason Brenner, W'05; Petr Charvat; Alma Orlowitz Cohen, FA'44;**

**Boris Cohen, Dov ha-Cohen; Martin Cohen; Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66; Gloria Cohn; David G. Cook; Flora Campos Cornfield; Muhammad A. Dandamayev; Avi Decter; Yvonne Edels; Alfred H. Eidlitz; Michael E. Eigen, C'57; Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg; Sara Feinstein; Sandra Fifer; Pamela Foa; Megan Foley; John L. Frank; Robert and Molly Freedman; Jack and Naomi Friedman; Annette Freund; Michal Galas; Gilad J. Gevaryahu; Erik and Jackie Gershwind, Howard M. Girsh; Joann S. Girsh; Andrew Gluck; Allen and Adele Gottfried; Adele and Bertram Greenspan; Guido Guastalla; Silvia Guastalla; Gail Morrison-Hall; Leonard Hayflick; Alice Herman; Bruna Herzfeld; Eric Hoffman, GR'78 L'84; Irving Horn; John R. Hose; Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.; Seth Jerchow; Jewish Publication Society of America; Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Maxine Kalina; Michael Kaplan; Deborah Karp; Melvin Kates; Jeffrey Keil W'65, Murad El-Kodsi; Yaacov Kotlicki; Norman Kransdorf; Judith Korman Langsfeld CW'67; Eric Laupot; Judith Leifer; Marvin Lessen; Walter A. Levy, G'73; Lenora M. and John E. Link; Jack Lunzer; Jane Moskowitz Mack; Mona Magnis; Paul David Mandel; Eugene Mark; Yaakov**

The following CAJS Fellows and guests have donated copies of their scholarship to the CAJS Library collection: **Michela Andreatta; Elisheva Baumgarten; Adina Bar-El; Hamutal Bar-Yosef; Israel Bartal; Malachi Beit-Arie; Dan Ben-Amos; Shlomo Berger; Adele Berlin; Miroslawa Bulat; Stephen Burnett; Alan D. Crown; Yaacov Deutsch; Aron Dotan; Harold Allen Drake; Jacob Elbaum; David Engel; Shamma Friedman; Seymour Gitin; Sylvie 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; Daniel Lasker; Sara Japhet; Ruth Kartun-Blum; Fabrizio Lelli; Berahyahu Lifshitz; Ora Limor; Yehiel Limor; Rachel Manekin; Richard Popkin; Riv-Ellen Prell; Stefan Reif; Shalom Sabar; Dalit Rom-Shiloni; Alan Rosen; Moshe Rosman; Tovah Rosen; Gerson Shaked; Jeffrey Shoulson; Daniel Sheerin; Marcos Silber; Mark S. Smith; Haym Soloveitchik; Adam Teller; Smadar Tirosch-Heyd; Chava Turniansky; Israel Yuval; Mordechai Zalkin; Ziony Zevit.**



# About Our Students

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Eight students graduated in May 2006 with majors or minors in the different Jewish Studies departmental tracks.

- Four seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Minor: **Modessa Jacobs, Esther Lassman, Samuel Nathan, and Amanda Ring**
- Two seniors completed a major in the Hebraica/Judaica Concentration in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations: **Daniel Granowitz** and **Joshua Schainker**
- One senior completed a major in the Judaica Concentration in the Department of Religious Studies: **Jay Solomon**
- One senior completed a minor in the Jewish History Concentration in the Department of History: **Lauren Weinstein**

## PRIZES AND HONORS

The **Philip E. Goldfein Scholarship Award in Jewish Studies**, which is supported by a generous gift from **Robert, C'63, and Phillip, C'34, Goldfein**, is awarded to both undergraduates and graduate students to support research projects and unusual academic experiences. This past year's awards went to undergraduates: **Rachel Adler, Sarah Breger, Livia Levine, Yuval Masory, and Sharon Wolf**, and to graduate student, **Kerry Wallach**.

The **B'nai Zion Award for Excellence in Hebrew and Hebraic Studies** was awarded to **Daniel Granowitz**. This award of a \$100 United States Savings Bond is sponsored by the B'nai Zion Foundation.

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. This year's prize was awarded to **Modessa Jacobs**.

The **Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies**, designated for special opportunities in Judaic Studies, were awarded to graduate students: **Rebecca Cutler, Jennifer Glaser, Tammy Jacobowitz, Julie Lieber, Ellie Schainker, David Shyovitz, and Gabriela Skwara**. This award was established through the generosity of **Raymond and Ruth Brenner** and their family (parents of **Jason, W'05, Adam, W'01, and Gregory, W'99, Brenner**).

The **Merle Saunders Schaff Memorial Award** is awarded annually by the Department of Religious Studies for the best essays written by undergraduate and graduate students on a topic in the history of Judaism or Ancient Israel. Last year's recipient went to Undergraduate **David Faleck**, for his essay "Psalm 91" and to graduate student **V. K. Inman**, for "Evidence for the Text of Psalm 110.1 Presented in the New Testament Quotations."

Honorable Mention went to graduate student **Doug Finkbeiner** for his essay on "Building Between Two Worlds: Herod's Tension as Roman Client and Jewish Ruler."

Thanks to a \$10,000 endowment gift last winter by **Dr. Rosaline Goldin and Ms. Julia Goldin** of Bala Cynwyd, JSP was able to create The **Samuel and Esther Goldin Endowment Award Fund** to benefit an outstanding student majoring or minoring in Jewish studies at the University of Pennsylvania. This year's award went to **Jay Solomon**, a senior double major in History and Religious Studies with a Judaism concentration.

In addition, JSP has established the **Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies**. This year's award was given to **Sharon Wolf**.

## GRADUATE STUDIES IN JEWISH STUDIES AT PENN

Thirty years ago, Jewish Studies at Penn was mainly geared towards 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 towards 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 and Modern Jewish History, Modern Jewish Literature, and American Jewish History. The Jewish Studies Program itself does not run graduate programs—these continue to be located in graduate groups run through departments, like History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Religious Studies—but JSP sponsors a student-run graduate student seminar. It also awards research stipends to every entering graduate student as well as special-needs and research grants to support graduate education and scholarship.



Falafel on the Walk during pre-registration. Food for thought.

## THE FALK FELLOWSHIP

The JSP administers the **Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Fellowship**, the only graduate fellowship "owned" and controlled by Jewish Studies. 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 and persuading them to come to Penn. 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 **Kerry Wallach** (Germanic Languages), and second-year **David Shyovitz** (History); Kerry is studying modern German-Jewish and Hebrew literatures, and Shyovitz early modern Jewish history.



Falk fellow, Kerry Wallach



Falk fellow, David Shyovitz

Through the years, Ed 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. At present, JSP is able to award Falk fellowships every two out of three years.

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!

## LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

Every year in this newsletter we include short updates from all our current grad students, and we do so in this issue as well. 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.

**Shawn Zelig Aster** successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Divine and Human Radiance in the Hebrew Bible and in Mesopotamian and Northwest Semitic Literature: A Philological and Comparative Study" in March. He is a Kreitman Post-Doctoral Fellow at Ben-Gurion University in Beer-Sheva, Israel, where he is researching the book of Isaiah, focusing on Isaiah's responses to the political situation of his time. He is also teaching a course on Isaiah at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel and another course on The Historical Background to Isaiah 1-39 at Ben-Gurion University.

In late March, **Shalom Holtz** defended his dissertation, "Neo-Babylonian Decision Records and Related Texts: Typological, Procedural and Comparative Aspects." He was awarded his degree in May. Shortly after commencement, he and his wife, Leebie Mallin, welcomed the birth of their first child, Zev Barukh Boaz (Billy, for short). During the summer, Shalom taught Biblical Hebrew at the Drisha Institute in Manhattan. In the fall, he assumed the position of Assistant Professor of Bible at Yeshiva University, where he is teaching Introduction to Bible and courses on biblical texts. He is currently revising his dissertation for publication as a book, and is researching on the interface between postbiblical Jewish literature and ancient Near Eastern studies.

**David Hollenberg** accepted a position at James Madison University and is a fellow at CAJS this fall. His topic at the Center is, "Jews and Christians in Medieval Ismaili Doctrine and Fatimid Policy."

**Debra Kaplan** is Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva College. She has published work on Jewish autobiographies and on Jewish communal life during the early modern period in *Jewish Quarterly Review*, several German anthologies, and *Leipziger Beiträge zur jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur*. Prof. Kaplan is currently continuing her work on Jewish-Christian relations in Strasbourg during the Protestant Reformation, and was recently awarded a grant from the American Historical Association. She is also a co-organizer of the Early Modern Jewries Workshop, a collaborative project co-sponsored by Wesleyan University, University of Maryland and Yeshiva University.

**Rebecca Kobrin**, a former Wexner fellow, completed her doctorate in Modern Jewish History in spring 2002. Since then, she has held a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Yale in Judaic Studies, and served as the American Academy of Jewish Research post-doctoral fellow at New York University. This fall she shall begin a tenure-track position at Columbia University in American Jewish history.

**Susan Marks**, Religious Studies 2003 Ph.D., is the Klingenstein Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies at New College of Florida, the Honors College of the state of Florida. She is on Assigned Research Leave fall semester 2006, catching her breath from teaching in order to pursue her research and writing. At the 2005 Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) meeting in Philadelphia she presented a paper entitled "The Grooms' Blessing as an Extreme Makeover of Jewish Wedding Feasts," which explored evidence for an Amoraic transformation in attitudes towards weddings. In addition she was a respondent to two papers on "Women at Greco-Roman Meals" at one of the sessions of the Greco-Roman Meals Seminar, also at SBL.

**Kevin M. McGeough** works in ancient Near Eastern history and Biblical Studies. He is teaching ancient history and archaeology at University of Lethbridge in Canada.

**Adam Shear** (PhD, History, 2003) is an Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. In the fall of 2005, he was back in Philadelphia for a semester as a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies working on a project on the transmission of medieval philosophical texts in Renaissance Italy and the impact of print. In 2005-2006, he lectured at conferences in Jerusalem, Philadelphia, Washington, San Francisco, and Leipzig. Since 2005, he has served as co-chair for the Modern Judaism Works in Progress Group at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies.

**Moshe Simon-Shoshan** graduated with his doctorate in Near Eastern and Judaic studies in 2005. His dissertation, supervised by David Stern, was entitled "Halacha l'maaseh: Narrative and Legal Discourse in the Mishna." Starting in the fall of 2006, Moshe will be a Krietman Fellow at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva. He will teach rabbinic literature in the Department of Hebrew Literature and will continue his research on the relationship between law and narrative in rabbinic literature.



# About Our Students

**Sharon Vance** finished and defended her dissertation on “Sol Ha-Saddikah: Historical figure, Saint, Literary Heroine,” and received an assistant professorship in World History, women’s international history and Middle East History at Northern Kentucky University. Prior to this job, which she started in August, she was teaching in Los Angeles.

**Andrea Weiss**, Assistant Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Union College-Institute of Religion in New York, is Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*, which will be published by the URJ Press in the fall of 2007. Her research on *Figurative Language in Biblical Prose Narrative: Metaphor in the Book of Samuel* was published by Brill (Supplements to Vetus Testamentum, 2006), and she wrote the introduction to *Hills of Spices: Poetry from the Bible* (Jewish Publication Society, 2006). In August, 2006 she delivered a paper on metaphor in the Psalms at the European Association of Biblical Studies meeting in Budapest.

**Michael James Williams** received his Ph.D. from AMES in 1999 with a dissertation entitled “Deception in Genesis: An Investigation into the Morality of a Unique Biblical Phenomenon,” that explored the significance, interrelatedness, and implications of the frequent accounts of deception in the narratives of Genesis. Since graduating, Michael has been appointed Professor of Old Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI, where he teaches courses on ancient Near Eastern and biblical languages and texts. He has also lectured in Kenya, Ukraine, and Poland, and published two books, *Deception in Genesis: An Investigation into the Morality of a Unique Biblical Phenomenon* and *The Prophet and His Message: Reading Old Testament Prophecy Today*.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Conny Aust** is a third year Benjamin Franklin fellow in the History department, specializing in Jewish History in Central and Eastern Europe. She will be taking her comprehensive exams this fall, and will then go to Europe for a year to start archival research for her dissertation “Between Amsterdam and Riga: Networks of Jewish Merchants in Warsaw 1750-1815.” To support this research she has been granted an International Dissertation Research Fellowship by the Social Science Research Council and a Doctoral Scholarship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. This past year, Conny was a teaching assistant for undergraduate courses on the modern history of the Middle East and European history (1500 to the present).

**Andrew Berns**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, recently finished his second year of coursework in the history department, specializing in early modern Jewish and European history, with a focused interest in 16th-century intellectual history. This past summer he studied German, participated in the history department’s dissertation proposal writing workshop, and spent time in England doing preliminary dissertation research.

**Francesca Bregoli**, a former Benjamin Franklin fellow in History, continues to work on her dissertation on Jewish culture and Jewish-Christian relations in 18th-century Livorno. To support her writing she has been granted a SAS fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania. This past year she presented her research at the meetings of the Association for Jewish Studies and the American Society for 18th-century Studies. In addition, she participated in the Twelfth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies on the Jewish Book and gave a paper at the International Annual Conference of the Simon Dubnow Institute in Leipzig on Early Modern Culture and Haskalah. In the spring Francesca lectured on Italian Jewry and Jewish-Christian relations at synagogues in New Brunswick, Wynnewood and Dresher. She received a doctoral grant for next year from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

**Naftali Cohn**, a former Falk fellow in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, is currently writing his dissertation, “Imagining Jerusalem: Temple Ritual Narratives in the Mishnah,” a literary-anthropological reading of a narrative genre within the Mishnah. For this academic year, Naftali has been awarded a Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Jewish Studies by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture and he is also the Gruss Scholar in Residence, Hauser Global Law School Program, at the New York University School of Law. In addition, he continues to teach as an Adjunct Instructor in Judaic Studies at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University. In December, Naftali is scheduled to make a presentation entitled, “To Enter the Temple: Ritual Narrative in the Mishnah” in the poster session at the 38th annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies.

**Rebecca Cutler**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, is continuing her third year of graduate studies specializing in modern Jewish history. In addition to finishing her course work and studying for her comprehensive exams, Rebecca in beginning to work on her dissertation which will focus on the medical activities of American Jews in the post-World War II era. Last summer, Rebecca received a Brenner Award to attend the American Academy for Jewish Research graduate student workshop at Stanford University and to do research at the Western Jewish History Center in Berkeley, California.

**Yaacob Dweck**, a Wexner Graduate fellow and Benjamin Franklin fellow, finished his third year of coursework in early modern Jewish history. This past April he took his comprehensive examinations. Over the course of the summer he worked on his dissertation prospectus and studied Italian.

**Benjamin Fisher** completed his second year of course work as a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the History department, focusing on sixteenth and seventeenth-century Jewish history. He was a teaching assistant for European diplomatic history and European history from 1500 to contemporary times.

**Jennifer Glaser**, a Critical Writing Teaching fellow for the upcoming year, is working on her dissertation on race and the Jewish American literary imagination in the Comparative Literature program at Penn. She has presented papers at a number of conferences this year, including the American Comparative Literature Association, MELUS (Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States), and the American Literature Association. She has an essay in Random House’s *Best New Voices of 2006* volume coming out in the fall and a chapter about Saul Bellow coming out in an anthology in the winter.

**Moriah Simon Hazani** is a second year Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, focusing on rabbinic literature. In her first year she took classes in ancient literature and welcomed her second daughter Shirat Hodayah, sister of Hallel Hannah, to the family. She taught as an adjunct instructor at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and at Gratz Hebrew High School. This past summer she studied German and spent time in Israel with her family.

**Tammy Jacobowitz** is doing research for her dissertation on six chapters of Leviticus Rabbah, all of which deal with sexuality, the body and disease. She teaches Rabbinics for Me’ah and lectures in communities in the NY and NJ area. In June, she received a Brenner grant to complete the research necessary for her proposal. This past year, Tammy taught Bible and Midrash to Drisha’s full-time students and Rabbinics for Me’ah NYC.

**Stephen Kim**, a former University fellow, completed all his required coursework. In the past years he presented papers at the annual conferences of the Association for Jewish Studies and the American Academy for Jewish Research. He taught the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and Israelite Religion at Saint Joseph’s University. Recently

he passed his comprehensive exams and is now working on his dissertation in Biblical Studies.

**Julie Lieber** currently lives in Denver, Colorado and is completing her dissertation, “Jewish Women in fin de siecle Vienna: A study in Gender Construction.” Beginning in the winter of 2007, she will teach courses in Jewish history, Women’s history and European history at the University of Denver.

**Anne Oravetz Albert**, a former Benjamin Franklin fellow in the History department, spent the 2005-2006 academic year in Amsterdam carrying out her dissertation research on the political thought of 17th-century sephardim. To support this research she was granted a fellowship from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, as well as grants from the American Association for University Women, and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. This year, she is at work completing her dissertation, and in the spring will teach a course in the History department on Jewish Political Thought and Practice.

**Alexandra Ariel Rothstein**, a William Penn fellow in Rabbinic and Islamic Studies, has been studying early Jewish and Christian Biblical interpretation this past year. Her research has focused on the *Mekhilta*, the rabbinic midrash on the book of Exodus, and the possibility that some of the rabbis’ interpretive comments are oblique responses to Early Christian interpretations of the biblical passages.

**Matthew Rutz**, a former William Penn and Louis J. Kolb fellow, is working on his dissertation, a study of the intellectual and socio-political roles of the diviner in Late Bronze Age Syria. This past year he presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in Seattle. A revised version of that paper will appear in the next issue of the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*. He also contributed to the catalog of Mesopotamian objects from the University of Pennsylvania Museum included in the exhibition “The Great Civilizations” that opened in September 2006 at the Beijing World Art Museum. This catalog will be translated into Chinese and published in the coming year.

**Ellie Schainker** is a fifth year Benjamin Franklin fellow in the Department of History. She passed her comprehensive exams in Early Modern and Modern Jewish History and Modern European History this past fall. Since then, she has been working on her dissertation entitled “Imperial Hybrids: Russian-Jewish Converts in the Nineteenth Century.” Ellie received a Brenner Award and Walter Annenberg Research Travel Grant that enabled her to conduct dissertation research this past spring at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem. To top off the year, Ellie and her husband Hillel welcomed Mollie Yonit to the family this past October.

**Yehuda Seif**, a William Penn fellow, completed his third year of coursework in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry. Last year, he was a teaching assistant for Professor Michael Dyson’s course, Religion and Secular Values: Hip-Hop Culture. Yehuda will spend this year studying for his qualifying exams and beginning work for his dissertation, having recently retired from his job as the Jewish Learning Initiative educator at the Penn Hillel, where he served as a rabbinic mentor while teaching classes in Talmud, Jewish Law, and Bible. Over the summer, Yehuda, his wife Orit, and his 3-year-old son Abie welcomed twin boys Izzy and Uriel into their family.

**David Shyovitz**, a Falk fellow and Wexner Graduate fellow, recently completed his first year of coursework in the History department, focusing on medieval and early modern Jewish history. This past summer, he studied Latin at Penn, taught a course on medieval Jewish philosophy at the Drisha Institute, and co-wrote a teacher’s guide on medieval Jewish history for the Center for Online Judaic Studies in New York.

**Kerry Wallach**, a Max Kade fellow, Falk fellow, and currently a Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed her second year of coursework in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, focusing on German-Jewish literature. Last year she taught first and second semester Elementary German. She also served as the graduate coordinator for the JSP Bassini Internship

Program, and she chaired the conference planning committee for the graduate student conference “Beyond Memorials: New Perspectives in German-Jewish Culture,” which took place on February 5, 2006. A recipient of the Goldfein Research Award, she spent this past summer doing preliminary dissertation research in Germany and Austria.

**Susan Zeelander**, a student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, has completed her exams and coursework and is working on her dissertation on literary aspects of biblical narrative. During the academic year she teaches Adult Education courses at synagogues in the area. This year she will be teaching “Romance at the Well, and Other Motifs in Biblical Narratives” at Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, Pa.

## ABOUT OUR FACULTY

**Dan Ben-Amos**, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Folklore, published two new books this year. The first, *Volume 1: Tales from the Sephardic Dispersion* was published in the Jewish Publication Society’s “Folktales of the Jews” series, and the second book, *Jewish Folk-Literature*, was published by Magnes Press of the Hebrew University Press.

**Michael Carasik**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, added “Great Books of Judaism” to his Penn teaching this past year. This year he is teaching Biblical Hebrew at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College as well as at Penn. He is currently working on the Leviticus volume of “The Commentators’ Bible,” his English translation of the traditional commentaries of the “Miqra’ot Gedolot.” In addition to book reviews, his current publications include an article on “Syntactic Double Translation in the Targumim” in the volume *Aramaic Studies in Judaism and Early Christianity* (Eisenbrauns) and “Transcending the Boundary of Death: Ecclesiastes through a Nabokovian Lens,” in *Biblical Interpretation*. Carasik is the current president of the Center City Kehillah, the center for organized Jewish life in Center City Philadelphia, and is vice president of the Center City Eruv Corporation.

**Natalie B. Dohrmann**, Executive Editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, is ensconced at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and is a member of the Jewish Studies Program faculty. She is currently co-editing with David Stern, the volume *Jewish Biblical Interpretation in a Comparative Context*, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, in which she also has an article, “Manumission and Transformation in Jewish and Roman Law.” She is chair of the Law, Religion, and Culture Group at the AAR, and on the steering committee of the History and Literature of Rabbinic Judaism section at the SBL.

**Barry L. Eichler** is an Associate Professor of Assyriology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Curator-in-Charge of the Babylonian Tablet Collection of the University Museum. His major research interests focus on cultural interrelationships between biblical and ancient Near Eastern civilizations, with primary interest in the field of ancient law. His other major area of interest is Sumerian literature and lexicography, which is related directly to the NEH funded Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary project. His article, “Jacob Klein: An Appreciation,” appeared in Y. Sefati, *dub-sar gal-zu za3-mi2: Sumerological and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Honor of Jacob Klein*, (CDL Press, 2005); and his article, “Cuneiform Studies at Penn: From Hilprecht to Leichty,” appeared in A. Guinan, *If a Man Builds a Joyful House: Assyriological Studies in Honor of Erle Verdun Leichty* (Cuneiform Monographs, 31) Leiden: Brill, 2006. He has also submitted “Exodus 21:22-25 Revisited: Methodological Considerations” for publication. Eichler also continues to lecture on Biblical and ancient Near Eastern literatures at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University.

**Ronit Engel** concentrated her energies during 2005-2006, on developing and updating the instructional materials for Penn’s highly-rated Modern



# About Our Faculty

Hebrew Language Program, including Hebrew on the Web. She also devoted much time and effort to arranging a series of exciting special programs, detailed in the update on the Modern Hebrew Language Program. Over the summer she participated in two professional literature conferences in Tel Aviv and Haifa, as well as met with heads of Hebrew language departments in many Israeli institutions.

**Alan Filreis**, Kelly Professor of English, Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House, and Director of the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing, has finished a new book about the anticommunist attack on modernism in the 1950s which treats, among others, many relatively obscure radical Jewish-American poets. With Professor Penny Marcus, he taught “Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film” as part of the College of Arts and Sciences “pilot curriculum,” and has hosted a number of workshops and talks about the Holocaust, including a month-long online discussion group with Penn alumni on Jon Avnet’s film *Uprising*, about the Warsaw Ghetto revolt. One of his interests is Holocaust survival testimony.

**Talya Fishman**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, specializes in Jewish intellectual and cultural history of the Medieval and Early Modern periods. She has published articles on the Rhineland Pietists of the 12th century, a collection of forged rabbinic Responsa from the late 18th century, a 15th century kabbalistic dispute focusing on gender-specific commandments, and the attempts of a 17th-century Venetian rabbi to change Jewish thinking about Christianity. Fishman is the author of *Shaking the Pillars of Exile: Voice of Fool’s Early Modern Jewish Critique of Rabbinic Culture* (Stanford, 1997), and is currently working on a book entitled, *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Transmission and Formation of Rabbinic Culture in Medieval Northern Europe*. She has been the recipient of awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the Stanford Humanities Center. Prior to coming to Penn, Fishman taught at Columbia University, Rice University, University of California at Berkeley, and Stanford University.

**Nili R. Gold**, Assistant Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, is on a partial sabbatical this fall teaching only one course on the Contemporary Israeli Short Story, in Hebrew. She will return full time in the spring and will again teach Modern Hebrew Literature and Film in translation as well. She has devoted the summer to the

writing of her English language book on the Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai, a task she plans to complete this fall. In the past academic year, she was the co-organizer of literary events such as campus visits of Israeli authors Savyon Liebrecht (fall) and Amir Gutfreund (spring), and a memorial in music and drama for the Poet Dahlia Ravikovitch. In April, she presented a paper on the Israeli writer Yehudit Katzir at a scholars’ conference in Naples, Italy and in May she presented a paper at the annual conference of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS) on the literary connection between a writer and her city of birth. This coming December she will speak on the early work of Dahlia Ravikovitch at a panel dedicated to this poet in the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). Her recent publications include, “Mysticism and Messiahs in the Poetry of Binyamin Shvili,” in *Religion and Religiosity in Modern Jewish and Islamic Literatures*, G. Abramson and H. Kilpatrick eds. Rutledge, pp. 71-89.

**Kathryn Hellerstein**, the Ruth Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish and Jewish Studies, continues to serve as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In spring 2006, she was awarded a Penn SAS Language Teaching Innovation Grant to develop on-line pedagogical materials for teaching Yiddish. Hellerstein published her translations and poems in *Modern Language Studies, Common Wealth: Contemporary Poets on Pennsylvania, Maggid, and Jewish Currents*. A limited edition art book, *Paper Towers: Five Yiddish Poems by Kadya Molodowsky*, translated by Kathryn Hellerstein, illustrated and designed by Sarah Horowitz, was published by Wiesedruck Press in Portland, Oregon. Hellerstein presented many academic lectures, including the Clara Sumpf Lecture and Colloquium at Stanford University, “The Art of Sex in Yiddish Poems: Celia Dropkin and Her Contemporaries” and “Tfiles un lider: froyen shraybn yidish” (Prayers and Poems: Women Write in Yiddish), as well as “A bintl lebns / A Bundle of Lives,” with the Strauss/Warschauer Duo, at Columbia University, and “On the Other Side of the Poem: Translating Miriam Ulinover,” at the Conference on Translation and Yiddish Culture at the University of California, Berkeley, as well as talks at New York University, Oberlin College, and Princeton University. She chaired a panel at the Association of Jewish Studies, was named a contributing editor to Yiddish, and continues to serve as Coordinator of the Yiddish Literature Section for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies and as poetry editor of *Kerem* and on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues*, as well as on the Jewish Publication Society’s National Council.

**Seth Jerchow** is Public Services Librarian at Penn’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library. He received his Doctor of Letters in linguistics from the University of Florence in 1993, with a dissertation on “The Judeo-Italian Manuscript Tradition of the Bible: the Book of Habakkuk.” Currently, he is completing his Ph.D. dissertation, a critical edition of a medieval Judeo-Italian translation of the Prophets. Jerchow is the Judaic Studies webmaster for the Penn Library, and designs the CAJS Library’s annual web exhibits. He is also co-curator of two exhibits held at the Van Pelt Library, “The Meaning of Words: Marcus Jastrow and the Making of Rabbinic Dictionaries” (2003) and “Petra at 700” (2004). He has published articles on linguistics, Judeo-Italian, the history of Judaica bibliography, and the Cairo Genizah. Since 2001, he has developed an information exchange system and online catalog for the Penn/Cambridge Genizah Fragment Project, a collaboration between the University of Pennsylvania Library and the Cambridge University Library.

**Arthur Kiron**, Curator of Judaica and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, published *La Casa Editrice Belforte e l’Arte Della Stampa in Ladino/The Belforte Publishing House and the Art of Ladino Printing*. Italian Translation by Silvia Guastalla (Livorno: Salomone Belforte and Co., 2005), “An Atlantic Jewish Republic of Letters?” in *Jewish History* vol. 20, nos. 1-2 (2006), and “Haggadot in History” in the *Philadelphia Jewish Voice* (PJV), no. 10 (April 2006) <http://www.pjvoice.com/v10b/9999haggadah.html>. He presented a paper about “Strategies for Integrating and Enhancing Access to Decentralized Judaica Collections,” at the Third EVA (Electronic Imaging & the Visual Arts)/Minerva Europe Conference on the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage, held at Harvard University in the fall of 2005; in November, he delivered the 200th anniversary address on the history of the Belforte Hebrew Press, at an international conference on Judeo-Spanish (Ladino), held in the Palazzo Granduciale, Piazza del Municipio Livorno, Italy, and spoke at the Centro Primo Levi in New York City on the topic of “The Sephardic Jewish Theological Seminary of Sabato Morais.” In the spring of 2006, he spoke again at the Centro Primo Levi on the topic of “Collectors, Collecting, and the Valmadonna Collection,” and traveled to Los Angeles on behalf of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to lecture at Hebrew Union College and UCLA on the topics of “Sepharadim in the Atlantic World,” “Pirke Abot and Paradoxes of Religious Leadership,” and “An Atlantic Jewish Republic of Letters?” He curated an exhibit, held in the Kamin Gallery of the Van Pelt Library (from October 2005 – March 2006) entitled “Printer,

Publisher, Peddler: The Business of the Jewish Book” and organized the 2005-06 CAJS Fellows’ web-exhibit on the topic of “The Jewish Book: Material Texts and Comparative Contexts.” Kiron partnered with the Jewish Studies Program to deliver the fall 2005 and spring 2006 bi-annual tours of the CAJS Rare Book Room and to host the sixth annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop, this year on the history of Yiddish and Ladino printed books. Kiron served as a respondent to a panel on “The Printer” at the CAJS 12th Annual Gruss Colloquium; he taught a three session mini-course Parchment, Paper, Print: A History of Jewish Book Culture in Penn’s College of General Studies special programs and spoke at a Penn Library alumni event at the Penn Club of the Palm Beaches (Florida) on the same topic. Among the grant projects he coordinated or led during the last academic year were a \$15,000 initiative funded by the University of Pennsylvania’s Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS), the ongoing Penn-Cambridge Genizah partnership, and he wrote a successful \$50,000 grant proposal to create a national digital archive – an “American Genizah” of some of the founding documents of American Jewish History. The pilot project of this national initiative will be to catalog, scan, and transcribe the physically dispersed correspondence of Isaac Leeser, the 19th century American Jewish leader, and involves multiple institutions and private collectors.

**Robert Kraft**, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, continues to teach one advanced seminar each term. During the current academic year he is offering “Papyrology” (fall) and “Historiography: Josephus to Eusebius” (spring). He continues to pursue the long-range projects that include describing and digitizing the University’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 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). Bob will deliver his presidential address on “Para-mania: Beside, Before, and Beyond ‘Bible Studies’” at the 2006 annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) in Washington DC in November.

**Ian S. Lustick**, Bess W. Heyman Professor in the Political Science department, is teaching International Relations of the Middle East in the spring semester. Lustick’s most recent books are *Exile and Return: Predicaments of Palestinians and Jews*, edited with Ann M. Lesch, Dean of the Humanities and Social Sciences at the American University in Cairo, and *Trapped in the War on*

*Terror*, forthcoming in the fall of 2006—both published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. At a recent conference at the University of Exeter, in England, on “A Rights-Based Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” he presented a paper entitled “One State Not Two? A Cruel Examination of the Two-States-Are-Impossible Argument for a Single State in Palestine/the Land of Israel.” His article, “Yerushalayim, al-Quds, and the Wizard of Oz: Facing the Problem of Jerusalem after Camp David II and the al-Aqsa Intifada,” appeared in a recent issue of the *Journal of Israeli History*.

**Benjamin Nathans**, Associate Professor of History, authored the chapter on Jews in the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Russia*. The Russian-language edition of his book *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia*, was published in Moscow last summer. Nathans presented his recent work on modern Jewish and modern Russian history at Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, SUNY Binghamton, the University of Illinois, and the Simon Dubnov Institute at the University of Leipzig. As part of his current research on human rights and dissent in the Soviet Union after Stalin, he was the recipient of a New Directions Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which will allow him to audit courses in law and human rights at Columbia Law School.

**Joshua Perelman**, post-doctoral fellow at the National Museum of American Jewish History and the University of Pennsylvania, teaches American Jewish History. He recently completed his graduate work at New York University, where he wrote a dissertation entitled “Choreographing Identity: Modern Dance and American Jewish Life, 1924-1954.”

**David B. Ruderman** was awarded the Distinguished Humanist Award for 2006 from the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State University. He was also elected Sackler University Scholar at the Mortimer and Raymond Sackler Institute of Advanced Studies, Tel Aviv University for a three-year term, beginning in 2007. He will serve as well as a visiting scholar at the University of Amsterdam during the spring of 2007. He gave the keynote address at a conference on Italian Jewry at the University in Munich. He also spoke at the Center for Jewish History in New York, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Annenberg Colloquium in History at Penn, Ohio State University, The Clark Library and UCLA, and the University of Leipzig. At the latter institution he organized an international conference on the borderlines between early modern and modern Jewish history involving some 25 scholars. He also produced a new course on medieval and early modern Jewish history for the Teaching Company. In addition to several new essays, he completed a new book on Christian perceptions of Judaism in eighteenth century England, now in press.

**Jonathan Steinberg** and Dr. Marion Kant offered two new courses in Jewish Studies during spring

semester 2006 both under the title “Secular Judaism and Secular Jews: Lives and Choices.” One, an undergraduate seminar, attracted twelve, very committed and energetic undergraduates; the other, designed exclusively for Senior Associates attracted 140 students, including several rabbis. The courses tried to address the following questions: Can Judaism exist without the religion? Are there secular Jews? Is it possible for people to consider themselves to be Jewish without any formal affiliation with either a religious or other specifically Jewish institution? If so, what sort of Jews are they? A revised version of the course will take place at the Gershman Y during fall 2006. His “The Swiss and the Jews: Two Special Cases?”, a translation of a lecture he gave in German on July 11, 2005, in Zurich to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Leo Baeck Institutes, has been submitted to the Leo Baeck Yearbook.

**David Stern**, Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, was on leave this past academic year as a Guggenheim Fellow and as the Moses Dropsie Fellow at Penn’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies where he continued to work on his book on the material history of four Jewish books. Stern also completed co-editing (with Natalie Dohrmann) *Jewish Biblical Exegesis in Comparative Contexts*, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press next year. His own contributions to the book include a lengthy introduction and an essay on ancient Jewish interpretation of the Song of Songs. Over the course of the year, he delivered academic lectures at the Center and at Fairfield University as well as more popular talks at several synagogues across the country. He also received a major grant from the University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation to help subsidize the publication of a facsimile edition of the Tegnsee Haggadah, an illustrated 15th c. Passover Haggadah from southern Germany with a lengthy prologue on the meaning of the seder by a contemporary Christian monk; the book is to be published by Penn State Press. At Penn, he continued to be the organizer of the Manfred R. Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, and he also continued working with the Graduate School of Education on developing a Masters program in Jewish Education. During the summer, he served as faculty at the annual Jewish Studies Graduate Student Retreat run by the American Academy for Jewish Research.

**Jeffrey Tigay**, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, has just completed a five-year term as the Chair of the Graduate Group in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His book *Empirical Models for Biblical Criticism* (1985) was reissued in the series Dove Studies in Bible, Language, and History (Wipf & Stock Publishers, Eugene, Oregon) in November 2005. In December he spoke on “Nahum Sarna, Teacher and Scholar” at a session in memory of Prof. Sarna held at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in



# About Our Faculty

Washington, D.C. Jeff's article, "The Priestly Reminder Stones and Ancient Near Eastern Votive Practices," will shortly be published in a festschrift for the Israeli scholar Sara Japhet, being published in Israel. His 1996 commentary on Deuteronomy is being translated into Hebrew for the Israeli commentary series *Mikra le-Yisrael*. He is currently co-editing a Festschrift in honor of Prof. Shalom Paul (GAS '64) of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, to be published by Eisenbrauns (Winona Lake, Indiana) in 2006. He is also working on two multi-year projects: writing a full-length Hebrew commentary on Exodus for the same Israeli series and editing 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.

**Liliane Weissberg**, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in the School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of German and Comparative Literature, was on leave in fall 2006. She continued her Maria Sybilla Merian Fellowship in Gotha, Germany, in November. She lectured at Princeton, the University of Kentucky (Lexington), University College Cork (Ireland), Universitaet Potsdam, Justus Liebig Universitaet Giessen, and in Weimar (Germany), Washington, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and New York on Friedrich Schiller, Sigmund Freud, Heinrich Heine, the history of women in German at the university in Berlin, and Jewish Studies in Germany. On the occasion of Freud's 150th birthday, Weissberg presented papers at the psychoanalytical associations in Philadelphia and New York, and appeared, together with Jean-Michel Rabate (English) on National Public Radio's "Radio Times." Weissberg has been graduate chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and in 2005-2006, the topic director of the Penn Humanities Forum's "Word and Image." She was also Faculty Advisor of the Graduate Humanities Forum. Weissberg organized a forum on the opera "Margaret Garner" in January, and a symposium on photography and contemporary literature in February. She published essays on the Berlin Jewish salon, Walter Benjamin and Romanticism, Jewish Studies in Germany, Hannah Arendt, and recent German-Jewish autobiographies.

**Beth S. Wenger**, the Katz Family Term Chair and Associate Professor in American Jewish History, completed her first year as Director of the Jewish Studies Program and concluded a three-year term as Undergraduate Chair of Penn's History department. Wenger's article, "Making American Civilization Jewish: Mordecai Kaplan's Civic

Religion" appeared in the most recent issue of the journal *Jewish Social Studies* and her essay, "Performing Citizenship: Jewish Celebrations of the Nation" will be included in the forthcoming *Columbia History of Judaism in America*. Wenger is also serving as an advisor for the upcoming PBS documentary titled "The Jewish Americans" and will write the volume that accompanies the film. Wenger received a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies and will be on scholarly leave during the 2006-2007 academic year. She will be researching and writing her forthcoming book, "History Lessons: The Invention of American Jewish Heritage," under contract with Princeton University Press. Wenger delivered several lectures and participated in various panels during the past year, including at the Association of Jewish Studies conference, the American Council of Learned Societies/Association of American Universities convocation, the American Jewish Historical Society's Scholars conference, as well as many other venues. Wenger serves on the Academic Boards of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), the Center for Jewish History in New York, and the Women's Caucus of the AJS. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Historical Society's Academic Council. She continues to serve as an historical consultant for the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

## NEW WEBSITE

The Jewish Studies Program at Penn  
has redesigned its web site! Please visit  
us at <http://ccat/sas/upenn.edu/jwst/>

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