

## *Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania*

Penn, through its Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, offers one of the most comprehensive programs in Jewish Studies in America. The Jewish Studies Program (JSP) is an interdisciplinary academic group with twenty-one faculty members from 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 Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (Katz Center) is a post-doctoral research institute that annually brings eighteen to twenty-five distinguished scholars to Penn as fellows to pursue scholarly research on selected themes. These fellows are selected from the finest and most prominent Judaic scholars in the world. Every year several Katz Center fellows teach courses at Penn, and both graduate students and University faculty participate in the Katz Center's weekly seminars. The Katz Center is also home to one of America's greatest research libraries in Judaica and Hebraica and includes a Genizah collection, many manuscripts, and early printings. Together the Jewish Studies Program and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies make Penn one of the most rich and exciting communities for Jewish scholarship and intellectual life in the world.

Jewish textile, ca. 1900, featuring Hebrew letters arranged in the form of an eye-chart to advertise the business of its Hebrew printer, whose office was on South St. in Philadelphia. Purchased with a generous gift from Annette Freund at the Kestenbaum and Company Auction House, June 26, 2008.



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# Jewish Studies Program

## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

This has been a wonderful year of activity in the Jewish Studies Program. While we bade farewell to Barry Eichler, the founding director of the Jewish Studies Program, as he retired after forty years of service to Penn, we welcomed two new members to our expanding circle of faculty. The Jewish Studies Program continues to grow stronger and more diverse with the additions of Jessica Goldberg, a medievalist in the History department, and Annette Reed, a scholar of ancient Judaism and Christianity, in the Religious Studies department.

As always, our program sponsored a host of events and lectures, including a particularly successful and provocative conference, “Becoming Modern: The German-Jewish Experience,” that you will read more about in this newsletter. We look forward to an equally stimulating conference this coming spring on “Tablet and Torah: Mesopotamia and the Biblical World.” We take pride in bringing internationally renowned scholars to Penn’s campus every year. At the same time, we remain equally dedicated to nurturing a passion for research among our students. At the conclusion of last academic year, one of our most exciting events brought together undergraduates in Jewish Studies to present their original research to an audience of fellow students and faculty.

On a personal note, I had the privilege to travel the country last year, speaking about my companion book to the PBS series “The Jewish Americans.” As I engaged with audiences about issues in American Jewish history, it often occurred to me that our mission at Penn is to inspire our students with the excitement for

Jewish scholarship that will ensure that they continue their intellectual pursuits long after graduation. I fully expect to find our Jewish Studies alumni not only in the audience of public lectures, but also serving as organizers and activists in furthering Jewish learning long after they receive their diplomas.

Finally, the Jewish Studies Program joins in celebrating the dedication of the newly named Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. The late Herbert Katz and his family have been dedicated supporters of Jewish Studies at Penn and we honor their generous contribution to our intellectual community.

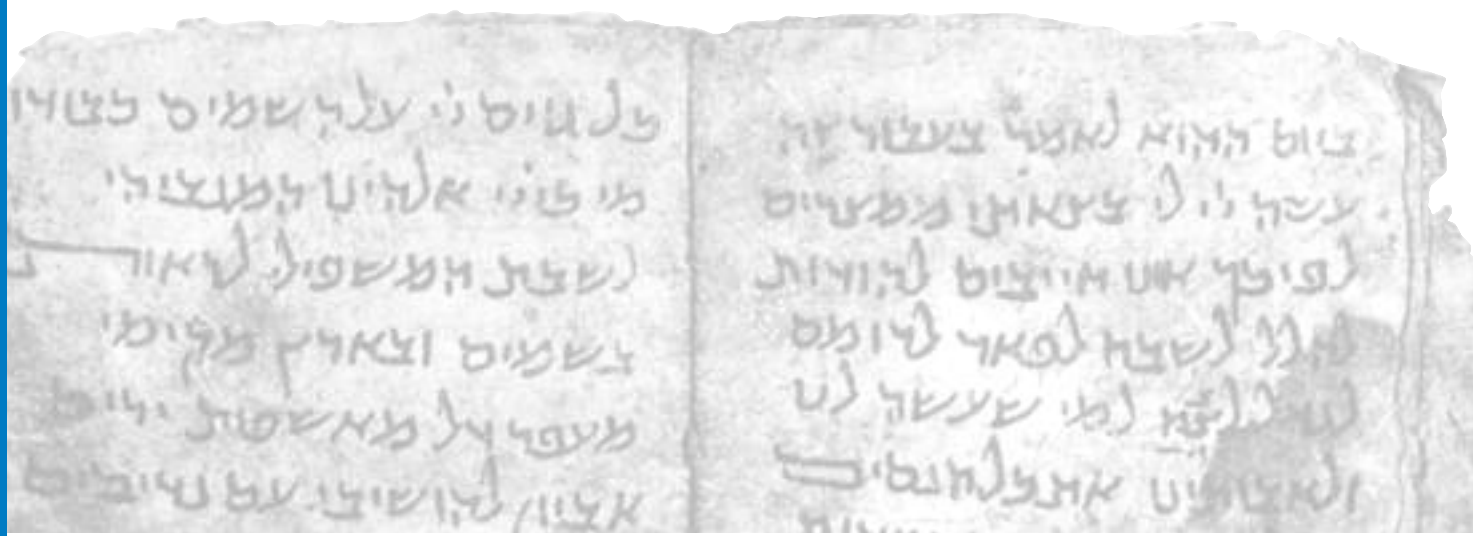
The Jewish Studies Program draws its strength from the synergy of our efforts—from the scholars who come to Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies each year, to the individualized research opportunities we offer our students, from the energy of our faculty and their enthusiasm for teaching, to the lectures, discussions and conferences that take place outside the classroom walls.

The vitality of the Jewish Studies Program depends on the generosity of our dedicated supporters. I hope that you will join our community and I welcome you to contact me and to become a part of our program in the coming year.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Wenger".

*Beth Wenger*  
Associate Professor of History  
Director, Jewish Studies Program



# Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies



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

This is a very special year for the Center as it receives a new name: The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Herbert D. Katz, the chair of our Board of Overseers from 1996-2003, who died only last year, played a critical role in building the Center, in working tirelessly on its behalf, and in believing that this institution could make such a great contribution to Penn and to the larger scholarly world. The Center's great success is a tribute to his remarkable energy and dedication. It is most appropriate that it carry his good name and become part of his enormous legacy at Penn. We are most grateful to Ellie Katz and her children for giving us the single largest endowment gift since the Center's creation in 1993.

We convened this past year an amazing group of scholars who probed in highly original ways the interactions of Jews, Christians, and Pagans in the late Roman Empire. Stimulated in part by a learned member of our Board of Overseers, Martin Gruss, who personally asked for the topic, four scholars, including our own Natalie Dohrmann, drafted a highly exciting proposal that attracted some of the best scholars in the world. The weekly discussions and the conference were consistently on a high level and the traditional barriers between classicists and religious studies scholars appeared to collapse, especially at the conference. Campbell Gray of our Classics department and Annette Reed of our Religious Studies department added enormously to our rigorous discussions and continued the long-standing involvement of Penn faculty in our fellowship program.

I am delighted to announce that after a careful search, Dr. Yechiel Schur was chosen to become our new director of public programs. Yechiel is a highly talented and enthusiastic educator who is well suited for this position and will work well with fellows, board members, and the entire Penn

community. He was trained at the Hebrew University, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and at New York University where he completed his doctorate in medieval Jewish history this past summer. He has also taught Hebrew language and literature at Yale for the past several years. Yechiel will oversee our public programs in the greater Philadelphia area and beyond and work to enhance the image of the Center nationwide. He will also teach several new courses at Penn.

As I write, we are about to welcome twenty-two new fellows who will be joining us from all over the world to deliberate on the exciting topic: Jews, commerce, and culture. They come from Israel and the United States, Canada, Poland, Germany, France, England, and Australia. We are planning a series of public lectures with Wharton on campus and another series at the Center for Jewish History in New York City.

Fifteen years is certainly a milestone, especially since it marks the culmination of our campaign to endow the Katz Center and insure its creative future. It is also a milestone since we are now well recognized in the world-wide community of professors of Jewish studies and we have built an incredible network of over 350 scholars who have served as fellows at the Center. We are optimistic that the next fifteen years will offer us new opportunities for growth and creativity as we continue to enhance Jewish studies and the humanities at Penn and beyond.

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

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

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

*Editor: Christine Walsh*

*Assistant Editor: Beth Wenger*

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

# Jewish Studies Program News

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Graduate Student Colloquium

The Jewish Studies Graduate Student Colloquium expanded its activities this year with an exciting array of events. In addition to the colloquium's goal of creating community among graduate students within Jewish Studies, this year's coordinators **Cornelia Aust** (History), **Rebecca Cutler** (History) and **Jennifer Glaser** (Comparative Literature) initiated a new forum for student-faculty dialogue. In what will hopefully be an annual event, the Jewish Studies Graduate Student Colloquium invited a faculty member to speak about working, teaching, and doing research in the field of Jewish Studies. This year, Professor David Ruderman launched the program with a lively discussion of his own career, thoughts on Jewish studies, and advice for graduate students. The Colloquium also had a full schedule of student presentations. Given in an informal atmosphere, each colloquium session allows graduate students to share their current research with peers both inside and outside their field of inquiry. This year's program included:

**David Ruderman**, the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and the Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania presented "Reflections on the State of Jewish Studies: Talking about Graduate Education and Beyond."

**Yaacob Dweck**, History department, "Leon Modena's Critique of the Zohar"

**Ludmila Zamah**, Religious Studies department, "Tafsir Meets Midrash: How Scholarship on Biblical Exegesis Can Inform Qur'anic Studies"

**John Fishman**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Respondent

**Elliot Ratzman**, Department of Religion, Princeton University, "Secular Saintliness: Radical Altruism, Jewish Ethics, and Post-Holocaust Thought"

**Jennifer Glaser**, Comparative Literature, Respondent

**Cornelia Aust**, History department, "Eighteenth-Century Central European Jewish Commercial Networks and the State"

**David Shyovitz**, History department, "The 'Celestial Hierarchy' of the Hasidei Ashkenaz? The Jews of Medieval Germany and the Christian Mystical Tradition"



Spencer Allen addressing faculty and students at a Goldin Seminar

**Geoffrey Shamos**, History of Art department, 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 Rebecca Cutler at [recutler@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:recutler@sas.upenn.edu) or Conny Aust at [austc@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:austc@sas.upenn.edu).

### 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 **Spencer Allen** (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations).

The following papers were delivered at the Seminar last year:

**Aliza Schachter**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "Princess as Political Pawn"

**Yehuda Goldin**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "Deciphering the 'Shema': A New Approach to Deuteronomy 6:4"

**Yehuda Kraut**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "Reconsidering the Shema"

**Karen Sonik**, Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World, "Parables of Kingship: A Literary Text in Ritual Context"

**Spencer Allen**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "The Ishtars of Hammurabi's Prologue"

**David Gilad**, visiting scholar, "Ezra the Scribe-Priest in Ancient and Modern Theological Discourse"

**V. K. Inman**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, "The Origins of the Afroasiatic Languages"

## JEWISH STUDIES INTERNSHIPS

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

**Yael Landman** and **Jonathan Moses** organized a program with Professor **David Freidenreich** (Columbia University), expert in religion, food and law. He spoke on the socio-cultural implications of Jewish dietary restrictions in a talk entitled "Food and Jewish Identity: Is Keeping Kosher about Keeping Separate?"

**Adam Teitcher** and **David Start** organized a program with Professor **Jeffrey Tigay** (University of Pennsylvania) who engaged students in a discussion of the Book of Exodus, the Passover Seder, and the origins of its customs, entitled "A Night of Questions:

The Where's What's When's and Why's of the Passover Seder.”

**Benjamin Bernstein** and **Seong-Jin Moon** organized a program with Professor **Beth Wenger** (University of Pennsylvania) entitled “American Jewish Performers of the Stage and Screen.” Professor Wenger discussed her new book *The Jewish Americans*, focusing on the subject of the American Jewish Performer, and showed clips from the PBS miniseries that complemented the book.

**Benjamin Bernstein**, **Lisi Drezde** and **Ryan Javier Ortega** organized a program with Professors **Kevin Platt** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Benjamin Nathans** (University of Pennsylvania) on the history of Soviet Jewry with special emphasis on state sponsored violence and national identity, entitled “Soviet Jewry and State Sponsored Violence: A Discussion.”

**Aaron Blacksberg** and **Elisheva Goldberg** organized a talk by Professors **Liliane Weissberg** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Philipp Gassert** (University of Pennsylvania) on their experiences growing up Jewish and non-Jewish in Germany/Austria after World War II entitled, “Living in the Shadow of the Holocaust.”

In the 2008-2009 academic year, graduate student **Gabriella Skwara** begins her role as graduate student coordinator.

In addition to sponsoring the Jewish Studies Internships, the Bassini Fund also supports the Bassini Dinners—our continuing and very successful program for student-faculty dinners (or lunches) in Jewish Studies. Each semester, we supplement the President's Fund and provide support for every faculty member to share meals with students. This program has proven enormously valuable in fostering faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

The relationship between the National Museum of American Jewish History and the University of Pennsylvania's Jewish Studies Program took more steps forward this past year. **Josh Perelman**, Deputy Director for Programming and Museum Historian at the NMAJH, continues to ensure that Penn students have the opportunity to enrich their classroom work. This year, an exceptional group of interns participated in the daily life of the Museum and helped grow their skills and the Museum's mission through their work there. All interns at the Museum work in conjunction with the curatorial and registrarial staff to gain hands-on experience with the Museum's collection. This includes researching new accessions and processing objects.

Fall interns, **Jessica Staller**, investigated 1930s era anti-Nazi rallies, and **Melanie Forman**, helped research Jewish agricultural colonies in the United States. Both topics will be explored in the core exhibition being planned for the new NMAJH currently being constructed on Independence Mall in Philadelphia.

In addition to their work on the core exhibition, Jessica and Melanie also assisted the curatorial staff in developing the Museum's current changing exhibition, *Shaping Space, Making Meaning*. This interactive exhibition offers visitors the opportunity to learn how a museum creates a major exhibition and share their opinions with the Museum and other visitors. Feedback is read and processed by the NMAJH's exhibition design team now creating the 25,000-square-foot core exhibition for its new building, scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

Penn interns made major contributions to the Museum's ability to engage audiences on the internet. A spring intern, **Hannah Lau**, created a Museum blog *Shaping Space, Making Meaning* <http://www.nmajh.org/weblog/shapingspace/> based on the current exhibition. The blog represents another way for interested parties to learn about the Museum's exhibition and discuss its contents. The blog follows the comments, thoughts, and suggestions of visitors who have visited the exhibition. Hannah also participated in a panel discussion held at the museum Museum held in conjunction with American Jewish Heritage Month entitled *Jewish Peoplehood in the 21st Century and Beyond*, in which she discussed her multi-ethnic Jewish identity. **Alex Levy** created the Museum's Flickr site, which documents the construction of the Museum's new building on

Independence Mall. The site can be reached from the Museum's homepage, [www.nmajh.org](http://www.nmajh.org).

The University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Program and the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) have been collaborating for five years on a Postdoctoral Fellowship. **Josh Perelman**, the current fellow, teaches American Jewish History at the University and serves the NMAJH as its Deputy Director for Programming and Museum Historian. The relationship has strengthened ties between the two institutions and will continue to expand as the Museum continues its growth. Scheduled to open in 2010, the new Museum will be the largest institution of its kind devoted specifically to exhibiting and educating about American Jewish history. Using historical objects, cutting-edge technology, hands-on interactives, and narrative storytelling, the Museum's core exhibition will highlight how and when Jews immigrated to America, the choices they faced, the challenges they confronted, and the ways in which they shaped, and were shaped by, their American home. This new institution, and the current partnership with the University of Pennsylvania, will make Philadelphia a premiere location for research and education in the field of American Jewish history.

## STUDENT RESEARCH

Undergraduate student research continues to be one of JSP's priorities. Last year a number of students in Jewish Studies wrote senior thesis projects on Jewish topics. Thanks to the generous support of **Phillip, C'34**, and **Robert, C'63, Goldfein** and **Raymond and Ruth Brenner, PAR'99/01/05**, JSP annually awards some



Professor Jeffrey Tigay addressing a full house of students at one of the Bassini Intern Programs

\$10,000 to support student research projects. Among the theses and projects supported last year was **David Falek's** senior honors thesis entitled "The Revival of Mishna Study in the Early Modern Period," which was awarded the Samuel and Esther Goldin Endowment Award for outstanding research in Jewish Studies. Other thesis titles were: "Agunot' by S.Y. Agnon: Piecing Together the Puzzle," by **Felice "Lisi" Dredze**; "Rabbi Yair Chaim Bachrach: The Life and Thought of a 17th Century Jewish Skeptic," by **Joe Scherban**; and "'Confrontation' in Context: Joseph Soloveitchik's Essay about Interreligious Dialogue against the Backdrop of the Vatican II Conference," by **Jonathan Weiner**.

## 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 Englund.

This past fall, **Suzanne Last Stone**, Law School professor at Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, served as the Gruss Professor. Stone taught a course in the Law School and delivered the Gruss Lectures. The lectures focused on the subject of "Between Revenge and Reconciliation: Rabbinic Views on Historical Justice" The lectures were widely attended.

## HEBREW

The Modern Hebrew Language Program offers four semesters of work in Hebrew, stressing oral communication, reading with comprehension, and written expression, plus a third year of courses designed to serve as a bridge to reading modern Hebrew literature and expository texts. Program faculty, under the supervision of coordinator **Ronit Engel** have been pioneers in developing web-based instructional materials. This year Professor Engel received a grant from the Penn Language Center to expand the scope of these materials and to make them available using the latest delivery systems, including Blackboard. The program also offers students the opportunity to meet with major Israeli

writers whose works they have studied in class and to discuss their work with them in Hebrew. This fall, writers **Hamutal Bar-Yosef** and **Yehudit Katzir** will be coming to campus to speak to Hebrew students.

## YIDDISH

In 2007-2008, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Jewish Studies Program offered four courses in Yiddish language and one in Jewish literature and culture in translation. Continuing the practice of previous years, **Kathryn Hellerstein**, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages, undertook to enrich the classroom experience by introducing students to Yiddish and Jewish culture through resources in Philadelphia. **Alexander Botwinik** led all the Yiddish students in a springtime Yiddish zingeray (sing-along). In addition, students attended presentations on Yiddish songs and culture, by **Bob Freedman** in Penn's Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive. In the spring, the students did class research projects, on Yiddish websites and on early 20th century Yiddish books in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library.

With the SAS Language Teaching Innovation Grants awarded to **Hellerstein**, German department doctoral student **Gabriella Skwara** developed and digitized pedagogical materials and completed the Blackboard sites for first-year Yiddish. For her exemplary accomplishment on this project and for her superb work in an independent study on Yiddish poetry, Gabriella Skwara was awarded the 2008 Workmen's Circle/ Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies at Penn.

The Jewish Studies Program is grateful for a grant from the Forward Foundation that helped fund the teaching of Intermediate Yiddish in 2006-2007. We welcome contributions to the Yiddish program that will provide continued support to Yiddish instruction.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES



Jessica Goldberg

**Jessica Goldberg**, Assistant Professor of Medieval History, joined the Jewish Studies Program in fall of 2007. She came to Penn a year earlier after a post-doctoral fellowship in the Stanford Humanities Fellows Program. Goldberg studies the medieval history of the Mediterranean basin, Christian Europe, and the Islamic world. After earning an A.B. in Social Studies from Harvard University,

Professor Goldberg spent several years teaching high school math, then completed a Ph.D. in the History Department at Columbia University.



Annette Reed

**Annette Reed**, Assistant Professor in Religious Studies, also joined the Jewish Studies Program in fall of 2007. She came to Penn from McMaster University, after graduate studies at Harvard Divinity School and Princeton University. Reed's research spans Second Temple Judaism, early Christianity, and Jewish/Christian relations in Late Antiquity.

We welcome their addition to the Jewish Studies Program! More biographical information is located on the Jewish Studies webpage at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/faculty.htm>

## FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

**Dan Ben-Amos's** book *Folktales of the Jews, vol. 1: Tales from the Sephardic Dispersion* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2006) was included in the list of "Outstanding Academic Title" (2007), compiled by *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*.

**Ronit Engel** received a Dean's Teaching Relief grant for Spring 2008 that enabled her to prepare new pedagogical material for teaching Hebrew language.

**David Ruderman** won the 2008 Charles Ludwig Distinguished Teaching Prize from the College Alumni Society.

**Beth Wenger** won the 2008 Richard S. Dunn Award for Distinguished Teaching from the History Department. Her book, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America* (Doubleday, 2007) was named a National Jewish Book Award finalist. Also, Wenger was appointed a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) in 2008.

# About Our Faculty

**Dan Ben-Amos**, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Folklore, delivered a paper on “The Search for Authenticity and the Discover of Virtuality” together with Batsheva Ben-Amos in the Fifth Wrocław International Conference on Jewish Studies that was devoted to Modern Jewish Culture: Diversities and Unities, at the Polish University of Wrocław in June. He later presented a paper on “A Jewish Surname between Family Tradition and a Scholarly Analysis” in the 23rd International Congress of Onomastic Sciences at York University in Toronto this August. An entry on “Stabilität” appeared in the *Enzyklopädie des Märchens: Handwörterbuch zur historischen und vergleichenden Erzählforschung* 12 (2007), 1131-1136, and two entries, on “Elijah the Prophet” and on “Angels” with Menachem Kallus, appeared in *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, Gershon David Hundert, Editor (Yale University Press). Another essay, “Kvurat ha-Rokeah” [The burial of the pharmacist], was published in Hebrew in *The Power of a Tale: The Jubilee Book of IFA* (University of Haifa).

**Alexander (Sender) Botwinik** is a Yiddish lecturer in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. In addition to teaching Yiddish, Botwinik teaches music and choir at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, PA, and music at the Kaiserman JCC. He served as the music director for a documentary film about the artist and Holocaust survivor, Toby Knobel Fluek. The film, entitled *Toby's Sunshine*, had its premier showing in June, followed by a concert featuring the songs from the film performed alongside a slide show montage of the artist's work. Botwinik recently performed in three Yiddish concerts at Haverford College with singers Cantor Naomi Hirsch, Sherm Labovitz and Richard Lenatsky. In addition, he has just completed preparing a book of his father's music, after many years of work on this lengthy (370-page) project. Publication of this book, *From Holocaust to Life*, is expected in the near future.

**Daisy Braverman**, lecturer of Judeo-Spanish, edited a Ladino textbook and recorded the accompanying CDs. *Beginner's Ladino* was published by Hippocrene Books in 2008, and is the only Ladino language-instruction manual on the market today.

**Michael Carasik**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, continues to teach Biblical Hebrew at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College as well. This past year he also taught a class in the Wisdom Literature of the Bible at Gratz College. He will shortly publish the Leviticus volume of *The Commentators' Bible*, his English translation of the traditional commentaries of the “Miqra'ot Gedolot,” and has begun work on the Numbers volume. He continues to publish book reviews and is still patiently waiting for his legendary article on “Syntactic Double Translation

in the Targumim” (“forthcoming” since 2004) to appear in print. This past summer, he gave a talk on “Literature and History in 1 Samuel 1” to the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in Montreal and led a weekly class on the books of 1 and 2 Samuel for the Gershman Y Congregation in Center City.

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

**Ronit Engel** used her Teaching Relief Award from Penn's School of Arts and Sciences during the Spring semester to prepare her innovative reader on the contemporary Israeli newspaper and periodical press. The book will provide students with a much needed bridge from the structured language classroom to the world of unedited expository texts, helping them learn to cope with Hebrew academic literature. Ability to read such texts freely is vital to success in graduate programs in Judaic studies. Engel also continued her work on developing new pedagogical strategies that will enable English-speaking students to master the features of modern Israeli Hebrew that are most foreign to them. In addition, with the help of a grant from the Penn Language Center, Engel will be updating and adding to the web-based instructional materials in whose preparation she has been a pioneer.

**Talya Fishman**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, delivered a paper in the fall at the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego on “The Computational Prayer Practice of the Rhineland Pietists,” and in the spring participated in the Seventh International Conference on Orality and Textuality at Rice University in Houston, speaking on “Disparate Motivations for Guarding Oral Transmission: Within and Between Cultures.” In July, Fishman lectured on “Medieval Jewish Culture in Art and the Arts of Medieval Jewish Culture” to teachers participating in a weeklong workshop at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Her article entitled “Claims About Mishna in the Epistle of Sherirra Gaon” will appear in *Jewish, Christian and Muslim Life Under Caliphs and Sultans*, David Freidenreich and Miriam Goldstein, eds., (University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming). Fishman will be serving as Acting Chair of the Religious Studies department this academic year.

**Nili R. Gold**, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, is teaching two courses this fall. The first examines the image of childhood in Israeli literature and film in translation, and the second approaches works in the original Hebrew. That course focuses on the relationship between Hebrew literature, songs and music and their joined role in forging national identity. Gold's English book *Yebuda Amichai: The Making of Israel's National Poet* appeared this fall (Brandeis University/The University Press of New England.) It is the winner of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) publication grant for 2008. Gold will travel to Israel in December, where her book and the archival findings included in it will be the topic of discussion at Ben Gurion University. Last winter-break Gold delivered an invited lecture at Tulane University and in the spring, she presented a paper on “The Making of a National Poet” at the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS) honoring Israel's 60th birthday in NYC. This November, she will present a paper at the international conference on “German and German Culture in Hebrew Literature” at the University of Heidelberg Germany. Gold's forthcoming publications include a chapter in a Hebrew book in memory of the poet Dahlia Ravikovitch and an article in English on “The Image of Haifa in the Novel Trumpet in the Wadi.”

**Jessica L. Goldberg**, Assistant Professor of Medieval History, completed her first year as a full-time faculty member in the History department, after arriving at the University with time shared between duties as an Assistant Professor and Fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies in 2006-2007. Her main areas of research are Medieval Mediterranean Economic and Legal History, and she is currently researching the geographies and practices of trade around the Mediterranean in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Her article “Gossip and Back-biting: the Work of Geniza Merchants,” appeared in the collected volume, *History in the Comic Mode* (Columbia, 2007), Fulton and Holsinger, eds. She also completed an article on the working of business relationships among Geniza merchants, entitled “Business, Businessmen and Work in the Eleventh Century: the case of the ‘Maghribi’ traders,” currently under review. Both these pieces are related to her book manuscript in preparation, “A Bale on the Beach: the structure and geography of Medieval Trade.” Goldberg also lectured several times in the Philadelphia area in the past year, presenting the papers “Trade and Identity,” “Principals and Agents Reconsidered,” “Peering Backwards: The Cairo Geniza and the Mediterranean,” and “Religious and Economic Identity in the Islamic Marketplace.” This fall, she

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# The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies



(l to r) Penn President Amy Guttmann and Professor David Ruderman with Mrs. Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz at the naming ceremony.

## CAJS CELEBRATES NEW NAME

Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz and her children have made a gift to endow and name the **Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies**. It is the single largest endowment gift to the Center since its creation in 1993. CAJS celebrated its new name in a ceremony held on September 9, 2008. The event was well attended and included the Katz family and friends, university officials, Penn faculty and students, the Katz Center Board of Overseers, and current fellows. During the ceremony at the Katz Center's library several speakers beautifully captured Herb's personality and his love of both the Center and the University of Pennsylvania. President Guttmann said that *tzedakah* was for Herb a fundamental way of life. Dean Bushnell spoke about Herb's deep appreciation for the power of ideas. David Ruderman adapted an ancient rabbinic text to characterize Herb's good heart as the finest of all qualities. It is hard to imagine a more appropriate way of remembering this great man.

## 2007–2008 AT THE KATZ CENTER

### Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity: Literary, Social, and Material Histories

This past year was the Katz Center's first sustained focus on Judaism in Antiquity, and we aimed to do so in a decidedly interdisciplinary mode. Instead of concentrating on the rabbis and their world, we focused on the imperial context in which Judaism was but one small piece. How does this perspective change the sort of evidence and questions we bring to this era of seminal transformation in Jewish culture, law, society, art, and practice? The idea was to foster vibrant reciprocity. Scholars of early Judaism need to be regularly challenged by the data and complexity of Roman history, even and especially as Rome became a Christian empire. The group also pushed scholars of the Roman period to better take the measure of the vast, but often inaccessible, evidence of one of its own (uniquely vocal) provincial populations—the Jews. The conversation was and continues to be extraordinary, and was echoed in the diversity and range of the fellows and other scholars convened for the year and culminating with the Gruss Colloquium. A volume that will showcase some of the most exciting research by the fellows is currently being edited by **Natalie B. Dohrmann** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Annette Yoshiko Reed** (University of Pennsylvania). The Gruss colloquium is made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W'64**.

## 2008 MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The 2008 Meyerhoff Lecture was delivered by **Paula Fredriksen** (Boston University) and **Oded Irshai** (Hebrew University). They gave

a multimedia presentation of the religious, intellectual, and physical itinerary of the relics of St. Stephen across the Mediterranean in the early fifth century CE. The story of St. Stephen's bones begins with a vision near Jerusalem and ends with sea voyages throughout the late Roman world. The proto-martyr of the early church, Stephen, through his recovered relics, instigated bouts of internal brawling between local bishops and spasms of external political struggles between Jewish dignitaries and the ascendant church. Journeying further west, fragments of Stephen's body set off waves of anti-Jewish hostility. The lecture explored some of the consequences of this hostility, from the forced conversion of Minorca's Jews to Augustine's insistence on Jewish freedom of practice in *City of God*. 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 the Center and to honor the generosity and service of **Herbert D. Katz** and **Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz** to Penn's programs and the Center.

## 2007–2008 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Last year's fellowship topic produced great interest in the wider Jewish community and beyond. Our local lecture series, "Beginnings: Jews, Christians, and the Roman Empire," attracted audiences to lectures in synagogues on diverse topics such as the trauma of exile, rabbis and witches, and art and Jewish identity. We also initiated a three-part lecture series co-sponsored by the Main Line Reform Temple, the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, and the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. **Annette Yoshiko Reed** (University of Pennsylvania) discussed Jesus's Jewishness and the split between Judaism and Christianity and **William Adler** (North Carolina State University) lectured on Scripture and authority in early Judaism and Christianity. Under the auspices of the Primo Levi Center in New York City, the Katz Center fellows delivered three widely attended lectures. The Katz Center also continued with one-day seminars for Jewish professionals. **Lee I. Levine** (Hebrew University) discussed the ancient synagogue in the fall while **Yaakov Elman** (Yeshiva University) spoke on theodicy in Late Antiquity in the spring. The seminars for rabbis were very successful. The Katz Center looks forward to creating additional educational programs for rabbis and educators.



Professor David Ruderman (standing left) with the extended Katz family at the naming ceremony.



This fellowship year challenges scholars to reconsider the economic dimensions of the Jewish past and to integrate that knowledge within the emerging narratives of Jewish experience. Although the field has moved far beyond the need for apologetics, there is an abiding reluctance to engage the Jews' historic economic functions, which have long nourished anti-Semitic fantasies. Yet these functions formed the basis of Jewish global civilization: mercantile, transnational, and reliant upon money as a source of power. The fellows will explore such topics as Jewish livelihoods, social structures, trade networks, and fiscal mechanisms, thus investigating anew the relationship between the material and cultural components of Jewish civilization. By bringing together scholars from across the humanities and social sciences, The Katz Center seeks to devise a fresh research agenda for exposing the shifting linkages between commerce and culture in Jewish life from medieval to modern times.

## 2008–2009 Public Programs

Economic factors are essential for understanding the character of Jewish existence. This year's topic is relevant for anyone who is interested in learning about some of the richest and most basic phenomena of Jewish life, such as how Jews have earned their livelihoods, developed new trades, and created businesses and industries. In Fall 2008, the Katz Center fellows will deliver a three-part lecture series under the auspices of the Wharton School. The 2009 Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies will run from February to April in the greater Philadelphia area. In addition to the programs in Philadelphia, the Katz Center will facilitate public lectures at synagogues around the country. If you would like more information about our public programs, please contact **Yechiel Schur** at [yschur@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:yschur@sas.upenn.edu) or consult our website at: <http://www.cajs.upenn.edu/> and click on Public Programs.

## 2008–2009 Fellows:

### Cornelia Aust

Jewish Merchants in Central and East Central Europe  
University of Pennsylvania  
*Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship*

### Bernard Cooperman (F)

Commercial Organization and Communal Formation  
University of Maryland  
*Primo Levi Fellowship*

### Veerle Vanden Daelen (S)

Jews, Orthodoxy, and Diamonds in Antwerp  
University of Antwerp

### Jonathan Dekel-Chen

Jewish Transnational Philanthropy and Politics  
Hebrew University  
*Dalek and Rose Feith Family Fellowship*  
*Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship*

### Glenn Dynner (S)

Jewish Economic Life in the Congress Kingdom of Poland  
Sarah Lawrence College  
*Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship*

### Judah Galinsky (F)

Christian-Jewish Relations and the Medieval Gift Economy  
Bar Ilan University  
*Ruth Meltzer Fellowship*

### Nahum Karlinsky (S)

Jewish Philanthropy and Credit Cooperatives in Eastern Europe before World War II  
Ben-Gurion University  
*Samuel T. Lachs Fellowship*

### Jonathan Karp

Economic Discourse on Jews in Luther's Europe  
Binghamton University/SUNY  
*Martin Gruss Fellowship*  
*Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship*

### Rebecca Kobrin (F)

East European Jews, Money, and Speculation in Gilded-Age America  
Columbia University  
*Albert J. Wood Fellowship*

### Paul Lerner (F)

Jews, Department Stores, and German Responses to Mass Consumerism, 1880–1940  
University of Southern California  
*Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship*

### Adam Mendelsohn

Economics of the English-Speaking Diaspora, 1820–1870  
Brandeis University  
*Louis and Bessie Stein Fellowship*

### Evelyne Oliel-Grausz (S)

Trade, Family, and Communication Networks  
University of Paris I, Sorbonne  
*Primo Levi Fellowship*

### Derek Penslar (F)

Jews and the Military, 1648–1948  
University of Toronto  
*Weiner Family Fellowship*

### Gideon Reuveni (S)

Consumer Culture and the Making of Jewish Identity in Europe  
University of Melbourne  
*Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship*

### Jessica Roitman (S)

Dysfunction and Disintegration in Sephardi Networks, 1595–1640  
Leiden University  
*Selma Ruben Fellowship*

### Joseph Shatzmiller (F)

Jewish Pawnbroking, Christian Art, and Medieval Society  
Duke University  
*Rebell Family Fellowship*

### David Sorkin (F)

Emancipation and Capitalism  
University of Wisconsin  
*Golub Family Fellowship*

### Adam Sutcliffe (S)

Judaism, Radicalism, and the Commerce Question, 1815–1843  
King's College London  
*Primo Levi Fellowship*

### Adam Teller

Reconstruction of Polish Jewish Society, 1660s  
University of Haifa  
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship  
*Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship*

### Michael Toch (S)

Economic History of the Jews of Medieval Europe  
Hebrew University  
*Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship*

### Nathan Wachtel (F)

Marrano Networks and Mercantilism, 16th and 17th Centuries  
College de France  
*Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship*

### Carsten Wilke

Clandestine Judaism and Boundary Crossing, 1598–1659  
Heinrich Heine University, Institute of German Jewish History  
*Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship*

### Marcin Wodzinski (S)

Socio-Economic Profile of Hasidism Reconsidered  
University of Wrocław, Poland  
*Ella Darivoff Fellowship*

## Adjunct Fellows

**Elliott Horowitz**, Bar-Ilan University

**Phil Lieberman**,

George Washington University

**Jerzy Mazur**, Towson University

**Tom Safley**, University of Pennsylvania

**Francesca Trivellato**, Yale University

## Short-Term Fellows

**Israel Bartal**, Hebrew University

**Andrew Godley**, University of Reading/UK

## 2008 PUBLICATIONS

The "Jewish Cultures and Contexts Series" from the University of Pennsylvania Press continues to publish cutting-edge research from across the fields of Jewish studies, as well as to translate innovative work written in Hebrew for English readers.

Look for these new titles:

*Jewish Biblical Interpretation and Cultural Exchange: Comparative Exegesis in Context* (May 2008), Natalie B. Dohrmann and David Stern, eds.

*The Revolution of 1905 and Russia's Jews* (February 2008), Stefani Hoffman and Ezra Mendelsohn, eds.

*Old Worlds, New Mirrors: On Jewish Mysticism and Twentieth-Century Thought* (December 2008), Moshe Idel

*The Jew in the Art of the Italian Renaissance* (May 2008) Dana E. Katz

*The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times* (2007, paperback 2008), Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Jonathan Karp, eds.

*The Insight of Unbelievers: Nicholas of Lyra and Christian Reading of Jewish Text in the Later Middle Ages* (2007, paperback 2008), Deena Copeland Klepper

In addition to its collections of scholarship and reviews, *The Jewish Quarterly Review (JQR)* has several special issues and projects in the works. Among them:

- A forum on Arab Jews.
- An issue dedicated to review essays on scholarship in all areas of late antique Judaism.

- A "travel" issue, which will explore a wide range of data, from early Christian pilgrimage guides to the Holy Land, to shtetl-themed restaurants in twenty-first century Poland and Germany.

- Correspondence from the archive of the late artist, R. B. Kitaj, whose painting and writing offer a provocative insight into the "Jewish Question," as well as into the possibility of a "Jewish Art." Kitaj, who previously published in *JQR*, died in October 2007, and left behind a large trove of fascinating correspondence and musings on Jewish thought, theology, and history.

We are also thinking of exciting ways to mark *JQR*'s 100th volume (!), which will come out in 2010—not that far away.

As always, look for all of *JQR* online at "Project Muse" and JSTOR.

# 2007-2008 Special Events and Programs

## MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Twelfth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History was a lecture entitled "Saint Stephen's Bones: A Chapter in the History of Jewish-Christian Relations in Late Antiquity" with **Paula Fredriksen** (Boston University) and **Oded Irshai** (Hebrew University) on March 19, 2008. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Religious Studies department, Jewish Studies Program, and 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.



(l to r) Professors David Ruderman and Beth Wenger, with Author Jonathan Rosen, 2008 Silvers Visiting Scholar

## SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Twelfth Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program was a talk by author **Jonathan Rosen**, on his then forthcoming book about birdwatching, *The Life of the Skies*, focusing on Judaism and the role of the natural world in religious life. The lecture on February 7, 2008, was co-sponsored with the University of Pennsylvania Kelly Writers House.

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

## JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

The Twenty-Third Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium was a talk entitled "Post-



2007 Alexander Colloquium speaker, Professor Michael Brenner with Director, Professor Beth Wenger

Mortem: The Reconstruction of Jewish Life in Postwar Germany" by **Michael Brenner**, Professor of Jewish History and Culture at the University of Munich on October 30, 2007. The lecture was co-sponsored with the History department and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

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 Kutchin, C'50**, and the late Mitzi Kutchin.

"In Quest of a Narrative – An Ethnography in an Israeli Kibbutz," with **Haya Bar-Itzhak**, (University of Haifa), co-sponsored by the Graduate Program in Folklore and Folklife and the Middle East Center, on October 1, 2007.

"The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain, 950-1492," with **Peter Cole**, poet and Hebrew and Arabic translator, co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and Kelly Writers House, on October 8, 2007.

"Placing the Voice: the Personal & Political, Israel 2007," with **Rachel Tzvia Back**, Israeli poet, co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and Kelly Writers House, on October 10, 2007.



Israeli poet, Rachel Tzvia Back, talking to Professor Nili Gold's Hebrew class

"Jews, Judaism, and Judaica in the Museum," with **Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek**, Chief curator, Juedisches Museum, Vienna; Curator, Spertus Museum, Chicago, co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Department of Art History, on October 18, 2007.

"City of Oranges: An Intimate History of Arabs and Jews in Jaffa," with **Adam LeBor**, author and journalist, co-sponsored by the Middle East Center, on November 6, 2007.

"Jewish Culture in Fin-de-Siecle Vienna: From Text to Performance," with **Klaus Hodl**, (Centre of Jewish Studies), Karl-Franzens-Universitat Graz, co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, on November 7, 2007.

"Authentic Folklorism: Israeli Folk Dancing in Israel and in America," with **Dina Roginsky**, (University of Toronto), co-sponsored by the Graduate Program in Folklore & Folklife, and the Middle East Center, on November 12, 2007.



Professor Michael Kramer before his talk

"Acts of Assimilation: The Invention of Jewish American Literary History," with **Michael P. Kramer**, Director, Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing, Bar Ilan University, co-sponsored by the English department, on November 19, 2007.

"Autumn Song: Portrait of the Artist as an Older Woman," with **Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman**, acclaimed Yiddish poet, singer and song writer, co-sponsored by Hiddur: The Center for Aging and Judaism of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College with other organizations in the community, on December 13, 2007.

"Spinoza in the Library of an Early Modern Dutch Sephardic Rabbi," with **Yosef Kaplan**, (Hebrew University), co-sponsored by the Department of History, on February 20, 2008.

"Challenges in the Middle East: Democracy, Media, and Human Rights," with journalist **Khaled Abu Toameh**, co-sponsored by Penn Hillel's Israel Coalition, on February 24, 2008.

"Cantillation and Meaning in the Bible: A Three-Part Series," with **Miles B. Cohen**



l to r: Professor Antonio Feros and Professor David Ruderman with Professor Yosef Kaplan.

(Jewish Theological Seminary), co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, on February 27, 2008.

“An Afternoon of Selected Yiddish Short Stories,” with **Isaiah Sheffer**, Founder and Artistic Director of Symphony Space, co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia in partnership with Jewish Outreach Partnership, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Kutchin Faculty Seminar Series, WHYY and the National Yiddish Book Center, on March 16, 2008.

“The Rabbis Reconsidered: A Roundtable Discussion,” with **Beth Berkowitz** (Jewish Theological Seminary), **Yaakov Elman** (Yeshiva University), **Seth Schwartz** (Jewish Theological Seminary) and moderator, **Natalie Dohrmann** (University of Pennsylvania), co-sponsored by the Center for Ancient Studies and the Religious Studies department, on April 2, 2008.



l to r: Professors Yaakov Elman, Natalie Dohrmann, Seth Schwartz and Beth Berkowitz at their roundtable discussion

“Film Screening: Swimming in Auschwitz,” with filmmaker **Jon Kean, C’89**, co-sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program and the Alice Paul Center, and the Hillel Holocaust Education Committee, on April 9, 2007.

## MARTIN FISHER MEMORIAL LECTURE IN JEWISH STUDIES

Professor **Beth S. Wenger** gave the first annual University of Pennsylvania Martin Fisher Memorial Lecture in Jewish Studies sponsored by **Ruthie and Ray Brenner** on December 2, at the Ramaz School in New York. The lecture series is named in memory of Ruthie Brenner’s late father, Martin Fisher, and features a different member of the Jewish Studies

faculty as speaker each year. Wenger spoke about her new book, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America* to an audience of approximately two hundred people.

## JEWISH STUDIES CONFERENCES

### Defining Modernity: Spring 2008

This year’s Jewish Studies-sponsored conference was entitled “Becoming Modern: The German-Jewish Experience” and was organized together with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and took place on March 30. It was both a stand-alone scholarly conference and a highpoint of a seminar for graduate students and ambitious



Exhibition from the private collection of Erna Weill (sculpture and documents)

undergraduates with the same title, offered by **Liliane Weissberg**. The course reflected on the work of critics and philosophers like Walter Benjamin, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, Siegfried Kracauer, and Georg Simmel. The conference, organized by Weissberg and two doctoral candidates in German-Jewish Studies, **Gabriella Skwara** and **Kerry Wallach**, brought together scholars across disciplines to discuss the relationship between German Jews and modernity, and engage in a conversation with each other. The speakers included **Peter Fenves** (Northwestern University), **Susannah Gottlieb** (Northwestern University), **Susannah Heschel** (Dartmouth College), **Todd Presner** (UCLA), **Lisa Saltzman** (Bryn Mawr College), **Scott Spector** (University of Michigan), **David Suchoff** (Bowdoin College), and **Rachel Tobias** (Johns Hopkins University). It was open to Penn faculty and students as well as friends of the Jewish Studies Program here at Penn, and drew a large group of attendees.

The conference took place in the Rosenwald Gallery of Van Pelt Library, and its adjoining Henry Charles Lea room was also the locale for a special exhibition derived from the private collection of Erna Weill’s art, papers, photographs, and home movies, organized by library curator Dr. **Violet Lutz**, a graduate in German-Jewish studies, and Kerry Wallach. Weill was a sculptor and friend of Martin Buber who had emigrated from Germany to the United States. The day-long symposium ended with a reception and a concert of Berlin cabaret music by Jewish composers, performed by Curtis graduate **Andrew Hauze** (piano) and soprano **Tammy Coil**.

## UPCOMING IN 2009

### A Conference on “Tablet and Torah: Mesopotamia and the Biblical World”

Monday, March 30, 2009  
University Museum

This conference will shed new light on the cultures of Mesopotamia and the Biblical World, and in particular will emphasize work on the historical and cultural interconnections between these two important areas in the ancient world. The conference also honors the work of retired Professor Barry Eichler who specialized in the connections between these two areas.

## BARRY EICHLER RECEPTION

On the evening on January 29, The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Jewish Studies Program, along with the Departments of Religious Studies, South Asian Studies, the Center for Ancient Studies, and the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, celebrated Professor **Barry Eichler** on the occasion of his retirement in December 2007, after forty years of distinguished service, including thirteen years as director of Jewish Studies. The event, held in the Lower Egyptian Gallery of the Penn Museum, was attended by current and past students, faculty and staff.

Professors **Erle Leichty**, **Roger Allen**, **Beth Wenger**, **Jeffrey Tigay** and graduate student, **Matthew Rutz**, sang his praises and presented him with a page from the facsimile edition of the Kennicott Bible, a lavishly illuminated manuscript completed in Spain in 1476 which contains the text of the Hebrew Bible and David Kimchi’s influential grammatical treatise *Sefer Mikhlol*. The page presented to Barry is one of the pages from Kimchi’s grammar. It was chosen because of Barry’s commitment to the study of ancient texts based on a firm foundation of grammar and comparative philology, his devotion to the Hebrew language in all of its periods, and the extensive range of his scholarship from the ancient Near East through medieval Europe and beyond, as well as his love for the aesthetic and his own beautiful calligraphic skills. We owe a great debt to Barry—for his role in founding the Jewish Studies Program, for his years of dedicated service, and for his collegiality. We will miss him and wish him well as he moves on to future pursuits.



Professor Roger Allen looks on as Professor Jeff Tigay presents Professor Barry Eichler with a gift on his retirement.

# Judaica at Penn's Libraries

## JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn – located at the Van Pelt Library, at the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library and at the University Museum – continue to grow as an integrated unit within the University library system under the management of **Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections**. The staff of the Library at the Katz Center – **Judith Leifer**, who oversees the Inter-Library Loan program for the Fellows and **Josef Gulka**, who supervises circulation – performed exceptionally well. Overall, the CAJS library responded to over 1,500 public service contacts, shelved nearly 6,000 volumes, administered the circulation of over 540 rare items, handled over 600 Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions and had a remarkable average turn-around time of two days for filled requests.

## NEW KATZ CAJS/LIBRARY WEB EXHIBIT!

To mark the conclusion of the 2008 CAJS seminar year, the Penn Libraries partnered with the CAJS Fellows to produce a beautiful virtual exhibit “Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity.” To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows08/>

## NEW PENN JUDAICA HOMEPAGE!

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/judaica/>

## PENN JUDAICA FAQ!

The Penn Judaica Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) interface continues to offer on-line tips and guides to the public about Judaica-related matters. If you have a question, try finding an answer at: <http://faq.library.upenn.edu/> Look under Research Assistance and then Judaic Studies.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

On March 12, 2008, CAJS board member **Julie Beren Platt, C'79**, and **Marc E. Platt, C'79**, hosted at their home in Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Southern California Regional Advisory Board of the Penn Alumni Association (SCRAB), a Penn alumni event about Penn's rare Judaica collections.

On May 11 and 12, 2008, the Library joined with the Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to host the seventh annual **Manfred R. Lehmann**

**Memorial Master Workshop on the history of the Jewish book**. This year's topic was the Medieval and Early Modern Colophons.

Professor **Menahem Schmelzer**, emeritus professor and former Librarian of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America Library, led the sessions. Once again, 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**, the **University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation**, and **Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66**, for additional funding.

## COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

Penn's Judaica collections received over \$800,000 in pledges, grants, and gifts in kind during the last year.

Penn's **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**, to purchase a copy of the scarce and beautiful first edition of Ya'akov Benor-Kalter's Jerusalem: *Twelve Views of the Old City (Pro-Jerusalem Society, 1924)*. **Annette Freund** provided a generous gift which made possible the purchase at auction of a copy of the first edition of a Philadelphia Jewish textile featuring Hebrew letters arranged in the form of an eye-chart to advertise the business of its Hebrew printer. Thanks also to **Daniel Kestenbaum** and the **Kestenbaum & Company** auction house for all the times the hammer dropped on Penn's bid!

**David G. Cook, M.D.**, a senior associate, once again contributed a gift in honor of Professor **Jeffrey H. Tigay**.

## GRANT PROJECTS

The American Genizah Project (AGP), based at the Penn Libraries and funded with a generous gift from **Erik Gershwind, W'93**, and **Jackie Gershwind** and **Stacey Bennett, C'95**, and **Michael Bennett**, continues to lead a consortium of public institutions and private collectors who are working together to locate, catalog, transcribe, and digitize some of the most important, founding documents of American Jewish history. Two interns, **Rebecca Goldstein** and **Heather Newlin**, worked

diligently to transcribe original hand-written letters and scan newly received material from our consortial partners. During the summer of 2008 the AGP was fortunate to have the help of a **Penn Center for Undergraduate Research Fellowship (CURF)** intern, **Andrew Kincaid**, who transcribed manuscript letters. We also are contributing to a similar project underway at the **American Jewish Archives (AJA)** to digitize their Isaac Mayer Wise papers and are grateful to **Dr. Gary Zola, Kevin Proffitt**, and other members of the AJA staff for all their efforts.

Thanks to Professor **Heather Sharkey**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC), the **School of Arts and Sciences Learning and Technology Committee** awarded the Penn Libraries an Instructional Technology Grant to fund the digitization of our Judeo-Arabic manuscript codices.

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

**Jean S. Adelman; American Jewish Archives; Aviva Astrinsky; Beki L. Bahar; Adina Bar-El; Nira Bartal; Miriam and Ben-Zion Barlev; Carlos Benaim; 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; Roger Chartier; Alma Orlovitz Cohen, FA'44; Boris Cohen, Dov ha-Cohen; Martin Cohen; Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C'66; Gloria Cohn; Julie L. Coleman; David G. Cook; Flora Campos Cornfield; Alon Dahan; Muhammad A. Dandamayev; Avi Decter; Yvonne Edels; Alfred H. Eidlitz; Michael E. Eigen, C'57; Mohamed El-Hawary; Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg; Sara Feinstein; Sandra Fifer; Pamela Foa; Megan Foley; Elan Frank; John L. Frank; Robert and Molly Freedman; Annette Freund; Jack and Naomi Friedman; Michal Galas; Gilad J. Gevanyahu; Erik and Jackie Gershwind, Howard M. Girsh; Joann S. Girsh; Andrew Gluck; Allen and Adele Gottfried; Michael Graves; Helaine Shoag Greenberg; Adele and Bertram Greenspan; Guido Guastalla; Silvia Guastalla; Gail Morrison-Hall; Marjorie Hassen; Leonard Hayflick; Marvin Heller; Richard Henriquez; 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; Jon Kean;**

Melvin Kates; Jeffrey Keil W'65, Murad El-Kodsi; Yaacov Kotlicki; Norman Kransdorf; Judith Korman Langsfeld CW'67; Eric M. Lankin, W'78; Eric Laupot; Judith Leifer; Marvin Lessen; Walter A. Levy, G'73; Lenora M. and John E. Link; Long Island Association of Jewish Libraries; Jack Lunzer; Jane Moskowitz Mack; Barbara Magalnick; Mona Magnis; Paul David Mandel; Eugene Mark; Yaakov Mashiah; Gilbert Mathews, W'70; Barbara Matt; Selly Mizrahi; Eleanor Chana Mlotek; Mordecai Lee; Tamara Morgenstern; Musee d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme; Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah; National Museum of American Jewish History; Iris Newman; Jeffrey I. Pasek, L'76; Penn Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS); Edward M. Peters; Seymour Piwoz; Jerry and Ellen Prince, G'74; Hilda Pring; Rose Rechnic; Frieda Reider; Ruth Rin; Evelyn Ringold; Barry S. Robbins; Lena Roos; Faye S. Rosenthal, CW'71; Jack Roth; David Ruderman; Victor D. Sanua; Lois Satalof; Avi Schmidman; Peter Schulman; Robert Seltzer; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian; Morris

Shelanski; Harvey Sheldon; Adele Silver; Francine and Marvin Silverstein; Flor Siperstein; Robert St. George; Eric L. Stern; Harry Stern; Ione Apfelbaum Strauss in honor of Erika A. Strauss; Paul A. Tanker; Yirmiyahu Ahron Taub; Selig A. Tauenblatt; Mr. and Mrs. D. Stephen Toback; Fortunee Franchetti Treves; Iosif I. Vaisman; Wout Jac. Van Bekkum; Marvin Verman; Saul Viener; Naomi Vogelman-Goldfeld; Temira Volcanyi; Bert Vorcheimer; Christine Walsh; Kevin Walsh; Lewis Wechsler; Bella Hass Weinberg; Meier Weisblum; Yitschok Weisblum; George H. Weiss; Ruth Westheimer; Norma R. Weiser; Falk Wiesemann; Anita J. Willens; Steven M. Wind, C'00; Lynne Winters; Gerald Wolpe; Albert J. Wood; Ele Wood; Leonard Wood; Dan Wyman; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Gilbert Young; Roza Zaks; Joseph Zernik.

The following CAJS Fellows and guests have donated copies of their scholarship to the CAJS Library collection: Michela Andreatta; Doron Bar; Adina Bar-El; Hamutal Bar-Yosef; Israel Bartal; Elisheva Baumgarten; Malachi Beit-Arie; Dan Ben-Amos; Yaron Ben-Naeh; Shlomo Berger;

Adele Berlin; Francesca Bregoli; Miroslawa Bulat; Stephen Burnett; Alan D. Crown; Yaacov Deutsch; Aron Dotan; Harold Allen Drake; Jacob Elbaum; David Engel; Shamma Friedman; Seymour Gitin; Sylvie Anne Goldberg; Paul Grendler; Alessandro Guetta; Joseph Hacker; Orna Has; Galit Hasan-Rokem; Elliott Horowitz; Adiel Kadari; Tamar Kadari; Marion Kant; Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett; Samuel Z. Klauzner; Michael Kramer; Sara Japhet; Ruth Kartun-Blum; Robert Kraft; Daniel Lasker; Fabrizio Lelli; Lee I. Levine; Gideon Libson; Berahyahu Lifshitz; Ora Limor; Yehiel Limor; Aharon Maman; Rachel Manekin; Roger G. Ousterhout; Richard Popkin; Riv-Ellen Prell; Stefan Reif; Alan Rosen; Shalom Sabar; Dalit Rom-Shiloni; Alan Rosen; Moshe Rosman; Tovah Rosen; Gerson Shaked; Jeffrey Shoulson; Daniel Sheerin; Marcos Silber; Mark S. Smith; Haym Soloveitchik; David Stern; Sarah Stroumsa; Adam Teller; Smadar Tirosh-Heyd; Chava Turniansky; Israel Yuval; Mordechai Zalkin; Ziony Zevit.

## About Our Students

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Undergraduate student research continues to be one of JSP's priorities. Last year a number of students in Jewish Studies wrote senior thesis projects on Jewish topics. Thanks to the generous support of **Phillip, C'34**, and **Robert, C'63, 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 **David Falek's** senior honors thesis entitled "The Revival of Mishna Study in the Early Modern Period," which was awarded the Samuel and Esther Goldin Endowment Award for outstanding research in Jewish Studies. Other thesis titles were: "Agunot' by S.Y. Agnon: Piecing Together the Puzzle," by **Felice "Lisi" Dredze**; "The Revival of Mishna Study in the Early Modern Period," by **David Faleck**; "Rabbi Yair Chaim Bachrach: The Life and Thought of a 17th Century Jewish Skeptic," by **Joe Scherban**; and "Confrontation' in Context: Joseph Soloveitchik's Essay about Interreligious Dialogue against the Backdrop of the Vatican II Conference," by **Jonathan Weiner**.

### GRADUATION

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

Four seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Major: **Felice Dredze** (Dec 2007), **David Faleck** (Dec 2007) **Joseph M. Scherban** (May 2008) and **Jonathan Z. Weiner** (May 2008).



Professor Beth Wenger discusses Jewish studies with a student during Advance Registration

One student completed the Jewish History major in the Department of History: **Josh Diskin** (May 2008).

Two seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program's Interdisciplinary Minor: **Matthew J. Rosenbaum** (Dec 2007) and **Alana M. Weiner** (May 2008).

*(continued on page 14)*

# About Our Students *(continued from page 13)*

## 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: **Hannah Lau** and **Daniel Ross**.

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

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 **Gabriela Skwara**.

The **Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies**, designated for special opportunities in Judaic Studies, were awarded to graduate students: **Cornelia Aust, Rebecca Cutler, Dana Hercbergs, Matthew Richman**, and **David Shyovitz**. 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 essay demonstrating creative thinking on any subject related to the archaeology of Ancient Israel or to Judaic religious thought through the Middle Ages. Last year's recipients went to three students: **Hart Levine**, for "Shmuel HaNagid and the New Spanish Authority;" **Yael Landman** for "HaYirhav HaZeman: A Critique of Talmud Study Among Eleventh Century Sephardic Jews;" and **David Shyovitz** for "The Celestial Hierarchy of the Hasidei Ashkenaz: The Jews of Medieval Germany and the Pseudo-Dionysian Tradition."

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

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 **David Faleck**, a senior major in Jewish Studies.

The Jewish Studies Program mourns the loss of Dr. Rosaline Goldin. She and her sister Julia have generously supported the Samuel and Esther Goldin Endowment Fund. We join the Goldin family in mourning their loss and greatly appreciate their generous support of Jewish Studies at Penn.

## 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, such as 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.

## 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 second-year **Konstanze Kunst** (History), fifth-year student **Kerry Wallach** (Germanic Languages), and fourth-year **David Shyovitz** (History). Kunst is working in the field of medieval and early modern Jewish history, Wallach is studying modern German-Jewish and Hebrew literatures, and Shyovitz early modern Jewish history.

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

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

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Spencer Allen** taught a freshman seminar, "The Bible in Popular Music," as a Critical Writing Fellow this past year, which he used as the perfect opportunity to introduce Bruce Springsteen, Bob Marley, and Hank Williams songs to the Penn student body. Allen also presented two dissertation-based papers on the relationships between deities in the Mesopotamian pantheon: "The Ishtar of Hammurabi's Prologue: The Issue of Divine Multiplicity" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Society of Biblical Literature in New Brunswick, NJ, and "Assur and Enlil in Neo-Assyrian Documents" at the 54th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Würzburg, Germany. For the 2008-09 school year, he has been invited to the King Fahd Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Center at the University of Arkansas as a visiting scholar, where he will

teach Historical Geography of Jerusalem, Goddesses and Women of Mesopotamia, as well as introductory Bible courses.

**Cornelia Aust** completed her fourth year as a Benjamin Franklin fellow in the History department. She specializes in Jewish History in Central and East Central Europe and is working on her dissertation “Between Warsaw and Amsterdam: Networks of Jewish Merchants in Central Europe (1740s-1820s).” She spent the academic year of 2006-07 doing research in various European archives (e.g. in Warsaw, Gdansk, Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Amsterdam and Frankfurt/Oder). Her research was supported by an International Dissertation Research Fellowship by the Social Science Research Council and a Doctoral Scholarship from the Memorial Foundation. Last year, she began writing and conducted some final research during the summer. This year, she is a Louise Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

**Andrew Berns** is a fifth-year Benjamin Franklin fellow in the History department, and recently completed his first year of dissertation research. This summer he participated in the Shalom Spiegel Institute seminar on Medieval Hebrew Poetry and taught a history course through Penn’s Pre-Freshman Program. In August he presented a paper on Amatus Lusitanus’ medical writings at the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies conference in Phoenix. This past year he also lectured at area synagogues on topics such as Jews and Greek civilization, Renaissance Jewish physicians, and synagogue music in the early modern and modern periods.

**Rebecca Cutler**, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow in the History department, is continuing her studies of modern Jewish history. She is currently working on her dissertation, that examines the place of medicine within American Jewish transnational politics. Cutler is presently conducting archival research throughout the United States and in Israel. This year she will also be a Milstein Fellow at the YIVO Institute in New York.

**Yaacob Dweck** defended his dissertation on Leon Modena’s Critique of Kabbalah this past May. In September he joined the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at Princeton University for a three-year post-doctoral fellowship. At Princeton, he hopes to turn his dissertation into a monograph and prepare a new Hebrew edition with an English translation of Leon Modena’s polemic against Kabbalah, “Ari Nohem.” This past April his translation of the 1949 novella *Khirbet Khizeh* by S. Yizhar, translated in collaboration with Nicholas de Lange, was published by Ibis Editions.

**Benjamin Fisher**, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow in the History department, completed his fourth year of graduate studies in Early Modern Jewish and European history and passed his comprehensive exams. He is currently conducting dissertation research on the place of the Bible in the cultural world of the Sephardic Jewish community of Amsterdam during the seventeenth century.

**Jennifer Glaser** graduated with her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory in August 2008. In the Fall, she moved to Cincinnati to take a position as Assistant Professor of Contemporary American Literature in the English department at the University of Cincinnati. Glaser taught Modern Jewish American Literature in the English department last Fall. An essay on Ben Katchor appeared in the *MELUS* journal in September. A chapter from her dissertation, “Exceptional Differences: Race and the Postwar Jewish American Literary Imagination,” appeared in the journal *PMLA* in October, and she also has an article on Tony Kushner and Jewish identity coming out during the year. She presented a paper on Diaspora in Jewish American literature at the AJS conference in Toronto and a paper on queer Jewishness at the National Women’s Studies conference in Cincinnati in June.

**Julie Lieber** completed her dissertation: “Imagining and Living Gender: Rabbis and Jewish Women in fin de siècle Vienna” and graduated this past May. This fall she took a lectureship at the University of Denver in European History and is teaching an array of courses in European history, Jewish



Graduate students, Spencer Allen and Karen Sonik celebrate with Professor Barry Eichler on his retirement.

history and Women’s history. She and her husband Eric became the proud parents of twins, Natan Leib and Tovit Nitzan, born on June 13th.

**Tammy Jacobowitz** is working to complete her dissertation on Leviticus Rabbah, which explores the rabbinic discourse of the body, illness, and gender. For 2008-2009, she has been awarded a Memorial Foundation dissertation grant to support her work. She teaches Rabbis for Me’ah and lectures in communities in the NY and NJ area. This year, she will also be teaching a newly designed course for Me’ah, “The Body, Gender, and Sexuality in the Bible and Rabbinic Literature” as well as a series entitled, “Between the Body and Soul” for Habonim congregation in New York City. Tammy has recently completed the co-writing of a Bible curriculum for day school students, commissioned by JOFA (Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance).

Current Falk Fellow **Konstanze Kunst** completed her first of coursework in the History department, specializing in medieval and early modern Jewish history. She spent the summer in Munich, Germany, in order to do research in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek and to attend the seminar held by David. B. Ruderman, who was visiting professor at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

**Linda Meiberg** spent the 2007-2008 academic year as the Samuel H. Kress Traveling Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (ASCSA) and at the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research (AIAR) in Jerusalem conducting research for her dissertation on “Figural Motifs on Philistine Pottery and Their Connections with the Aegean World” which she expects to complete this year. For the 2008-2009 academic year, Linda was awarded funding through the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) as the Corpus of Aegean Frescoes fellow and a grant by the 1984 Foundation. She also anticipates the publication of her first two articles: “Philistine Lion-Headed Cups: Aegean or Anatolian?” and “Casting a Wide Net: Notes on the Inspiration for the Fish Motif on Philistine Pottery.” Her participation in the excavations at Tell es-Safi in Israel with the team from Bar Ilan University continued into its fourth season.

**Alexandra Rothstein**, a former Javits and William Penn fellow, is continuing her studies in Rabbinic literature and its relationship to Islamic literature. In the spring, she and Shawn Aster jointly taught a course at Rutgers University titled, “Variety in Ancient Jewish Life.” The course tried to integrate archeological and epigraphical as well as literary material, in an attempt to show the broad spectrum of Jewish identity in Late Antiquity.

**Ellie Schainker**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, is currently writing her dissertation entitled, “Imperial Hybrids: Russian-Jewish Converts in the Nineteenth Century.” This past year, Schainker conducted dissertation research in Kiev, Ukraine, and at the YIVO Institute as a Center for Jewish History and YIVO fellow. She also received a fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. This past spring, Schainker taught a survey course on early modern and modern Jewish history at Rutgers University. This summer, she and her husband, Hillel, welcomed their second child into the family, Noam Mordecai.

# About Our Students

**Gabriella Skwara**, a Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed her third year in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, focusing on German-Jewish literature. Last year she taught Intermediate German, served as a teaching assistant for “The Devil’s Pact in Literature, Film, and Music,” and continued to work with Kathryn Hellerstein to digitize pedagogical materials for first year Yiddish. She was the 2008 recipient of the Workman’s Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize in Yiddish Studies.

**Yehuda Seif**, a William Penn fellow, completed his fifth year in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry. He is currently working on his dissertation on the topic of “Charity and Poor Law in Medieval Ashkenaz.” This year, he will be a fellow at The Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Yeshiva University’s Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

**David Shyovitz**, a Falk Fellow and Wexner Graduate fellow, is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the History department, focusing on medieval Jewish cultural and intellectual history. This past summer, he taught a course at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education in New York, lectured at several synagogues, and participated in workshops at the Jewish Theological Seminary and at Hebrew University. This year, he will be working on his dissertation and serving as a Fellow at the Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at the Cardozo School of Law.

**Kerry Wallach**, a former Max Kade and Falk fellow, completed her comprehensive exams in the German Department last spring. Her article, “Literary Shorthand: Mascha Kaléko and the World of Journalism,” appeared in the Festschrift commemorating Kaléko’s 100th birthday in the fall. She helped coordinate the interdisciplinary symposium “Becoming Modern: The German-Jewish Experience,” which took place on March 30. Together with Violet Lutz, she co-curated an exhibition for the symposium consisting of sculptures and documents from the private collection of Erna Weill. A fellow of the Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme for 2008-2009, Kerry is spending her fifth year in Berlin conducting research for her dissertation on the Jewish press in the Weimar Republic.

**Susan Zeelander**, is working on her dissertation, “Endings in Biblical Narrative” in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. In December, she will present a paper at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, titled, “Ritualizations in Narrative Endings in Genesis.” Susan initiated a permanent, web-based record of the Judah Goldin Seminars that have played such a valuable role in the scholarly life of the department at Penn. The Judah Goldin Seminars allow members of the academic community across a wide range of fields to learn from one another and from our guests. The seminars have done much to foster scholarly growth and intellectual collegiality among scholars at every stage of their careers, students and faculty alike.

## LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

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

**Shawn Zelig Aster** is Assistant Professor of Bible at Yeshiva College in New York, and co-taught a class on Ancient Jewish Life at Rutgers University with his wife, Ariel Rothstein. He recently delivered a paper on “Centralization of Worship in the First Temple and Israelite

Religious Belief” at the inaugural conference of the Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies. His dissertation on divine radiance in the Hebrew Bible and Mesopotamian literature has been accepted for publication in the *Alter Orient und Altes Testament* (AOAT) series. He recently recorded a series of lectures on the book of Isaiah, which can be found online at <http://www.ou.org/nakhyomi>.

**Francesca Bregoli**, a former Benjamin Franklin fellow in History, has successfully defended her dissertation “Mediterranean Enlightenment: Jewish Acculturation in Livorno, 1737-1790” in September 2007. She is currently a Junior Research Fellow at the Oriental Institute and the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies of the University of Oxford, UK, where she teaches classes on early modern Jewish history and is revising her manuscript for publication. Last year, Francesca published an article on Italian Jewry and modernity and presented papers at the AJS meeting, Brasenose College and All Souls College. This fall, Francesca is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Queens College/CUNY.

**Shalom Holtz** is assistant professor of Bible at Yeshiva University. His book, *Neo-Babylonian Court Procedure*, will appear as part of the Cuneiform Monographs series by Brill publishers.

**Debra Kaplan** is Assistant Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, where she also holds the Dr. Pinkhos Churgin Memorial Chair. She has been awarded a Yad ha-Nadiv/Beracha Foundation Fellowship for 2008-2009, and will be conducting research in Jerusalem.

**Rebecca Kobrin**, Assistant Professor of American Jewish history in Columbia University’s History department is a fellow this year in the “Jews and Commerce” group at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies working on a project entitled “Ungilding America: Immigrant Jewish Bankers, Speculation, and the Reshaping of American Capitalism, 1900-1930.” Her first book, *Jewish Bialystok and its Diaspora: Between Exile and Empire* is forthcoming from Indiana University Press. Her recent publications also include “The 1905 Revolution Abroad: Mass Migration, Jewish Liberalism and American Jewry, 1903-1914,” in *The 1905 Revolution: A Turning Point in Jewish History?*, Ezra Mendelsohn and Stephanie Hoffman, eds. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008).

**Kevin McGeough** has accepted a tenured appointment at the University of Lethbridge as Assistant Professor of archaeology in the Geography Department. His new book *Exchange Relationships at Ugarit* was published by Peeters Press in 2007, and his next book *Ugaritic Economic Texts* is expected to be published by Peeters shortly. In 2009, Kevin will take over as series editor for the *American Schools of Oriental Research Archaeological Report Series*. McGeough has also been acting as editor for the *ABC-Clio World History Encyclopedia* (for the volumes covering the periods 4000-1000 BCE and 1000 BCE - 300CE), which is expected to be published in 2009. His first book, *The Romans: New Perspectives* will be published in paperback by Oxford Press in the spring of 2009. In May of 2008, Kevin married Elizabeth Galway, also an Assistant Professor at the University of Lethbridge.

**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. Her article, “Follow that Crown: Rhetoric, Rabbis, and Women Patrons” will appear in the Fall 2008 issue of *The Journal for Feminist Studies in Religion*. She was selected to participate in the 2007-08 Wabash Center Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Faculty at Colleges and Universities. In addition, she received a Summer Workshop Fellowship from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology of Religion, funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. in 2008.



**Adam Shear** (PhD, History, 2003) is Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. His book *Judah Halevi's Kuzari and the Shaping of Jewish Identity, 1167-1900* is being published this fall by Cambridge University Press and was awarded a Cahnman Foundation Subvention Grant last year from the Association for Jewish Studies.

**Andrea Weiss** is Assistant Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Union College-Institute of Religion in New York, where she teaches rabbinic, cantorial, and education students. She was the Associate Editor of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008). She also published "Figurative Language in

Biblical Prose Narrative: Metaphor in the Book of Samuel" (Brill, 2006), along with several recent articles on biblical poetry. She is currently working on a commentary on Psalms with Adele Berlin.

**Michael James Williams** is Professor of Old Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary, where he teaches ancient Near Eastern and biblical languages and texts. He also serves on the Committee on Bible Translation for the International Bible Society.

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## ABOUT OUR FACULTY (continued from page 7)

will present a paper to the Workshop on Social Norms at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, NJ. She is also offering courses on medieval lives, medieval and modern concepts of Holy War, and surveys of medieval European and Mediterranean history.

**Kathryn Hellerstein**, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages, continues to serve as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In Spring 2007, she was awarded a continuation of the Penn SAS Language Teaching Innovation Grant, with which she and German department graduate student Gabriella Skwara developed on-line pedagogical materials for teaching Yiddish. Hellerstein's recent articles appeared in *Multiple Voices of Modern Yiddish Literature, Culture Front: Representing Jews in Eastern Europe* (eds. Ben Nathans and Gabriella Safran, Penn Press, 2008), *Arguing With the Storm: Stories by Yiddish Women Writers, and Zutot* (Amsterdam). In addition, she published entries in the 2007 edition of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* and the 2008 YIVO *Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, as well as an article, "Moyshe-Leyb Halpern's Art," in the *Forward* (April 4, 2008). Her translations of Yiddish poetry appeared in *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* and *Jewish Lodz: The Missing District*. Hellerstein's poems appeared or are forthcoming in *Kerem, Four Centuries of Jewish Women's Spirituality*, and in *Zeek*. She presented the Plenary Lecture at the International Association of Yiddish Clubs, 11th Convention, in Cleveland (August 2007), chaired a panel on "Modern Yiddish Poetry" and gave a paper on "Teaching Yiddish in Light of the MLA Survey and Recommendations" at the Association for Jewish Studies Convention in Toronto in December, 2007. She also gave several papers, including one on "Gender and Nation in Yiddish Poems of 1945: Molodowsky and Tussman," at a conference, "Reflections on Czernowitz 100 Years

Later," at Vanderbilt University, and on "Women's Prose in Yiddish" at the CUNY Graduate Center Jewish Studies Colloquium. She continues to serve as Coordinator of the Yiddish Literature Section for the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, as poetry editor of *Kerem*, and on the Editorial Advisory Boards for *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues* and *Yiddish*, as well as on the Jewish Publication Society's National Council.

**Arthur Kiron** was appointed the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections in October 2007. He also is an adjunct assistant professor in Penn's History department. Kiron published a review essay "Studying the Jewish Book: A Review Essay" of *The Book in the Jewish World 1700-1900* by Zeev Gries (Littman, 2007) in *Judaica Librarianship* vol. 14 (2008). He gave numerous public lectures, including "The American Genizah Project: Documenting an Anglophone Jewish Republic of Letters," at a conference in memory of Leah Levitz Fishbane held at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York in March. In conjunction with the Southern California Regional Advisory Board of the Penn Alumni Association (SCRAB), he spoke at an alumni event hosted by CAJS board member Julie Beren Platt, C'79, and Marc E. Platt, C'79, at their home in Los Angeles about Penn's rare Judaica collections. He partnered with Heather Sharkey (NELC) on a successful instructional technology grant proposal, "Judeo-Arabic Culture and Its Place in Islamic Societies." Kiron continues to direct the American Genizah Project, co-directs with David Stern (NELC) the Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the Jewish Book, served on five library committees, and continues to serve on a number of academic advisory boards and as a trustee of communal organizations such as the

Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center and the American Veterans of Israel (Machal).

**Ian S. Lustick**, Bess W. Heyman Professor in the Political Science department, published an article this summer in *Middle East Policy* entitled "Abandoning the Iron Wall: Israel and the Middle Eastern Muck." His essay "Between Samson and Jeremiah" was featured in the Middle East Institute's publication in 2008: *Israel: Growing Pains at 60*. Lustick's most recent books are *Trapped in the War on Terror and Exile and Return: Predicaments of Palestinians and Jews*, edited with Ann M. Lesch.

**Benjamin Nathans**, the Ronald S. Lauder Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, spent most of 2007-08 on leave. A Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship allowed him to take courses in legal philosophy and rights theory at New York University Law School. Nathans published *Culture Front: Representing Jews in Eastern Europe* (Penn Press, 2008) together with co-editor Gabriella Safran of Stanford University. A Russian translation of his book *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia* appeared in summer 2007. Nathans published an article on the Soviet civil rights activist Alexander Volpin and presented further work on Soviet legal consciousness at a conference on human rights in the 20th century held in Berlin in June 2008. His essay about the much-admired historian Jonathan Frankel appeared in *The Revolution of 1905 and Russia's Jews: A Turning Point?*, published shortly before Frankel's death in May. Nathans also gave invited lectures at Georgetown University, Miami University of Ohio, and the University of Potsdam (Germany), and served as historical consultant to Ralph Appelbaum Associates (New

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# About Our Faculty (continued from page 17)

York), an interpretive museum design firm currently creating a museum of Russian-Jewish history in Moscow.

**Joshua Perelman**, post-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and Deputy Director for Programming and Museum historian at the National Museum of American Jewish History, teaches American Jewish History.

**Annette Yoshiko Reed** joined the Penn faculty last year, as Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. During 2007-2008, she was the Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. While at the Katz Center, she worked on her book-project on “Jewish-Christianity” and the Pseudo-Clementines—portions of which she presented at the Katz Center’s Ruth Melzer Seminar, Penn Religious Studies Colloquium, Philadelphia Seminar for Christian Origins, and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Ancient Studies workshop, “The Dark Ages Enlightened.” She also presented conference papers at the annual meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature, American Academy of Religion, and Canadian Society for Biblical Studies, and she delivered lectures at the Oriental Club of Philadelphia, Elon University, and Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition, she gave public talks related to the history of Jewish-Christian relations at area synagogue and churches. Her articles appeared last year in *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses, Midrash and Context, Henoah, and in Heresy and Self-Definition in Late Antiquity*. A paperback reprint of her volume, *The Ways that Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*. Reed co-chaired the 45th Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, “Tracing the Patterns, (Un/Re-)Weaving the Threads,” with Bob Kraft, and she served as Program Unit Chair of the Hellenistic Judaism Section of the Society of Biblical Literature with Zuleika Rodgers. She also joined Peter Schäfer, Seth Schwartz, and Azzan Yadin on the editorial board of Mohr Siebeck’s book series *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*. Forthcoming works include a theme-issue of the journal *Henoah*, edited with Ra’anana S. Boustana, on the topic of “Blood and the Boundaries of Jewish and Christian Identities in Late Antiquity”—a project that reflects their collaborative work and conversations during their year as fellows together at the Center. Reed will also be working with Natalie Dohrmann on the volume arising from the Katz Center’s research project on “Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity.” In addition, she will be continuing to work on her book on Jewish-Christianity.

**David B. Ruderman** published two new books this past year. The first is a monograph entitled *Connecting the Covenants: Judaism and the Search for Christian Identity in Eighteenth Century England*, (University of Pennsylvania Press); and the second, co-edited with Shmuel Feiner, entitled *Early Modern Culture and the Haskalah: Reconsidering the Borderlines of Modern Jewish History*. The latter was published in the *Simon Dubnov Institute Yearbook*, 6 (2007), based on a conference in Leipzig, Germany, which he organized. He also published several new essays including “Le ghetto et les débuts de l’Europe nouvelle: vers une nouvelle interprétation,” in *Les Cahiers du Judaïsme* 22 (2007), “Michael A. Meyer’s Periodization of Modern Jewish History: Revisiting a Seminal Essay,” *Mediating Modernity: Challenges and Trends in the Jewish Encounter with the Modern World: Essays in Honor of Michael A. Meyer*, eds. Michael Brenner and Lauren Strauss (Detroit, 2008), and “The Study of the Mishnah and the Quest for Christian Identity in Early Eighteenth-Century England: Completing a Narrative Initiated by Richard Popkin.” in *The Legacies of Richard H. Popkin, Jeremy Popkin*, ed. (Dordrecht, 2008). He was the Sackler Visiting Fellow of the Humanities at Tel Aviv University in January, and the Allianz Guest Professor of Jewish History at Ludwig-Maximilian Universität München in the summer. He gave the Pratt Oration at the Universities of Melbourne and Sidney, Australia, in August, and the Catherine Lewis Lecture for the Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the Inner Temple Hall, London, in June. He also lectured at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, the Bosch Institute of the History of Medicine in Stuttgart, Germany, the University of Hamburg, and the University of Antwerp. He organized a three day conference on the Jewish Book in a Christian World sponsored by the Plantin-Moretus Museum, the University of Antwerp, and the City of Antwerp in June. Ruderman received the 2008 Charles Ludwig Distinguished Teaching Award of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania. He begins his fifteenth year as Ella Darivoff director of the newly named Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

In the Spring, **Jonathan Steinberg**, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, and Marion Kant offered their “Secular Judaism and Secular Jews: Lives and Choices” for the second time as an undergraduate seminar. Fourteen students enrolled and made a very intense and lively group, which included one Greek Orthodox and one Roman Catholic student. They have been invited by the Gershan Y to do an abbreviated

version of the course in the Fall as part of the Y’s continuing education program. Jonathan Steinberg’s “Switzerland and the Jews” appeared in the 2008 volume of the *Leo Baeck Yearbook*.

**David Stern**, Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, was on academic leave during the Fall and Spring semesters, and during the latter, an adjunct fellow at Penn’s Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Stern spent the year working on two books, “The Jewish Library: Four Jewish Classics Books and the Jewish Historical Experience” and “The Tegnsee Haggadah,” a facsimile edition of a 15th century German Passover Haggadah with a lengthy prologue in Latin by a Christian monk describing the Haggadah. In 2008, he published a co-edited volume with Natalie Dohrmann, *Jewish Biblical Interpretation and Cultural Exchange: Comparative Exegesis in Context* (Penn Press), for which he contributed a lengthy introduction as well as an article on ancient Jewish and Christian interpretation of the Song of Songs. He also wrote the “Forward” to Joseph Tabory’s *The JPS Commentary on the Haggadah*. Stern delivered a plenary lecture, “The Jewish Concept of Humanity,” at an international conference on “Ideas of Humanity in an Age of Globalization” at the City University of Hong Kong, and a plenary address on the history of the Talmudic page and its study at a conference on rabbinics and education at Brandeis University. He also lectured on art in the medieval Jewish prayerbook at Tel Aviv University, the history of the Jewish book at Williams College and Vanderbilt University, and the narrative in the Babylonian Talmud at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. He served on panels on disciplinary in the study of religion at Columbia University, the future of Rabbinics at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies; and on a forgotten masterpiece, Judah Goldin’s *The Song at the Sea*, at the fellows retreat of the American Academy for Jewish Research. He gave two days of seminars on the changing face of Rabbinics at Vassar College as the Fishman Visiting Faculty Fellow, and on the Tegnsee Haggadah at the Humboldt-University in Berlin, as well as a lecture on the same topic at the University of Munich. Stern continued to co-direct the Manfred Lehmann Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish book, and also remained very active as an advisor to the new master’s program in Jewish education at Penn’s Graduate School of Education, a program which began with its first cohort during July.

**Jeffrey Tigay**, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, is currently completing a revised Hebrew version of his 1996 commentary on Deuteronomy, which will be published in the Israeli commentary series *Mikra le-Yisrael*. He co-edited a Festschrift, *Birkat Shalom: Studies in the Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Literature and Post-biblical Judaism presented to Shalom M. Paul on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday*, which will be published this fall. His article "The Priestly Reminder Stones and Ancient Near Eastern Votive Practices" was published in Shai le-Sara Japhet, a Festschrift in honor of the Israeli scholar Sara Japhet, and his article "'The Voice of the Lord Causes Hinds to Calve' (Psalm 29:9)" will be published in *Birkat Shalom*. His appreciation of the scholarly achievements of the late Tikva Frymer-Kensky was published in Hebrew in *Shmaton: An Annual for Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies*. Tigay is working on two multi-year publication projects: a full-length Hebrew commentary on Exodus, for the *Mikra Le-Yisrael* series, and the first volume (on the Biblical period) of *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization: Anthology of Primary Sources, Documents, Texts, and Artifacts*, a ten-volume series being published by Yale University Press. He presented a paper on women in Biblical law at a conference in memory of Tikva Frymer-Kensky at JTS, and a paper on "The Book of Exodus and the Origins of the Passover Seder" for Drexel University's Judaic Studies Program. He presented several public lectures this year. Among them were: "Archaeology and the Religion of Ancient Israel," at Camden County Community College's Center for Civic Responsibility; "Judea & the Diaspora: The Beginnings of the Bipolar Jewish World after the Babylonian Exile," at the Jewish Community Center of Cherry Hill, NJ; and "Biblical Criticism and its Effects on Religion," presented to Penn Hillel alumni at the Penn Club in New York. On campus he gave talks on "The Book of Exodus, the Passover Seder, and the origins of its customs," as part of the Jewish Studies Program's Bassini Internship Program, and "What do the Ten Commandments Really Mean? A Close Reading," at Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity.

**Liliane Weissberg** is the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science. In the past academic year, Weissberg has taught a new graduate course on "Becoming Modern: The German-Jewish Experience." In conjunction with this seminar, Weissberg, and graduate students Gabriella Skwara and Kerry Wallach, organized a one-day symposium in March that brought together scholars from across the U.S., as well as an art exhibition (curated by graduate Violet Lutz), and a concert. During the academic year, Weissberg co-organized University-wide events with the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia in a series entitled "Freud, Franklin, and Beyond." This past summer, Weissberg taught as the Kurt David Brühl-Professor at the Universität Graz, and she became a board member of that university's Centrum für Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur. During the academic year, she gave lectures at the University of Galway, the University of Limerick, the University of Dublin, the National University of Ireland at Maynooth, the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; the Felix Posen-Lecture at Miami University of Ohio, the Distinguished Lecture in Foreign Languages at the University of Delaware, and the keynote lecture at the conference on "Jüdische Literatur als europäische Literatur" in Słubice, Poland. She presented talks at the annual conferences of the German Studies Association, the Modern Language Association, the American Jewish Studies Association, and at the conferences "Meanings of Modernity in Central Europe" in New York, and "Modernism: The Time of the Unconscious" in Philadelphia. She also led a two-day workshop on German-Jewish history at the Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill, NJ. This past year, Weissberg wrote and published articles on paper money as propaganda, Freudian genealogies, Hannah Arendt and Charlie Chaplin, Freud and the textile industry, Germanistik at the Berlin University, Heinrich Heine, and Jewish Studies in Germany. In the Spring, Weissberg was an external review member for the evaluation of the German Departments at the University of Virginia and University College Cork, Ireland.

**Beth S. Wenger**, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program, won the 2008 Richard S. Dunn Award for Distinguished Teaching in the history department at Penn. She was also appointed a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians. Wenger's most recent book, *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America*, published by Doubleday Press, was named a National Jewish Book Award finalist. The book is a companion volume to PBS documentary titled *The Jewish Americans* broadcast in January 2008. Wenger is currently completing her next book, "History Lessons: The Invention of American Jewish Heritage," which will be published by Princeton University Press. Wenger's article "Mapping the City" appeared in the journal *Contemporary Jewry* (Vol. 28, 2008). She also recently published "Performing Citizenship: Jewish Celebrations of the Nation" in the *Columbia History of Judaism in America* (Columbia University Press, 2007) and "War Stories: Jewish Patriotism on Parade" in the anthology *Imagining the American Jewish Community* (University of New England Press, 2007). In 2008, Wenger delivered the David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs at the University of Michigan. That lecture, "In Search of American Jewish Heritage," will be published later this year. Wenger also delivered several other lectures and participated in various panels during the past year, including at the Association of Jewish Studies conference, the Scholars Conference in American Jewish History, as well as many other venues. Wenger serves on the Academic Boards of the Association for Jewish Studies and the Center for Jewish History in New York. 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.

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