

JEWISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Penn offers a comprehensive program in Jewish Studies through its three components: the Jewish Studies Program, the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and the Judaica Collections at the Penn Libraries.

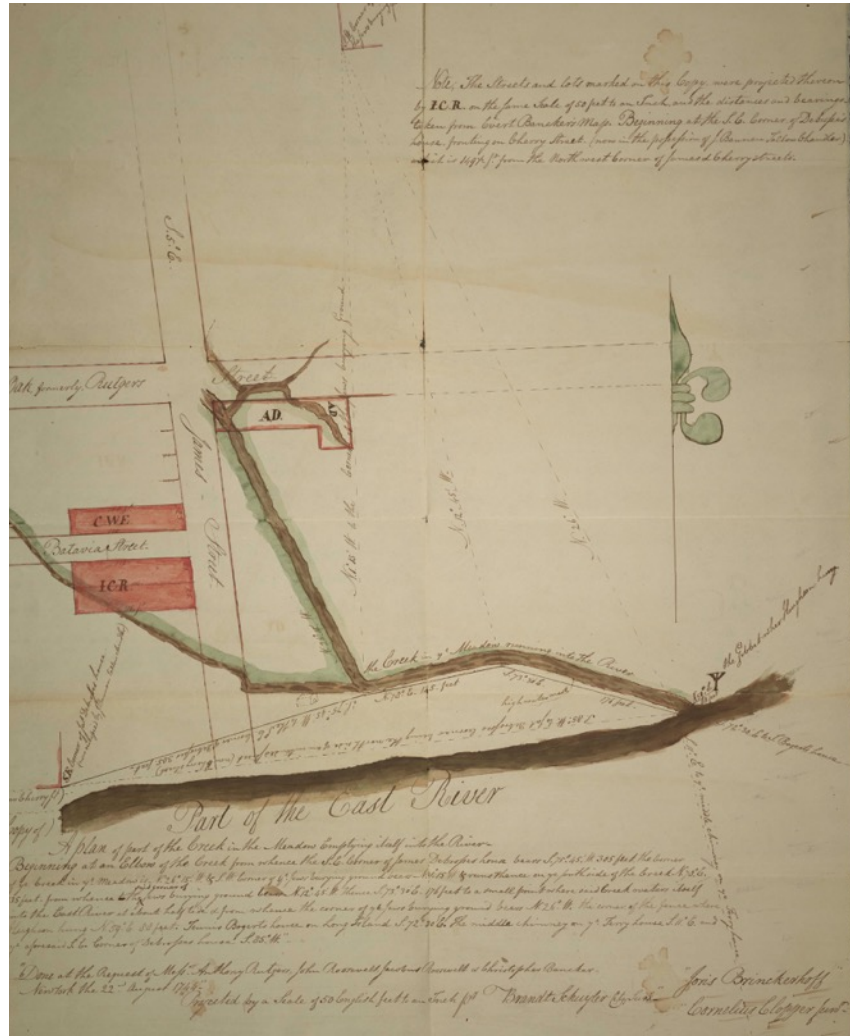
The Jewish Studies Program

(JSP) is an interdisciplinary academic group with twenty-four faculty members drawn from nine departments that coordinates all courses relating to Jewish Studies in the University. Through this design, the JSP integrates the riches of Jewish culture and history into the humanities and social sciences. Faculty members associated with the Program teach an average of 400 undergraduate students per year. Undergraduates may declare a major or a minor in Jewish Studies. Graduate students in different departments and schools at Penn convene conferences and reading groups within the Jewish Studies Program. The Community: Over thirty JSP-sponsored events per year are open to the broader community at Penn and in the Philadelphia area.

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

This post-doctoral research institute in the heart of historic Philadelphia enables eighteen to thirty selected scholars, at different stages in their careers and working in a variety of disciplines to join in intellectual community, united by an annual theme. The highly competitive selection process attracts gifted applicants from North America, Israel, Europe, and Latin America. The weekly seminars in which Katz Center Fellows present their research are also attended by Penn faculty members and graduate students. Penn graduate students have the opportunity to study with Katz Fellows in an annual modular course. By presenting their research within the colloquia and lecture series of various Penn Departments and Programs, Katz Center Fellows broaden awareness of Jewish culture's integral place in the Liberal Arts curriculum. The 2017-2018 theme is "Nature between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World."

The Penn Libraries is home to a world-class collection of Judaica resources, including manuscripts, rare printed books, the classics, digital content, and cutting-edge scholarship for research and study by Penn faculty, students, visiting scholars and the general public.



18th century hand-colored survey map of lower Manhattan marking the burial ground of New York City's first Jewish congregation, the Spanish and Portuguese Shearith Israel. Gift of Arnold and Deanne Kaplan.

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Greetings from the Director, Jewish Studies Program

While on sabbatical in 2015-2016, I did not personally participate in most of the superb events that took place in Jewish Studies this past year, guided by outgoing director, Dr. Talya Fishman. My report on these events, then, is necessarily second-hand, yet I can celebrate the highlights of some 28 special programs, which shine forth, even in reflected glory.

Quite spectacular was the February 7, 2016 commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Venetian Ghetto with a trifecta event, including a lecture on the ever-developing concept of a ghetto, an exhibition of books from the Penn Libraries illustrating Jewish life in the Ghettos of Rome and Venice, and a concert of Venetian Jewish music of the Baroque era.

The sheer range of the lectures sponsored by Jewish Studies dazzles. Visiting scholars spoke on topics ranging from Sephardic history, memory, and politics to Hasidic storytelling, from medieval anti-Jewish caricature to Hebrew and Arabic writing in Israel/Palestine, from Josephus in Early Modern Spain to Talmudic law in contemporary Israel, from biblical genealogy as evidenced in items in the Penn Museum to the legacies of American Jewish Socialism, the precursors of Bernie Sanders. Jewish Studies has been fortunate to collaborate with many departments and programs at Penn to bring such a wealth of scholarship to our students, faculty, and the wider community. Our partners last year included the Departments of Art History, Classical Studies, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Music, NELC, Religious Studies, Romance Languages, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Programs of Cinema Studies and of Comparative Literature, the Center for Italian Studies, the Middle East Center, and the Penn Law School.

Last year, the Jewish Studies Program participated in a five-year program to co-sponsor, with the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and the Penn Libraries, a lecture by a visiting scholar in the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies. The 2015-2016 lecture concerned a 15th century manuscript of medical texts in Judeo-Arabic and Hebrew from Penn's Special Collections. Stay tuned for the 2016-2017 lecture!

Other major collaborations included a joint workshop of the Penn Law School and the Jewish Studies Program at which scholars and historians of American, Jewish, and Israeli law discussed legal and historical perspectives on Jewish marriage. Another was the fourth annual Regional Seminar



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on Ancient Judaism, at which scholars from Penn and a number of New England and Mid-Atlantic universities presented their work on Jews, Christians, and pagans in antiquity. Jewish Studies also hosted the 16th annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book, at which scholars, librarians, and collectors studied the censorship of Jewish books in the early modern period.

The annual Jewish Studies Graduate Student Colloquium was an occasion for Penn grad students from History and other departments to discuss the state of the field of Jewish Studies with Katz Center fellows. Undergraduate research in Jewish Studies was characterized by its wide range in disciplines and periods.

Having finished my first semester as director of the JSP, I am excited about the opportunities to work closely with Dr. Steven Weitzman as we develop the dialogue between the JSP and the Katz Center.

With best wishes for 2017,

Kathryn Hellerstein
Ruth Meltzer Director, Jewish Studies Program
Associate Professor (Yiddish), Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Greetings from the Director, Katz Center

The coming year is political for the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, but not in the way it is for the rest of the world.

While much of the public is focused on the presidential election, Katz Center fellows arrived in September to begin a year of research devoted to the exploration of the political in Jewish history, culture and thought. Their research will re-open classic topics like Jews and the State and the history of Zionism but will also move into new terrain by exploring political dimensions of Jewish philosophy, law, gender, religion, literature and philanthropy. Politics is infamous for generating more heat than light; we are aiming for the opposite with help from an impressive cohort of American, Israeli and European scholars whose focus ranges across historical periods, territorial boundaries, political ideologies and scholarly methods.

As in years past, we are pleased to have the opportunity to share some of this research in the form of public programs, including our annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff lecture. This year's lecture, scheduled for the evening of November 3, will feature a talk by Bonnie Honig, a renowned scholar of democratic, feminist and legal theory. Please see our website for information about this and other programs.

I want to thank the out-going fellows from 2015-16 for a year of intellectual adventure. Devoted to the exploration of the "non-rational" in Jewish culture and thought, the fellowship brought together scholars from the study of Jewish literature, philosophy, history, anthropology, folklore studies and other fields for an experience that, among other things, challenged assumptions about the very nature of our thinking. We addressed topics ranging from the representation of pity by the ancient Jewish historian Josephus to the cultural impact of trauma in contemporary Israeli society, and explored many aspects of the inner life along the way—memory, guilt, the unconscious, imagination, grief, desire, and reason itself. The feeling I myself am left with as I think about the experience is gratitude for the chance to participate in the wonderful intellectual community that developed over the year.

Another highlight from the past year was our 2016 summer for graduate students in Jewish Studies. Undertaken in partnership with the Hebrew University, the Katz Center hosted 24 graduate students for a program of intensive, interdisciplinary and multi-sensory study. We are grateful to an extraordinary faculty; to Professor Elisheva Baumgarten of the Hebrew University for her partnership in co-leading the program; to Dr. Anne Albert, the Katz Center's director of Public Programs, for her remarkable organizational efforts; and to Drs. Garry Rayant and Kathy Fields for the sponsorship that made the program possible.



While in a grateful mode, I want to conclude by thanking Dr. Talya Fishman for her role as director of Jewish Studies these last three years. She was a very welcoming presence as I transitioned into my own role, and I am most thankful for her supportiveness. I am also delighted to welcome Dr. Kathryn Hellerstein to her role as the new director of the Jewish Studies Program. I look forward to working with her to advance the partnership between the Program and the Katz Center.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Weitzman".

Dr. Steven Weitzman
Ella Darivoff Director, Herbert D. Katz Center
for Advanced Judaic Studies
Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic
Languages and Literatures

Courses

Fall 2016

JWST031 - Beginning Yiddish I
 JWST033 - Intermediate Yiddish I
 JWST051 - Elementary Modern Hebrew I
 JWST052 - Elementary Modern Hebrew II
 JWST053 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
 JWST054 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV
 JWST059 - Conversation & Writing
 JWST100 - Jewish Esotericism
 JWST102 - Women and Jewish Literature
 JWST136 - Death and Afterlife in Ancient Judaism and Christianity
 JWST150 - Introduction to the Bible
 JWST151 - Great Books of Judaism
 JWST154 - Holocaust in Literature & Film
 JWST157 - Medieval & Early Modern Jewry
 JWST171 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 JWST173 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
 JWST225 - Dead Sea Scrolls
 JWST231 - Studies in Ladino
 JWST255 - Bible in Translation: Kings
 JWST259 - 1st Israelis: Amichai, Oz
 JWST260 - Jewish Folklore
 JWST305 - Jewish Diaspora in Roman Empire
 JWST449 - Jewish Thought & Science
 JWST471 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 JWST473 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I

JWST541 - David and Solomon
 JWST582 - Hannah Arendt
 JWST735 - Judaism/Christianity Seminar

Spring 2017

JWST032 - Beginning Yiddish II
 JWST034 - Intermediate Yiddish II
 JWST051 - Elementary Modern Hebrew I
 JWST052 - Elementary Modern Hebrew II
 JWST053 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
 JWST054 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV
 JWST059 - Food in Israeli Culture
 JWST102 - Jewish Humor
 JWST131 - How to Read the Bible
 JWST151 - Rereading Aggadah Talmud
 JWST154 - Fantasy, Dreams and Madness
 JWST158 - Jews in the Modern World
 JWST172 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew II
 JWST174 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II
 JWST231 - Studies in Ladino
 JWST238 - The Bible in Movies
 JWST264 - Translating Cultures: Literature On and In Translation
 JWST303 - Power and Peril: The Paradox of Monarchy among Ancient Greeks, Romans, & Jews
 JWST322 - Israeli News Coverage
 JWST359 - Giants of Hebrew Literature

Languages

Ladino

For the last six years, the Jewish Studies Program has offered a course in Ladino, also known as Judeo-Spanish. Taught by visiting lecturer Daisy Braverman, this course has broadened Penn's instruction in Jewish languages and has linked our program to Penn's Spanish Program in the Department of Romance Languages.

The Modern Hebrew Language Program (MHLP) offers four semesters of coursework in Hebrew, stressing oral communication, reading with comprehension, and written expression. There is also 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 **Ronit Engel**, have been pioneers in developing web-based instructional materials, which are used for Hebrew language study at a growing number of institutions throughout North America as well as in Latin America, Europe, and even Israel. Engel and her staff continue to introduce enhancements to the Program's internationally acclaimed curriculum and website. The website provides a portal to a wide range of information and activities concerning Hebrew and Israeli culture, as well as unique interactive exercises designed to increase student proficiency in the language. 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 the writers in Hebrew. Last year the MHLP began joint activities with other language programs, including Turkish, Arabic, Persian and German, in which students have explored issues related to the intersection of multiple cultures.

Yiddish Since 1993, Penn has offered regular courses in Yiddish language and courses in translation, on Jewish American literature, Yiddish writing in Eastern Europe, women writers, Jewish film and literature, and issues of cultural translation. Last year the five Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Yiddish classes were all taught by **Alexander Botwinik**, while **Kathryn Hellerstein** was on sabbatical from Penn. Enrichment activities included two concerts in April: a Yiddish concert at Haverford College and a Klezmer concert at the National Museum of American Jewish History, and once again a visit by **Bob and Molly Freedman**, Curators of the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive at Penn, who whetted our appetite with a new video from a concert in North Carolina featuring Yiddish songs concerning food. The 2016 Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies at Penn is awarded to **Talia Beck**, a Linguistics major, C'17. Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes went to **Benjamin Eisenthal, Rachel Hertz, Charles Sosnick, Sophia Weinstein, Allie Drabinsky, Liat Greenwood, and Celeste Marcus**.

Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Student Research

On April 19, 2016, students and faculty attended an event to learn about—and celebrate—original research in Jewish Studies produced by four College seniors and one junior. It is noteworthy that these students are/were enrolled in five different majors, and that each completed the research in question under the supervision of different faculty members.

Allyson Zucker (RELS)

“Josephus’ Interpretation of the Rape of the Women at Shiloh: A Comparative Study to Livy’s Account of the Rape of the Sabine Women”

Aaron Lasker (HIST)

“Borowitz v. Dorff: Understanding the Legal Approaches of Today’s Conservative and Reform Judaisms”

Dalia Wolfson (COML)

“Females in the Farhi: A Literary Approach to a List of Wives in an Illuminated Iberian Bible”

Debbie Schwartz (JWST)

“The Role of Writing in Chava Rosenfarb’s Post-Holocaust Short Stories: A Means to Self-Renewal”

Gabrielle Abramovitz (PSCI)

“The Story Behind The Headlines: Analyzing Changes in The Jerusalem Post’s Coverage of Palestinian Terrorism, 1989-1995”

Prizes and Honors

Moshe Greenberg Prize for Excellence in Hebrew: **Mark E. Hoover**

Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies: **Yonatan S. Hachen**

Merle Saunders Schaff Award: **Jacob Shamash:**

Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies: **Talia Beck**

Winner, Samuel & Esther Goldin Endowment Award: **Deborah Schwartz**

Honorable Mention, Samuel & Esther Goldin Endowment Award: **Gabrielle Abramovitz, Allyson Zucker, and Aaron Lasker**

Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes:

Benjamin Eisenthal, Rachel Hertz, Charles Sosnick, Sophia Weinstein, Allie Drabinsky, Liat Greenwood, and Celeste Marcus



Undergraduates (l to r) Debbie Schwartz, Gabrielle Abramovitz, Allyson Zucker, Dalia Wolfson, and Aaron Lasker, at the research presentation event in April.

Student Research Awards

Brenner Awards

UNDERGRADUATES

Logan Staller, for research in England on a 17th century Christian Hebraist

GRAD STUDENTS

Alex Moshkin, for research in Israel on Soviet-Jewish literature and film

David Zvi Kalman, for participation in Jewish Law Association conference in Israel

Goldfein Scholarship Fund

UNDERGRADUATES

Jill Golub, for research in England on a 19th century convert to Christianity

Talia Beck, for linguistics research on Hebrew words used in Yiddish texts

GRAD STUDENT

Ariel Resnikoff, for research in Israel on Hebrew writer Avot Yeshurun

Graduation

Deborah Schwartz graduated with the Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Major, and **Aliza Caplan** graduated with a Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Minor.

Graduate Studies

Falk Fellowship

The Jewish Studies Program administers the Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Fellowship, the only graduate fellowship awarded directly by the Jewish Studies Program. Because the cost of graduate school has risen sharply, fellowship support has become virtually indispensable, both for supporting graduate students once they enter the program, and for recruiting the very best candidates. The Falk Fellowship was endowed by **Edward Falk, W'66**, in memory of his mother, **Margaret Schoenfeld Falk**, to support a graduate student who works specifically in the area of Jewish Studies.

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 Fellowship, Penn is able to ensure the future of Jewish Studies in America and to educate and produce the scholars and teachers of tomorrow.

Graduate Student Colloquium:

Graduate students, **Nimrod Ben Zeev** and **Ayelet Brinn** (HIST), initiated a Jewish Studies workshop that brought together graduate students, Jewish Studies faculty and Katz Center fellows on February 24, 2016. In order to foster interdisciplinary discussions and to better utilize the abundant resource and expertise that Penn offers, they organized a panel of scholars from different disciplines to launch a conversation on "The State of the Field and New Directions in Jewish Studies." The panelists were Katz Center Fellows, **John Efron** and **Hanna Pollin-Galay**; Jewish Studies Program Director, **Talya Fishman**, and Katz CAJS Director, **Steven Weitzman**.

Graduate Student News

Sonia Gollance is a doctoral candidate in Germanic Languages and Literatures. Her dissertation explores the trope of Jewish mixed-sex dancing in German and Yiddish literature as a way of considering gender roles and the relationship between narrative construction and space. She spent academic year 2015-16 in Vienna as recipient of an Ernst Mach Grant and a Hadassah Brandeis Institute Research Grant. She presented her research at conferences in both the United States and in Europe, including the German Studies Association Conference (Washington, D.C.) and the Association for Jewish Studies Conference (Boston). In March she gave an invited lecture at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Gollance published a book review in the *AJS Review*. She also contributed two pieces to *In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. In Summer 2016, she participated in the workshop "The Venice Ghetto at 500 and the Future of Memory in the Digital Age" and was the Teaching Assistant (under Hankus Netsky) for a McGill University course on Eastern European Jewish Music at KlezKanada. In 2016-2017, she is based in New York as a Graduate Research Fellow at the Center for Jewish History and a recipient of an Association for Jewish Studies Completion Fellowship. Gollance is the graduate student representative for the program committee of the Association for Jewish Studies.

Ari M. Gordon is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, concentrating in the field of Arabic and Islamic Studies. His research uses narrative, ritual and sacred space as windows into the early history of Muslim-Jewish relations. His dissertation explores these themes as they emerge in Islamic and Jewish orientation for prayer (towards Jerusalem and Mecca) in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. In 2015-16, Gordon was a Kogod Doctoral Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and he continues to serve as a member of the research team of the International Council of

Current Falk Fellows in the Jewish Studies Program are seventh-year students **Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg** (History) and **Sonia Gollance** (Germanic Languages and Literatures), sixth-year student **Ari M. Gordon** (NELC), fifth-year students **David Zvi Kalman** (NELC), and **Tom Tearney** (Germanic Languages and Literatures), third-year students **Jordan Paul** (NELC) and **Ariel Resnikoff** (COML).

Christians and Jews (ICCJ).

Marc Herman, PhD candidate in the Department of Religious Studies, defended his dissertation, titled "Systematizing God's Law: Rabbanite Jurisprudence in the Islamic World from the Tenth to the Thirteenth Centuries," in September 2016. This summer he presented at the Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies Conference, and has presented research in several other academic venues.

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg is currently a seventh-year PhD Candidate at the History Department. She is researching and writing her dissertation, with plans to finish sometime in the next academic year. Her dissertation deals with the history of *halakha* (Jewish law) in early modern Ashkenaz by following the genre of *responsa*, rabbinic correspondence regarding questions of *halakha*. She uses methods from the history of knowledge to investigate changes in the structure, organization, transmission, and production of these texts, arguing that between the 1470s and the 1570s major changes took place in this realm. Examples of such changes are the printing press replacing manuscripts as the main means of disseminating knowledge and the growing popularity of codification rather than the more random compilations of Jewish law that used to be typical in these communities. These changes reveal deep shifts in the Ashkenazic approach to religious law and knowledge. Moreover, even though it is mainly the organization (the form) that changes, and not the actual texts (the content), these shifts also have a profound impact on halakhic outcomes and legal interpretation. A study of how the organization, production and material context of knowledge helps us understand a culture, and how the form and organization of knowledge impacts its contents generates profound insights about Ashkenazic Jewry. These insights also resonate in our digital age, when the method of

organizing, producing, and transmitting knowledge has changed so drastically.

Alex Moshkin is a fourth-year doctoral student in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, whose research examines contemporary Israeli and Russian literature through the lenses of culture, history, and sociology. He is a 2015 Dean's Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, and a recipient of BGI Research Grant from Brandeis University (2015), President Gutmann Leadership Award (2016), and Brenner Research Award (2016). His dissertation examines Israeli-Russian literature and film in Hebrew and Russian between 1989 and 2014. In 2015-2016, he was affiliated with the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, spending his time in Kyrgyzstan to present his research and work on his dissertation. Thanks to the Brenner Research Award, Moshkin spent July, 2016 in Jerusalem examining the surprising yet widespread phenomenon of Jewish-Christian syncretism among Russian-speaking émigrés to Israel in the context of the larger post-Soviet religious revival.

Jordan Paul began her third year as a doctoral student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in Fall 2016 and specializes in Modern Hebrew Literature. In April 2016 her translation of excerpts

from the prose-poetry novel "Ephraim," by the Israeli author Yoel Hoffmann received the Penn Creative Writing Program's Ezra Pound Prize for Literary Translation. Her upcoming research focuses on the characteristics of 'late style' and of literary works written before death.

Ariel Resnikoff's doctoral research investigates questions of translation & innovation within the context of multilingual diaspora poetics. With Stephen Ross, he is translating and editing the first full-length critical edition of Mikhl Likht's Yiddish modernist long poem, *Protsesiyes* (Processions). Resnikoff teaches creative writing (wreathing) at the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing (UPenn) & curates the "Multilingual Poetics" reading/talk series at Kelly Writers House. He is the "Jewish Diaspora" section editor for *Global Modernists on Modernism: An Anthology* (Bloomsbury Press, Dec. 2017).

Tom Tearney is a fifth-year PhD student in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, whose research interests include German-Jewish and Yiddish drama of the early 20th century. In 2016, Tearney completed an internship at the German Literature Archive in Marbach, Germany, where he curated an exhibition on German-speaking Jewish exiles in Southern France in the 1930s.

Alumni News



Cornelia Aust (PhD, History, 2010), is a Research Associate at the Leibniz-Institute of European History in Mainz, Germany. She just completed her forthcoming book *Moving East. The Making of a Jewish Economic Elite in Modern Europe*, which will be published in the series *German Jewish Cultures* of Indiana University Press in 2017. She is currently working on a new research project on Jewish appearances and their perceptions by Jews and Christians in seventeenth to nineteenth century central and eastern Europe. She currently serves as consulting editor of an English version of the originally German *Encyclopedia of Jewish History and Culture*.

Last year **Kevin McGeough** (PhD, NELC, 2005) was promoted to Professor (of archaeology) in the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge. His three-volume work, *The Ancient Near East in the Nineteenth Century: Appreciations and Appropriations* was published by Sheffield Phoenix Press in the Hebrew Bible Monograph series. Kevin also continues his work as editor for *The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*. However, his two-year old daughter, Lucy, is less impressed with his work, which she describes as: "Daddy goes to school and just says blah, blah, blah."

Adam Shear (PhD, History, 2003) is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and History at the University of Pittsburgh and director of the Jewish Studies Program there. In July 2016, he began a 4-year term as co-editor of the *AJS Review*, the scholarly journal of the Association for Jewish Studies.

Ellie Schainker (PhD, History, 2010) is the Arthur Blank Family Foundation Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies at Emory University. Her first book, *Confessions of the Shtetl: Converts from Judaism in Imperial Russia, 1817-1906*, was just published by Stanford University Press. Last year, Ellie was a Yad Hanadiv/Beracha Foundation Fellow in Israel, where she started research on a new book project on Jewish religious reforms in Eastern Europe. While overseas, she shared her research at the Maimonides Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Hamburg, Germany; Inter-University Seminar in East European Studies at Tel Aviv University; and Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters at Ben Gurion University.

David Shyovitz (PhD, History, 2011) is Assistant Professor of History at Northwestern University, with a joint appointment at the Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. His first book, *A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz*, will be published in 2017 by the University of Pennsylvania Press in their *Jewish Cultures and Contexts* series. In 2016, Shyovitz was awarded the Van Courtlandt Elliot Prize by the Medieval Academy of America for his article "Christians and Jews in the Twelfth Century Werewolf Renaissance," published in the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. He is presently working on a second book, tentatively titled *Oh Beastly Jew! Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in the Middle Ages*. During the 2016-17 year, he will present research drawn from that project at lectures in Frankfurt, Berlin, Jerusalem, and New York.

Kerry Wallach (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) is Assistant Professor of German Studies at Gettysburg College. In 2016, she became an Affiliate of the Judaic Studies Program at Gettysburg and joined the Academic Advisory Board of the Leo Baeck Institute, New York. She recently published a chapter on German-Jewish visions of American poverty in *Three-Way Street: Germans, Jews, and the Transnational*. Her book, *Passing Illusions: Jewish Visibility in Weimar Germany*, is forthcoming with the University of Michigan Press in 2017.

Faculty

News

Dan Ben Amos, Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Folklore, translated a poem, “The Kid from the Haggadah,” by the Hebrew poet, Nathan Alterman (1910-1970), that appeared in *Jewish Review of Books* in spring 2016. Ben-Amos published an article, “From Eden to Ednah—Lilith in the Garden,” (*Biblical Archaeology Review*, May/June 2016), in which he explored sexuality in paradise, in the lives of the primordial, mythical, biblical couple Adam and Eve as it is narrated in biblical and post-biblical narratives.

Joseph Benatov is Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program. He teaches Hebrew courses of all levels. During the 2015-16 academic year, Dr. Benatov attended a Hebrew pedagogy conference at the University of Denver. He also presented his research at the Sephardic Jewish Center of Forest Hills, NY; Temple Israel of Great Neck, NY; and the Institute for Adult Jewish Studies, NY. Benatov lectured on the art of literary translation at the Cosmopolitan Club in Philadelphia. In June, he attended the annual conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. In July, he interpreted for Israeli President Reuven Rivlin during his official visit to Bulgaria. Benatov also participated in the yearly pedagogical symposium of the Penn Language Center and conducted summer archival work overseas. His ongoing research focuses on the history of the Sephardic Jewish communities of the Balkans.

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik is Lecturer in Yiddish in the Germanic Languages & Literatures department. He also teaches music and choir at Har Zion Temple, in Penn Valley, PA, and has been the High Holiday choir director at Adath Israel. In addition, he coordinates a regional annual choral youth Zimria (song festival). Botwinik is working on the second CD of his father’s music from the book *From Holocaust to Life: New Yiddish Songs*. The first CD, of his father’s art songs, is due to be released in the beginning of 2017. The second CD contains songs for children. He performed this year at Haverford College, with singer Richard Lenatsky, as part of the Yiddish Culture Festival.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor, teaches Biblical Hebrew at Penn and Hebrew Bible at St. Joseph’s University. This past year, he continued work on the Genesis volume of his *Commentators’ Bible* series. He published an article on “Janus Parallelism in Job 1:20” in *Vetus Testamentum*, an essay on “Sexual Harassment in the Book of Ruth” for the Society of Biblical Literature’s *Bible Odyssey* web site, and a column called “In the Presence of God: The Difference between God’s ‘Name (שם)’ and ‘Presence (כבוד)’” on *thetorah.com*. He has begun to contribute translations of scholarly articles written in Hebrew to Hebrew Union College Annual. His weekly podcast, “Torah Talk,” is available at mcarasik.wordpress.com as part of his “Bible Guy” blog, and he continues to be the weekday Torah reader at congregation Keshet Israel in Center City Philadelphia. He

was interviewed for the “Open Theism” podcast about his 2000 *JBL* article “The Limits of Omniscience” and served as scholar-in-residence at Mount Zion Temple, in St Paul, Minnesota.

Isabel Cranz is Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Her area of specialization is the Hebrew Bible in relation to its ancient Near Eastern contexts. Her first book *Atonement and Purification: Priestly and Assyro-Babylonian Perspectives on Sin and its Consequences* will be published by Mohr Siebeck as part of the series

Forschungen zum Alten Testament II. In the 2015-2016 academic year, Cranz produced two articles. The first, “Ritual Elements in Zechariah’s Vision of the Woman in the Ephah,” was published in the journal *Biblica* 96.4 (2015). The second “Magic and Maledictions: Zechariah 5:1-4 in its ancient Near Eastern Context” is forthcoming in *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*. In July she also delivered a talk on “Ben Sirach, Chronicles and the Legitimacy of the Physician” at the annual meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies in Leuven, Belgium.

Natalie B. Dohrmann is Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and is coeditor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. She also teaches in the departments of Religious Studies, History, and the Jewish

Honors and Awards

Kathryn Hellerstein's book, *A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586-1987* (Stanford University Press), won the 2014 National Jewish Book Award. For this book she also received The Modern Language Association of America’s eighth Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies for an outstanding scholarly work in English in the field of Yiddish.

In 2015, **Beth Wenger** was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Jewish Research. Wenger has been appointed Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor in the Department of History.

Studies Program. She spent part of last year doing research in Rome. Recent publications include “Means and End(ing)s: Nomos Versus Narrative in Early Rabbinic Exegesis,” in *Critical Analysis of the Law 3.1* (2016) [Special Issue: *The New Ancient Legal History*]; “Sacred Law—Greek, Roman, Jewish,” in *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, ed. E. Orlin, et al. (London, 2015); “Media and Rabbinic Literature (up to the mid 3rd c. ce),” in *The Dictionary of the Bible in Ancient Media*, ed. T. Thatcher, C. Keith, R. Person, E. Stern (Bloomsbury, forthcoming). In May she delivered a talk, “Rabbis, Judaism, and the Indigenous: Reading the Roman City,” at Charles University, Prague Centre for Jewish Studies, Prague. She is currently working on an introduction to a new edition of Boaz Cohen’s two volume *Jewish and Roman Law: A Comparative Study* (1966).

Ronit Engel is Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Director of the Modern Hebrew Language Program, and the Undergraduate Director for the Jewish Studies Program. Engel continues to serve on the Committee on Pedagogy of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. At Penn she organized and chaired the Middle East Forum, a consortium of Hebrew, Arabic, Turkish, and Persian language programs designed to foster intercultural exchange and cooperation. She is engaged in ongoing research into the application of electronic technologies to foreign language instruction. Some of the results of that research can be seen in the internationally-renowned website, *Hebrew on the Web*, which Engel continues to develop and expand from year to year.

During her third and final year as the Director of Penn’s Jewish Studies Program, **Talya Fishman**, Associate Professor of Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History of the Medieval and Early Modern Periods in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, presented a paper at a Cornell University conference on “Talmud: Process and Performance” called, “*HaTalmud Shelanu*: On the Riddle of the Bavli’s Role in Medieval Sepharad,” and completed an essay, “Features of Medieval Sephardic Culture in Geographic Perspective: The Relative Inconspicuousness of Custom and the ‘Our Talmud’ Tradition,” to be published in *Regional Identities and Cultures of Medieval Jews*, (Littman Library, Oxford, 2018). In preparing for, and teaching a new Freshman Seminar, Scrimmage Over Scripture, Fishman identified and analyzed primary and secondary materials

that help to link the discrepancies between Jewish and Christian readings of Hebrew Bible to the disparate pathways and modes in which this foundational text was transmitted and encountered. For a day-long event – a lecture and a Renaissance music concert – marking 500 years since the establishment of the first ghetto in Venice, Fishman curated a book exhibit from the Penn Rare Book holdings. She selected more than a dozen items – engravings and musical scores among them – in Italian, Hebrew and English, and wrote contextualizing captions on particular pages and images. She is using her sabbatical year to continue the research for her next book, *The Wisdom of Torah Itself: Materiality of the Scriptural Artifact in PreModern Jewish Cultures*, a work that will explore the meanings ascribed to the letters, markings, and graphics in medieval Hebrew Bible codices, and the uses made of these features in premodern Jewish pedagogy, contemplation, polemics, and science.



Modern Hebrew Language professors (l to r) Ronit Engel, Ibrahim Miari, and Joseph Benatov, attending a Hebrew conference at Brown University.

Kathryn Hellerstein, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures (Yiddish), and Ruth Meltzer Director of the Jewish Studies Program, was on sabbatical from Penn in 2015-2016. She was a Visiting Scholar in NELC at Harvard University researching China and Yiddish, as well as a Scholar in Residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, working on Jewish women poets as translators. She also held a Joseph and Eve R. Dave Fellowship at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, researching the history of Jews

in Cleveland. Hellerstein published “Gender and Jewish American Poetics: Women’s Writing,” in the *Cambridge History of Jewish American Writing*, and “Jewish American Women Poets,” in *A History of 20th Century American Women’s Poetry*. “China in One New York Yiddish Translation: Modernist Adaptation and Appropriation,” appeared in *Un/Translatable: New Maps for Germanic Literatures* (Northwestern UP). Another article appeared in Chinese: “Yidixuyu li de zhongguo: cong huasha dao niuyue” [China in Yiddish: From Warsaw to New York] in *Xue Hai [Academia Bimestrie]*. Her translation of a short story by Kadya Molodowsky, “In a House on the Hill,” appeared in *Have I Got a Story for You: More than a Century of Fiction from the Forward*. She gave talks in many venues, including the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation (NYC), at the AJS, at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, at the National Museum of American Jewish History, at the American Jewish Archives, at Duke University, and participated in the radio program PoemTalk #96, on “Allen Grossman, ‘My Radiant Eye,’” with Al Filreis, Peter Cole, and Ariel Resnikoff, at the Kelly Writers House.

Arthur Kiron is the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, head of the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History. During the last academic year, he contributed an essay to the *Festschrift published in honor of Anthony Grafton* (2016) and published a review of Harvard Judaica in the 21st Century in *Judaica Librarianship*. He was invited to serve on the planning committee and speak at the National Library of Israel's third International Conference of Judaica Curators, held in Jerusalem in July of 2016. He organized the 16th annual Katz Center-Library on-line exhibition "Jews Beyond Reason," co-directed the annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, and launched a new website highlighting Penn's extensive Holy Land collections. He helped to found and served on the executive committee of the Jewish Counter Culture Oral History Project, based at Penn, and was invited to serve on the advisory boards of the Footprints project at Columbia University, the Jewish Play Project, based at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and the collections committee for the National Museum of American Jewish History. He continues to serve on the editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship* and on numerous other professional, academic, and communal advisory boards.

Professor **Ian Lustick** is on sabbatical this fall, hoping to move closer to finishing a book untangling Israel's present predicament and its problematic future. An important part of the research for this book pertains to the role of particular constructions of the Holocaust in Israeli politics, society, and culture. In the spring he visited Warsaw, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Cracow, Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava, and Prague—a trip that offered valuable opportunities for personal engagement with his own family's history and the legacy of the Holocaust. A lengthy article on "Four constructions of the Holocaust in Israeli Political Culture" is currently being revised for publication. Lustick has presented his work on this topic at numerous scholarly conferences, including the 2015 annual meetings of the Association for Israel Studies and of the American Sociological Association, an Israel focused conference at American University in Washington D.C. in late 2015, and the European Association for Israel Studies meeting in London, in September 2016. A separate paper, also part of the book project, is being presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Philadelphia, in August 2016: "Thinking about State Demise: Israel as a Case in Point." His research this fall will focus primarily on the relationship between the influence of the Israel lobby in the United States and patterns of foreign policy decision-making in Israel.

Ibrahim Miari has been a Lecturer in the Modern Hebrew Language Program since 2012. He teaches Hebrew courses of all levels. Miari has served as a committee member in the Penn Middle East Film Festival since 2013. Recently, in June 2016 Miari participated in the annual National Association of Professors of Hebrew conference, which took place in Providence, RI. In July-August 2016, he taught theater in Hebrew at Middlebury College in Vermont at the School of Hebrew summer program.

Last year, **Annette Yoshiko Reed** served as Director of Penn's Center for Ancient Studies and Graduate Chair of Religious Studies. She gave the Lennox Lecture Series at Trinity University on "The Bible Beyond the Bible;" other talks included papers for the Enoch Seminar in Milan on "Apocalypticism and Mysticism" and "Fallen Angels in Islam." She is co-chair with Jillian Stinchcomb for this year's PSCO on "Writing the Biblical Past."

David B. Ruderman published the following essays this past year: "On the Production and Dissemination of a Hebrew Best Seller: Pinhas Hurwitz and his Mystical-Scientific Encyclopedia, *Sefer Ha-Brit*," in *Festschrift in Honor of Anthony Grafton*, eds. Ann Blair, Anja Goeing and Urs Leu (Leiden, Brill, May, 2016); "Towards a Preliminary Portrait of an Evangelical Missionary to the Jews: The Many Faces of Alexander McCaul (1799-1863)," in *Jewish Historical Studies: Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England* 47 (2015), 48-69; "Are Jews the Only True Monotheists? Some Critical Reflections in Jewish Thought from the Renaissance to the Present," in *Melilah: Manchester Journal of Jewish Studies* 12 (2015): 22-30; "The Blessing of Gerson D. Cohen," in *Jewish Quarterly Review*, Fall, 2016; and "The Place of Venice in the Cultural Formation of Early Modern Jewry," in a exhibition catalogue for *Venice, the Jews and Europe 1516-2016*, at the Doge's Palace, Venice, Fondazione Musei Civici Venezia, June, 2016. He gave lectures at the following places between November 2015 and June 2016: The Norman E. Alexander Lecture, Columbia University Libraries; Keynote Address on the Occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Center for Jewish Studies, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Ct.; Maimonides Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, Hamburg, Germany; Worms, Germany; Goethe University, Frankfurt; Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich; a lecture at the Institute for Advanced Studies and joint presentation with Peter Stallybrass at Central European University, Budapest; with Peter Stallybrass, a lecture at Goethe University; and a lecture at University of Potsdam. He was in residence at the Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany from May-July 2016, the first of four visits funded by a Humboldt Research Award. He also held a Senior Fellowship, at the Maimonides Center for Advanced Studies, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany from February-March, 2016.

Larry Silver, Farquhar Professor of Art History, taught the first-ever Penn survey of Jewish art: Art History 260, in fall 2015. The course spanned the centuries of Jewish creativity from the Jerusalem Temple and the Dura Europos Synagogue to the twenty-first century in Europe, the US, and Israel. His principal lecture on Jewish art during the year was held at a conference on modern Jewish art at Bar-Ilan University on "Barnett Newman and the Jewish Concept of Space." His publications included one significant article on a Jewish artist, "Chagall's Stained-Glass Syncretism," in *Arts Judaica* 12 (2016), 111-34. Silver also presented several papers during the spring on the art and influence of Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch (d. 1516); he previously published a book on Bosch (Abbeville Press, 2006).

Liliane Weissberg was 2015-16 USC Shoah Foundation Rutman Teaching Fellow and spent a summer residency researching at the Visual History Archive at the University of Southern California. In the spring, she taught a course on Witnessing, Remembering, and Writing the Holocaust that focused on media recording of witnesses since 1945; it was also the first course taught at Penn that made extensive use of the Visual History Archive. During the academic year, Weissberg lectured at The Johns Hopkins University; the National University of Cork, Ireland; the German Literary Archives Marbach, Germany; the Universities of Aachen and Frankfurt/M, Germany; as well as the University of Pennsylvania. She has published numerous articles on Sigmund Freud, Henriette Herz, Wilhelm von Humboldt, Gershom Scholem, and Franz Rosenzweig. Weissberg has served on the board of numerous institutions, such as the Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum for European Jewish Studies in Potsdam, the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture in Leipzig, and the Research Center for Sanssouci for Enlightenment and Society in Potsdam. In Spring 2016, she was DAAD Visiting Professor in German and Comparative Literature, American Studies, and Political Science at the RWTH Aachen, Germany. In Fall 2016, she is short term Visiting Professor in American Studies and AIANI Fellow at the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

For **Steven Weitzman**, 2015-16 was a year “beyond reason.” As director of the Katz Center, Weitzman oversaw a fellowship year devoted to the study of Jewish thought and texts that ventured beyond rationality into the realm of emotion, the unconscious, desire and pain. Highlights from the year included collaborations with Penn’s psychoanalytic community and a semester-long series that explored new research into religious experience in fields ranging from anthropology to neuroscience. In his own research, Weitzman completed two book length projects that will appear in 2017, a book entitled *The Lost Origin of the Jews: a Search from Genesis to Genetics* (forthcoming from Princeton University Press) and in his role as a scholar of Religious Studies, an edited volume, *The FBI and Religion: Faith and National Security before and after 9/11* (University of California Press) with Sylvester Johnson, the first attempt to recount the history of the FBI’s interactions with different religious communities. Weitzman enjoyed teaching the summer institute for graduate students in Jewish Studies—a collaboration with Elisheva Baumgarten of the Hebrew University in June, 2016. He is immersed in the current Katz

Center fellowship year focused on new research in the fields of Jewish political thought and history.

Beth S. Wenger has been appointed Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History. In 2016-17, she began her second term as Chair of Penn’s History Department. In 2015, Wenger was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Jewish Research. She also serves as Chair of the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Wenger’s “American Jewish Immigrants and the Invention of Europe,” recently appeared in the anthology, *History, Memory, and Jewish Identity* (Academic Studies Press, 2016). An article titled, “Salo Baron and the Vitality of American Jewish Life,” will be published in a forthcoming volume, *From Galicia to New York: Salo W. Baron and His Legacy*. Wenger has begun work as Academic Director of the Jewish Counterculture Oral History Project, which will document the experiences of the founding members of the Havurah movement. Wenger spoke in many venues this past year, including delivering the Paul and Dorothy Grob Memorial Lecture at the University of Virginia, offering an Association for Jewish Studies Distinguished Lecture in Austin, Texas, and participating in the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Boston. Wenger serves as a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and of the Association for Jewish Studies. A founding historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, she continues her role as consultant to the Museum.

Julia Wilker is Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical Studies; her research and teaching interests include Jewish history of the Hellenistic and Roman periods. In 2015/2016 she taught classes on Ancient Mediterranean Empires, Cleopatra, the Hellenistic and Roman Near East, and a graduate seminar on Revolts in the Roman Empire. She recently finished a book manuscript *Ruling Families. Women and Dynastic Rule in Hellenistic and Roman Judaea* as well as several articles, including one on a popular tradition from the Hasmonean period preserved by Josephus, forthcoming in the *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, and an analysis of the pivotal role that Herod’s sister Salome played during the reign of her brother. An article dealing with the opposition against Berenice, Herodian princess and lover of the emperor Titus, in Rome appeared in a volume in the honor of Ernst Baltrusch, which she co-edited. In 2015/2016, Wilker also gave papers at the Universities of Eichstätt and Heidelberg, at Penn, and at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.



Undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty at College Palooza in April 2016.

Cultural Programs

Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

On November 12, 2015, the JSP co-sponsored the **Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture** with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Department of History, Department of Religious Studies, and the Penn Humanities Forum. Professor **Jonathan Lear** (University of Chicago) lectured on “Psychoanalysis and the I-Thou Relation.”

Silvers Visiting Scholar Program

The Twentieth Annual **Silvers Visiting Scholar Program** on February 7, 2016, was a trifecta event, combining a lecture, a book exhibit, and a concert marking 500 years since the establishment of the Venetian Ghetto. **Daniel Schwartz** (George Washington University) lectured on “Ghetto: Metamorphoses of a Concept.” While the musicians set up, more than 100



The Swiss-Italian Early Music ensemble, Lucidarium, performing at the Silvers Visiting Scholar Program on February 7, 2016, in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library.

attendees visited a special exhibit of items from the Penn Libraries, illustrative of Jewish life in the ghettos of Venice and Rome. The event concluded with a rousing concert of Venetian Jewish music of the Baroque era, evoking the sights and sounds of Shylock’s world, performed by a Swiss-Italian Early Music ensemble, **Lucidarium**. The event was sponsored by David, C’71, and Patricia, CW’72, Silvers, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Katz Center, the Department of Music, and the Center for Italian Studies.



Special exhibit at the Silvers Visiting Scholar Program on February 7, 2016, in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library.

Joseph Alexander Colloquium

The Thirtieth Annual **Joseph Alexander Colloquium** was a lecture entitled, “Remembering Sepharad: History, Memory, Politics,” given by **Julia Phillips Cohen**, an Associate Professor in the Program in Jewish Studies and the Department of History at Vanderbilt University. The event on April 20, 2016, was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program and the Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism.

Kutchin Seminars

The Kutchin Seminars are supported by the generosity of Mel Kutchin, C’50, and the late Mitzi Kutchin.

On September 2, 2015, Prof. **Tzvi Langermann** (Bar Ilan University) gave a graduate seminar on “Ibn Kammuna on Philosophical

Abrahamic Monotheism,” co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations.

On September 3, 2015, Prof. **Tzvi Langermann** (Bar-Ilan University) presented his latest research on a 15th-century medical miscellany, entitled “Tales of Three Texts: The Judaeo-Arabic and Hebrew Medical Texts in UPenn MS Codex 1649,” co-sponsored by the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies-Herbert D. Katz Center Fellowship in Jewish Manuscript Studies and the David B. Ruderman Distinguished Fellowship Lecture.

On September 8, 2015, Prof. **Andreas Kilcher** (Literature and Cultural

Studies, ETH Zurich) gave a lecture, “Myth and Magic: Storytelling in Hasidism,” co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, and the Comparative Literature Program.

On October 7, 2015, Prof. **Sara Lipton** (State University of New York at Stony Brook) presented, “What’s in a Nose? On the Origins, Dissemination, and Effects of Medieval Anti-Jewish Caricature,” co-sponsored by the Faculty Workshop in Medieval Studies, Art History Program, Department of Classical Studies, the Comparative Literature Program, the Department of Romance Languages, and the Center for Ancient Studies.



Prof. Andreas Kilcher (ETH Zurich) with Prof. Liliane Weissberg (Penn) in September 2016.

On October 15, 2015, Prof. **Lital Levy** (Princeton University; and Katz Center Fellow) presented a lecture on her new book, “Poetic Trespass: Writing between Hebrew and Arabic in Israel/Palestine,” co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Comparative Literature Program, and the Middle East Center.

On October 26-29, 2015, The Cinema Studies Program, the Jewish Studies Program, Middle East Center, and the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, in collaboration with Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival and the International House Philadelphia, presented the “New Middle East Cinema — 2015 Film Festival.”

On October 28, 2015, Prof. **Julian Weiss** (King’s College London) presented “Josephus in Early Modern Spain: 1492 and the Death and Life of Jews,” co-sponsored by the Faculty Workshop in Medieval Studies, Art History Program, the Department of Classical Studies, the Comparative Literature Program, the Department of Romance Languages, and the Center for Ancient Studies.

On Tuesday, November 3, Prof. **Shahar Lifshitz** (Bar-Ilan University, Gruss Professor of Talmudic Civil Law at Penn Law) presented “Liberal Multiculturalism as a Remedy for Religion—State Relations in Israel,” co-sponsored by Penn Law School’s Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law.

On November 4, 2015, the symposium “In Memoriam, Terrence Des Pres” celebrated the 40th anniversary of the publication of Des Pres’ influential study of survivorship and writing, *The Survivor*, co-supported by the Kelly Writers House, the Provost’s Interdisciplinary Arts Fund, and the Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture.

On November 5, 2015, Prof. **Jon D. Levenson** (Harvard Divinity School) presented “Biblical Genealogy: Textual Lineages from Noah to Jesus

in the Penn Museum,” co-sponsored by the Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture, the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

On November 9, 2015, in annual commemoration of Kristallnacht, co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic Literatures and Languages, **Roger Grunwald** performed a one-man show, “The Mitzvah Project: ‘A *Mischling* in the *Wehrmacht*.’”

On February 11, 2016, Prof. **Peter Machinist** (Harvard University) presented “Royal Inscriptions in the Hebrew Bible and Mesopotamia: A Problem and Its Significance,” co-sponsored by the Center for Ancient Studies and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.



Prof. John Tolan (University of Nantes) with Prof. Talya Fishman (Penn).

On February 23, 2016, Prof. **John V. Tolan** (University of Nantes; and co-director of the Institut du Pluralisme Religieux et de l’Athéisme) presented “Oxford Jews and Christian Hebraism in the Thirteenth Century,” co-sponsored by Penn’s Faculty Working Group in Medieval Studies and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

On March 3, 2016, Prof. **Richard Kalmin** (Jewish Theological Seminary) spoke on his recently published book, *Migrating Tales: The Talmud’s Narratives and their Historical Context*, co-sponsored with the Department of Religious Studies.

On March 21, 2016, a panel discussion featuring historians **Tony Michels** (Wisconsin) and **Annie Pollard** (Lower East Side Tenement Museum), with political scientist **Joseph Schwartz** (Temple), entitled, “Before Bernie: Legacies of American Jewish Socialism,” was co-sponsored with the Progressive Jewish Alliance, and the Departments of History and Political Science.

On March 30, 2016, Prof. **Andrew Plaks** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) presented “What is a Human Being? The Debate over ‘Inborn Nature’ in Canonic Texts of Chinese and Jewish Cultures,” co-sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages & Civilizations.

On April 6, 2016, Prof. **Yishai Kiel** (Yale University) spoke on “Narrating the Law of Incest: Jewish, Christian, and Zoroastrian Perspectives in Late Antiquity,” co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

On April 7, 2016, Prof. **Chaim Gans** (Tel Aviv University) presented “A Political Theory for the Jewish People,” co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism.

On April 10-11, 2016, a conference “Wrestling with Jewish Peoplehood,” was co-sponsored by the Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood, Temple University’s Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and the Department of Jewish Studies of McGill University.

On Thursday, April 14th, Prof. **Jon Whitman** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) presented “Those ‘Literalists’ (the Christians) and Those ‘Allegorists’ (the Jews): Transforming the ‘Literal Sense’ of Christian Scripture,” co-sponsored by Faculty Working Group in Medieval Studies, the Department of English, the Department of History, the Comparative Literature Program, and the Department of Classical Studies.



Law School Colloquium on October 29, 2015. (l to r) Talya Fishman (Penn), Shahar Lifshitz (Bar-Ilan University), Eve Krakowski (Princeton University), Oded Zinger (Duke University), Michael J. Broyde (Emory Law School), and Amihai Radzyner (Bar-Ilan University).

Gruss Colloquium: Joint Workshop of the Penn Law School & the Jewish Studies Program

On October 29, 2015, a workshop took place on “The Interplay of Substantive Doctrines, Institutions and Cultural Factors in the Regulation of Jewish Marriage: Legal and Historical Perspectives.” The event brought together scholars of American law, Jewish law and Israeli law, with historians of Jewish law. The encounter between experts in these disciplines served to highlight the gap between theory and practice—and thus, to emphasize the impact of social and political institutions on the rendering of legal decisions. Presentations were made by **Shahar Lifshitz** (Bar-Ilan University); and Gruss Professor of Talmudic Civil Law at the University of Pennsylvania), **Talya Fishman** (University of Pennsylvania), **Eve Krakowski** (Princeton University), **Oded Zinger** (Duke University), **Michael J. Broyde** (Emory Law School), and **Amihai Radzyner** (Bar-Ilan University). The event was co-sponsored by the Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Fund of the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar

On March 6-7, 2016, Penn’s Jewish Studies Program co-sponsored the 4th Annual Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar with Religious Studies, NELC, and Classics. This event brought together faculty and graduate students engaged in research pertaining to Jews, Christians and pagans in antiquity, and those studying the relevant literatures, whether in Hebrew Aramaic, Syriac, Greek or Latin. Among those in attendance were established and emerging scholars from Princeton, Yale, Columbia, NYU and the University of Pennsylvania. Conference organizers were Prof. **Annette Reed**, and Penn graduate students, **Alex Ramos** and **Jill Stinchcomb**.

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

The sixteenth annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book was held on May 8 and 9, 2016, under the co-sponsorship of Penn’s the Jewish Studies Program, Penn Libraries and the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. A group of approximately forty scholars, librarians, collectors and graduate students from America, Europe, and Israel gathered for the intensive two-day workshop on “Censorship of Jewish Books in the Early Modern Period,” led by Professor **Piet van Boxel**, who is President of the Jewish Historical Society of England, Distinguished Professor at the Oriental Institute at Oxford University, and former Curator of Hebraica and Judaica Collections at the Oxford University Library. We extend our thanks to the **Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation** for their generous support, and also recognize and thank **Albert Friedberg**.



Prof. Azzan Yadin-Israel responding to panel of grad student papers at AJRS.



Lehmann Workshop participants May 2016.

Isaac ben Moses Arama, commentary to *Behukotai* (Leviticus 26:3-27:34)



Katz Center

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania is a global leader in the study of Jewish civilization. Each year the Katz Center convenes a select cohort of scholars to carry out research on a shared theme, propelling the field of Jewish studies forward and opening new vistas in the humanities and social sciences at Penn, in Philadelphia, and in the world.

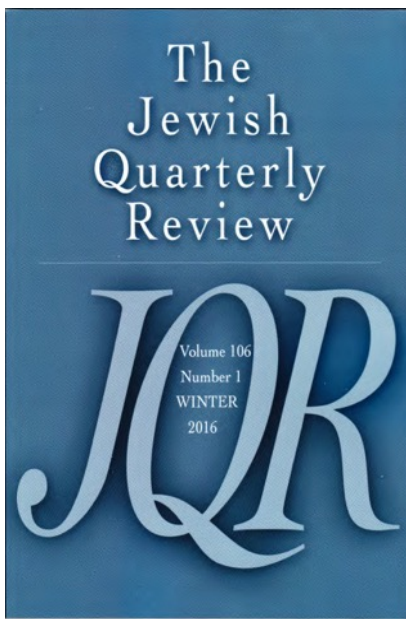
The Annual Fellowship Program: The Core of the Katz Center's Mission

The Katz Center's international post-doctoral fellowship program has served as a model for similar institutions since its inception. Intellectual camaraderie is the essence of the experience for fellows at all stages of their academic careers. During the course of the year the fellows work on their individual projects alongside scholars with diverse but focused interests, draw on our deep library collections and the expertise of our librarians, and meet to discuss their ongoing research.

Penn faculty and graduate students are always welcome at the weekly Ruth Meltzer seminars, which take place at the Katz Center, and fellows have ample opportunity to get involved with the academic life on Penn's campus. The Center's Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff lecture brings a notable speaker to campus in partnership with the History Department and the JSP each year. At the close of the year, fellows and other invited scholars present the findings of the year's research and open new avenues of inquiry at the two-day Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies, held at Penn and open to the wider academic community. Editors chosen from among the fellows edit a volume that is published by Penn Press as part of the Jewish Culture and Contexts series.



Fellows (and spouses) Galit Hasan-Rokem and Freddie Rokem on Penn's campus.



The Jewish Quarterly Review

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies underwrites the publication of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and houses its editorial and administrative offices. Established by Israel Abrahams and Claude Montefiore in 1889, the *Jewish Quarterly Review* is the oldest English-language journal in the field of Jewish studies. Today's *JQR* preserves the attention to textual detail so characteristic of the journal's early years, while encouraging scholarship in a wide range of fields and time periods. In each quarterly issue the ancient stands alongside the modern, the historical alongside the literary, the textual alongside the contextual. Recent issues have featured a review forum devoted to the topic of Irano-Talmudica, a bibliographical essay by Brad Sabin Hill examining the century-long history of Hebraica collections at the Library of Congress, and scholarly notes on Yosef Trumpeldor's arm-reliquary and on an early modern kabbalistic pharmacopeia, in addition to articles by some of the top scholars in the fields of rabbinics, American Jewish politics, Ottoman history, Yiddish literature, and medieval Jewish history, addressed to a broad Jewish studies audience. For more information, including how to subscribe, see www.jqr.pennpress.org.

2016-2017: Political Ramifications: Expanding Jewish Political Thought

Over the course of their history, Jews have championed a range of ideological views and operated within a variety of political contexts, generating a rich body of political thought. This fellowship year, the Katz Center seeks to expand the study of this material in light of new developments in political theory and a changing world beyond academia. The fellows of this cohort stretch the boundaries of Jewish political thought in ways that intersect with the study of law, religion, history, literature, philosophy, and even music and poetry. Their individual research projects approach topics as diverse as Napoleonic citizenship, ancient ritual, and modern political theology, and interpret influential thinkers from Joseph Karo to Hannah Arendt. Collectively, these efforts will expand contemporary debates within Jewish political philosophy and ground them in a stronger understanding of the Jewish political past.

2016-2017 Fellows

John Ackerman | University of Kent
Fall
*Jody Ellant and Howard Reiter
Family Fellowship*
Sovereignty and Law: On Political
Theology and the Jewish Legal
Tradition

Lihl Ben Shitrit | University of
Georgia | Spring
*Ivan and Nina Ross Family
Fellowship*
Faithful Foes? Visions of Peace on
the Israeli and Palestinian Religious
Right

Samuel Brody | University of Kansas
Full year
Albert J. Wood Fellowship
Jewish Thought and Political
Economy

Julie Cooper | Tel Aviv University |
Full year
Robert Carrady Fellowship
Politics without Sovereignty? Exile,
State, and Territory in Jewish Thought

Lois Dubin | Smith College | Spring
*Ellie and Herbert D. Katz
Distinguished Fellowship*
Between Moses and Napoleon:
Citizenship, Emancipation, and
Jewish Political Thought in Italy,
1780–1815

Arye Edrei | Tel Aviv University |
Fall
Ella Darivoff Fellowship
Can Nation State Politics and Israeli
Law Create Jewish Law?

Golan Gur | University of
Cambridge | Fall
*Dalck and Rose Feith Family
Fellowship*
Communist Jews and Jewish Memory
in the Musical Culture of the German
Democratic Republic

Yuval Jobani | Tel Aviv University |
Full year
*Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense
Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship*
Women of the Wall: Navigating
Religion in the Public Sphere

Meirav Jones | Yale University | Full
year
*Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld
Fellowship*
*Jewish Sovereignty as Westphalian
Sovereignty*

Rebecca Kobrin | Columbia
University | Spring

Ella Darivoff Fellowship
Empire of Charity: Philanthropy,
Soft Power, and the Practice of
Jewish Politics in Interwar
Europe

Nitzan Lebovic | Lehigh
University | Fall
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
German-Jewish Biopolitics

Mordechai Levy-Eichel |
Princeton University | Fall
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
Laws without States: The Political
Implications of Yosef Karo's *Summa
Halakhah*

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From Nation to Community:
Rethinking Israeli Civil Society

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Can the Subaltern Rule? Halakhic
Writing in French Algeria

Orr Scharf | The Open University of
Israel | Spring
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The Dark Side of Theo-Politics:
Martin Buber's Conception of Gnosis
as Radical Evil

Claude Stuczynski | Bar-Ilan
University | Spring
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Fellowship*
Jewish "Royal Alliance" or Early
Modern Political Agency? Portuguese
Conversos and the Question of
Sovereignty

Vasileios Syros | Academy of Finland
Spring
*Maurice Amado Foundation
Fellowship*
The Beginnings of the Jewish
Political Tradition in the Ottoman
World

Joshua Teplitzky | Stony Brook
University | Fall
*Ivan and Nina Ross Family
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Between Court Jew and Jewish Court:
David Oppenheim, His Library, and
Jewish Political Culture in Early
Modern Europe



Giddon Ticotsky | Stanford
University | Fall
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Politics and Poetics: Meetings of
Israeli Writers and Poets with Israeli
Political Leaders (since 1948)

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California, Irvine | Fall
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Modes of
Ritual and Notions of Sovereignty

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College
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University of the Negev

Looking Ahead

The fellowship theme for 2017–2018 is **Nature between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World**. This year will explore the theories, institutions, and paradigms that shaped how Jews have studied nature, and the ideas, applications, and cultural and religious consequences that emerged from such study. The fellowship is open to scholars working on particular thinkers, texts or theories, as well as research projects that frame the subject in relation to Classical, Christian, Muslim, or secular approaches.

Highlights from 2015–2016

Jews Beyond Reason: Exploring Emotion, the Unconscious, and Other Dimensions of Jews' Inner Lives

During the 2015–2016 fellowship year, the Katz Center focused on those aspects of internal life that lie beyond reason—emotions and feelings, the unconscious, sensation, imagination, impulse, intuition, and the nonrational dimensions of reason itself. Fellows came from disciplines as varied as history, literary criticism, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, art, and law.



Some of the 2016-2017 fellows: (L to R) back: Steven Weitzman, Lital Levy, Eli Schonfeld, Shaul Magid, Martin Kavka, Steven Bowman, Anat Zanger, Freddie Rokem; front: Israel Bartal, John Efron, Keren Friedman-Peleg, Hannah Pollin-Galay, Galit Hasan-Rokem.

Yael Balaban | Levinsky College, Israel
Anne C. Dailey | University of Connecticut School of Law
James A. Diamond | University of Waterloo
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In addition, short-term and adjunct fellows included: Zvi Gitelman, Paul Lerner, Itamar Lurie, Amos Morris-Reich, Ilana Pardes, Lenore J. Weitzman, Elliot Wolfson, Batsheva Ben-Amos, Steven Bowman, Ephraim Kanarfogel, Marion Kaplan, Elliot Ratzman, Phillip Webster, and Anat Zanger.

Katz Center fellows capped the fall term by organizing a workshop called **Moving In: Jewish Interiors and Interiorities**. Addressing the complexity of interiority across a range of materials and disciplines, the workshop included both fellows and outside presenters such as **Leora Auslander** (University of Chicago) and **Naomi Seidman** (Graduate Theological Union). Topics included pain and other sensations in literature and philosophy, and the expression of doubled selves in interior design, meant to be displayed but enclosed in the private sphere, with the theme of the permeability of the self threaded throughout.

The year culminated in the **22nd Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies**, “Reason and Its Discontents: Exploring Affect & the Imagination in Jewish Culture and Beyond.” Over the course of two days, Katz Center fellows and invited scholars presented research on the role of the nonrational in Jewish law, psychiatry, mysticism, philosophy, and more.

Jonathan Lear delivered the **19th Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture** on the topic of “**Psychoanalysis and the I-Thou Relation**.” Lear, the John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor on the Committee on Social Thought in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Chicago, argued that to understand what psychoanalysis is—as well as its ethical significance—one needs to understand the psychoanalytic situation, i.e., a person’s relationship to his or her own unconscious, in terms of an I-Thou relationship.

Lital Levy, **Martin Kavka**, and **Anne C. Dailey** will edit a volume showcasing some of the best work produced during the year.



Katz Center fellow James A. Diamond at the Gruss Colloquium.



The JSP's Kathryn Hellerstein joins filmmaker Asaf Galay for a discussion of his film, *The Muses of Bashevis Singer*.

Outreach

Katz Center fellows speak, teach, and write widely beyond the boundaries of academia. The Katz Center presented a number of programs in partnership with host institutions throughout the Philadelphia area including libraries, museums, and places of worship. A fall lecture series featured **Martin Kavka**, **Galit Hasan-Rokem**, **Zohar Weiman-Kelman**, and **Yael Balaban** on topics as diverse as philosophical approaches to civility and female Yiddish poets. In the spring, the Katz Center presented **Jeremy Dauber** (Columbia University) on Jewish humor at the National Museum of American Jewish History, and partnered with the same institution for a screening of **Asaf Galay's** documentary on Isaac Bashevis Singer, followed by talkback with the filmmaker and the Jewish Studies Program's own **Kathryn Hellerstein**, in addition to presenting several lectures in local synagogues.

In 2016–2017, the Center continues to partner with NMAJH, as well as Philadelphia's Gershman Y, the National Constitution Center, and other local hosts. For more information about Katz Center public programming, contact Anne Albert at aoalbert@sas.upenn.edu or visit www.katz.sas.upenn.edu/public-programs.

Katz Makes a MOOC

In June, the Katz Center partnered with Penn Libraries and the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (SIMS) to launch their first MOOC. This Massive Open Online Course brings together the Katz Center's scholarly networks with the extraordinary collections of SIMS to push Jewish scholarship into an exciting new collaborative space, and to reach interested audiences worldwide.

The MOOC is a forty-minute minicourse by Professor **Y. Tzvi Langermann** (Bar-Ilan University), the first SIMS-KATZ fellow. Langermann presents a case study that builds from a unique manuscript codex produced in the 15th century containing three important medical manuscripts in Judeo-Arabic. Compiled in Sicily by a physician identified as David ben Shalom, the manuscript bears witness to the rich cultural exchanges among Latin, Jewish, and Arabic communities during this time, especially in the sciences. Professor Langermann not only walks the student through the basics of medical knowledge training and practice in the Jewish Middle Ages and beyond, but also shows how clues gleaned from elements of a particular manuscript (such as marginal notes, mistakes, and handwriting) shed light on the purpose and use of these texts. The course includes eight short video lectures that explore the highlights of this extraordinary manuscript.

Over 1000 students initially enrolled in the course, guided by NELC doctoral student **Marc Herman**, who served as Teaching Assistant. The course is offered free to anyone with an email address, and it can be accessed at any time through edX.org (PennX-Katz1.1x, or search for "Langermann"). The course is self-paced and takes about 2 hours to complete. The content will not be inaccessible to the novice but the nature of the material and the level of scholarship should interest graduate students and colleagues from a range of disciplines as well. There is an active discussion forum, and a link to the full manuscript in digital form.

This MOOC is the first in a series on Jewish manuscripts that will emerge from the SIMS-Katz partnership in the coming years. The next installment will be taught by Professor **Alessandro Guetta** (INALCO, Paris), and begins production this winter.

Grateful Grad Students

Twenty-five students and fourteen faculty converged on the Katz Center in June for **Shaking Foundations: The 2016 Advanced Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies**. Created in partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and directed by the Katz Center's **Steven Weitzman** and **Elisheva Baumgarten** of Hebrew University, the program alternates each year between Jerusalem and Philadelphia. This year it was the Center's turn to host, and participants spent an intense week teaching and learning about moments of disruption, transformation, and reinterpretation in various Jewish contexts from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. Issues of professionalization and current trends in the field were also on the agenda, along with opportunities to engage with local historical, architectural, and even culinary resources. Next year's program on the topic of "Personal/ Interpersonal: I, We, and You in Jewish Culture and History" will take place in Jerusalem just before the World Congress of Jewish Studies in August 2017. *The Philadelphia summer school is made possible by the generous support of Dr. Garry Rayant and Dr. Kathy Fields-Rayant.* For more information, visit <http://en.mandelschool.huji.ac.il/summerschool>



Katz Center Director Steven Weitzman teaches an international group of graduate students in the 2016 Summer School.

JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, at the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library, and at the University Museum—continued to grow as an integrated unit within the University Libraries system under the management of **Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections**. The full time staff of the Library at the Katz Center during the last academic year—Dr. **Bruce Nielsen**, Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist; **Judith Leifer**, who handles faculty requests and provides bibliographical support to the Curator, and **Josef Gulka G'70**, who supervises circulation – provided an exceptionally high level of service, both in terms of quantity and quality. Overall, Penn's Judaica staff responded to 586 public service contacts, paged and shelved 4,165 circulating volumes, administered the consultation of 689 rare items, delivered tours of the rare book room at Library at the Katz Center to 127 people, and filled hundreds of Faculty Express, Inter-Campus, Borrow-Direct and Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.

NEW JUDAICA COLLECTION GIFTS

The Penn Libraries received several important Judaica gifts during the last academic year:

Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica: New Acquisitions

The Kaplan Collection continues to grow at an astonishing rate. Among the hundreds of new acquisitions during the last academic year, one stands out for its historical and visual significance: an 18th century hand-drawn and water-colored map of lower Manhattan marking the presence of the city's first Jewish burial ground. Known as the Chatham Square Cemetery, this tiny graveyard was located 55-57 St James Place (in contemporary Chinatown) and is the oldest of three Jewish graveyards currently maintained by the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation Shearith Israel (Hebrew, "Remnant of Israel") in Manhattan. Shearith Israel is regarded as the oldest Jewish congregation in North America and its first cemetery reputedly is the only remaining 17th century structure in Manhattan. According to an inscription on the back of the map, the Kaplan Collection map is a copy of Brandt Schuyler's survey made in August 1744 and has been re-drawn as part of a commercial land sale at the end of the eighteenth century.



Isaachar ber Ryback, *Shtetl, Mayn Khorever Heym - a Gedekhenish* ("My little town, my destroyed home, in memory"). Berlin: Shvelen, 1923. Gift of Annette Freund and Penn's Jewish Studies Program in partnership with the Penn Libraries.

Fleisher Family Gift of Early American Judaica

Beth Fleisher has donated three exceptional works of rare Judaica Americana kept in her family for generations. Each title is especially noteworthy for its associational value and taken together offer a fascinating record of practical books found in a colonial American Jewish library. One of them, a Passover Haggadah, bears an ownership inscription "Miss Hannah Lopez's Book, Nov. 3rd 1786, New port Rhode Island." Nineteen-year old Hannah was the literate daughter of the Converso Aaron Lopez, one of the leading merchants of 18th century Newport and among the founders of what would become known as the Touro synagogue, the oldest in the United States. This first edition, printed in London by A. Alexander in 1770, is among the first Jewish liturgical works translated into English and reputedly the only known appearance of Ladino in Hebrew letters in a London imprint." The Fleisher copy follows the Sephardic liturgical custom, the exceedingly rare edition of two different printed versions (the other being for Ashkenazim). The two other works, one printed in Amsterdam by Solomon Proops in 1702, and the other printed in Zolkiew two years later by Uri Feivush ben Aharon ha-Levi, concern Jewish ritual slaughter (*shehitah*) practices, a precondition for keeping Jewish dietary laws in this transatlantic Jewish environment. Four pages of manuscript notes comprising a digest of the laws of *shehitah*, are bound in the Zolkiew edition. Both texts bear numerous ownership notes and signatures in Hebrew and English of what constitutes a kind of "honor roll" of early American Jewish merchant families. Among the signatures are the first native-born Jewish minister, Gershom Mendes Seixas (inscribed in

Hebrew and English), as well as those of Michael Michaels, Moses Franks, Samuel Myers, and Naftali Phillips, Jacob Hart, Moses Levy, Abraham Hart, Benjamin Elias, Moses Lopez Fonseca, and Naftali Phillips (son of Moses Jacob Hart, Naftali Phillips).

New Holy Land Collection Gift from the Lazard Family

Paola and Bertrand Lazard, whose past donations have played a foundational role in the growth of the Penn Libraries' Holy Land collections, have made yet another major gift. These include dozens of 19th century prints, engravings, and water color illustrations, as well as a massive, extensively annotated photo-scrapbook of the Holy Land during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The gift also contains dozens of rare and specialized books, including travelogues, memoirs, missionary works, archeological and expeditionary accounts, maps, and other types of texts about the Holy Land, written in English, French, Hebrew, and Italian.

Thanks to the generosity of Annette Freund and in partnership with Penn's Jewish Studies Program, the Penn Libraries were able to purchase the first edition of Isaachar ber Ryback's illustrations found in *Shtetl, Mayn Khorever Heym - a Gedekhenish* (My little town, my destroyed home, in memory). Ryback was among the foremost Jewish artists and book illustrators of his time. Lithographically illustrated and printed in Berlin in 1923, *Shtetl* appeared at a highpoint in the period of German-Jewish art books, which tragically followed the destruction and uprooting caused by World War I and the Soviet Revolution. In this work, Ryback memorializes a destroyed way of life in the small towns (*Shtetlekh*) of the Pale of Settlement in which Jews lived and work, portraying a peaceful existence, with street scenes of artisans (including a shoemaker, a tailor and a knife-sharpener), musicians, the market, the synagogue, a wedding, a funeral, the Jewish cemetery, and rabbis.

Andrew Hohns, Ph.D., W'00, LPS'05, GRW'12 and Leah Popowich, C'00, G'06 have donated a copy of Eli Wiesel's rare first publication, in Yiddish - *Un di velt hot geshvign* ("And the world remained silent") - from which his most famous work, *La Nuit / Night*, was drawn. This copy is of particular meaning because it contains a personally inscribed dedication by Wiesel, written in English and Yiddish, to Andrew Hohns. This first edition, printed in 1956 in Buenos Aires by the *Tsentralfarband fun Poylishe Yidn in Argentine* (Central Union of Polish Jews in Argentina) has become a critical point of reference for recent scholarly debates about the differences among the Yiddish, French and English editions and by which literary genre should Wiesel's most famous work be classified: as a personal memoir, as a work of fiction, or as a work of theology about the Holocaust.

Georg and Wilma Iggers have donated a rare late eighteenth-century Hebrew prayer book, accompanied by Judeo-German translation published in Sulzbach bearing the title *Korban minḥah tefilah mi-kol ha-shanah* and is printed in Hebrew and *Vaybertaytsh* characters. The gift carries a special poignancy due to the story of how it came into Professor Iggers' possession: "I have (had) it since the summer of 1938 when as an eleven year old child I was at a Jewish summer camp in Baden in a small village which had 300 Jewish inhabitants of whom most had left for Palestine. We were told that we might each take one prayer book from the abandoned synagogue. I have had it ever since." The Iggers have donated the book in memory of Albert Jonas, the childhood friend of Georg who accompanied him to the summer camp where he found this book. During Kristallnacht, the two nights of pogroms throughout Germany which occurred on November 9th and 10th of 1938, Albert Jonas was deported to the infamous Dachau concentration camp and from which he escaped to Sweden where he taught in a Jewish school in Goetheberg. This gift was facilitated by **Dr. Craig Partridge**, a relative of the Iggers and a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Michigan State University. Not only is this a rare edition; it also poignantly bears witness to worlds that no longer exist and the circumstances that brought about their destruction.

David Maltz, D.D.S., D'81, GED'81, and Joan Maltz have donated a rare, folio-size edition of the Ashkenazi *Mahzor*, printed in Amsterdam by Uri Faivush ben Aharon ha-Levi, in 1670, a time when hundreds of thousands of Eastern European Jews had been murdered and displaced from their homes during and after the Chmelniecki Massacres that began in 1648. This particular volume has a remarkable biography of its own. Discovered in a bookstore in Rome shortly after the Holocaust, it was recently given to the Maltz by a dear friend who had found and kept it for six decades. The Maltzs in turn decided to donate



Elielzer Wiesel, *Un di velt hot geshvign* ["And the world remained silent." Buenos Aires: Tsentralfarband fun Poylishe Yidn in Argentine [Central Union of Polish Jews in Argentina], 1956. Gift of Andrew Hohns and Leah Popowich.

this book in honor of Dr. **D. Walter Cohen, D.D.S.**, the former chair of Penn's Dental school, who made it possible for the couple to come to Philadelphia from South Africa and for **David Maltz** to study at Penn.

George Rohr, PAR'10, PAR'18, has donated to Penn's Judaica collections a remarkably diverse group of 18th and 19th century Jewish imprints. This generous and deeply appreciated gift includes a range of religious, philosophical, and artistic works printed in the 18th-20th centuries: Hebrew Bibles printed in Venice and Vienna; a Sephardic prayer book, *Hupat Hatanim*, printed in Livorno in 1806-7, with the rare printed censor page; two ethical works, one, *Sefer ha-Mevakesh*, printed in the Hague and the other, *Sefer ha-Yashar*, printed in Istanbul; Ashkenazic liturgical works, accompanied by Yiddish translations printed in the special type font developed for Yiddish called *Vaybertatsh*; works of Christian Hebraism, including the *Biblia Hebraica* edited by Johann Heinrich Michaelis, a Kabbalistic work printed in Kopytsin in 1808-9, and two artist books, one by David Gilboa, a *Ballad on Heroism*, published in Tel Aviv in 1939, with twenty printed sketches of scenes of building and defending Jewish Palestine and a numbered copy by M. Lender, entitled *In thy midst, O Jerusalem*, featuring six woodcut prints of scenes in Jerusalem.



Ashkenazic *Mahzor*. Amsterdam: Uri Faivush ben Aharon ha-Levi, 1670. Gift of David and Joan Maltz.

Digital Judaica at the Penn Libraries

Holy Land Collections Website

In March of 2016, the Penn Libraries debuted a new, online home for its Holy Land collections. The Holy Land Collections website features a wide range of special and general collections related to the Holy Land including rare manuscripts, original archeological artifacts, engraved maps, and many other fascinating primary and secondary source materials. Among the most important collections is the **Lenkin Family Collection of Photography**. This collection, purchased in 2009 with a generous donation from **Edward**

J. Lenkin, C '71, PAR '12, consists of over 5,000 early photographs of the Holy Land dating from 1850 to 1937. The Lenkin collection was digital photographed by internationally renowned photographer, **Ardon Bar Hama** and catalogued by our devoted Penn Libraries volunteer, **Louise Strauss, C'82**. This project was made possible through the leadership of **H. Carton Rogers III**, Vice-Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries, an ongoing partnership with the National Library of Israel and its Director General, **Oren Weinberg**, who supported the digitization of the entire Lenkin Family Collection; and the invaluable vision and advice of **Dror Wahrman**, Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities and Vigevani Professor of European Studies at the Hebrew University. Explore Penn's Holy Land Collections at: <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/holyland/index.html>

New Katz CAJS/Library Web Exhibit

The Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a beautiful virtual exhibit "Jews Beyond Reason."

To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows16/>

To view past Katz CAJS/Library Web exhibits, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/>

Thank You!

We are especially happy to acknowledge and thank our library volunteers, **Dr. David G. Cook, M'68, GM'74** and **Louise A. Strauss, C'82** as well as the many individuals for their gifts and donations during the last academic year. [For a list of Library Donors, see page 22.]

In Appreciation

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

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We thank you for your ongoing generosity to Jewish Studies at Penn.

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In Class

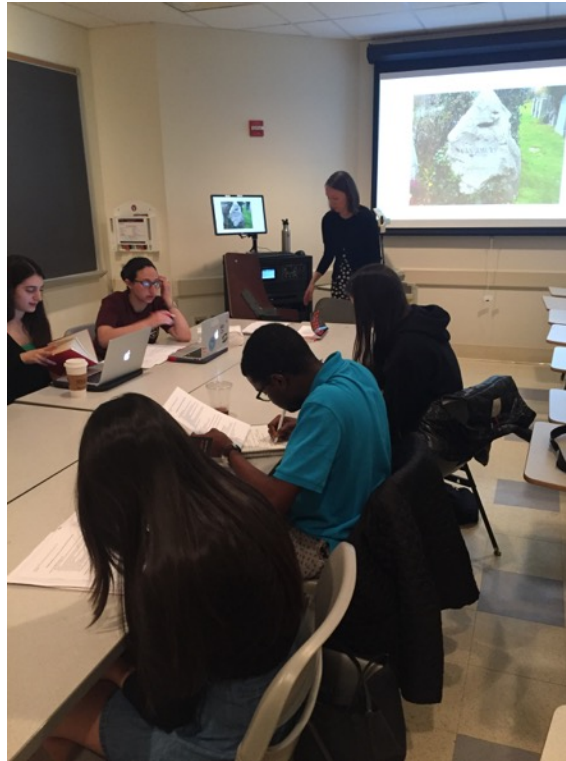
On Witnessing, Remembering, and Writing the Holocaust

In Spring 2016, I had the opportunity to serve as a TA for Professor Liliane Weissberg's undergraduate course *Witnessing, Remembering, and Writing the Holocaust*. Teaching this course was a unique first-time experience, not just for Professor Weissberg, who conducted the lectures twice a week, and me, who held the weekly recitation sessions, but also for Penn. It is the first course offered that made extensive use of the *Visual History Archive* of the *USC Shoah Foundation* that have been recently made accessible to Penn faculty and students.

The course started with briefly outlining the historical frame pertaining to the Holocaust and liberation of camps, and then moving on to individual Holocaust survivor accounts and video testimonies. Further materials included theoretical readings on memory and trauma and first and second generation witnessing, fictive, autobiographical and philosophical writings on personal Holocaust experiences, and finally representations of the memory and legacy of the Holocaust in works of art, music, memorials and museums.

The materials that were particularly moving to me and our students were the individual testimonies from the online archives, as they offered survivors the opportunity to claim a voice of their own and to tell their personal story about their war-time and Holocaust experiences. Their voices and visual presence presented to us the human beings and individuals behind what is often referred to as mere historical facts and numbers about the Holocaust. Hearing these individuals reminisce life prior to the war, hearing them speak about the atrocities of the Holocaust and thereby witnessing their emotional

struggles in this process, generated a series of discussions among us, not just in class, but in office hours, emails and research papers, about humanity, personhood, identity and memory, not to mention about the obvious and urgent necessity to record these testimonies.



Erika Kontulainen and some of her students in recitation discussing the life and writings of Jean Améry.

The online archives with which we worked included the *Voices of the Holocaust* project, the *Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies* at Yale University, and lastly the *Visual History Archive of the USC Shoah Foundation*. In fact, Lori Rutman Fife, founder of the *Rutman Fellowship for Research and Teaching*, has been working closely with the *USC Shoah Foundation* in order to encourage the use of testimonies in teaching and research at Penn. Rutman Fife even visited our class together with her husband; another visitor was Jayne Perilstein, Managing Director of Advancement at the *USC Shoah Foundation*. They were all excited to hear from our students first-hand about their experiences taking the course.

I was lucky to have met such a marvelous and versatile group of students from a variety of backgrounds and countries such as India and Trinidad and Tobago, and two exchange students from the UK. In addition, a number of senior associates attended lectures regularly, as well as two graduate students from History of Art. The fact that this course was cross-listed with so many departments and programs, including German, Comparative Literature, English, History of Art, Jewish Studies, and Psychoanalytic Studies, speaks to the importance and need to engage with Holocaust memory from myriad disciplines. The design of the course with lectures, recitations, online discussion threads, film screenings, individual assignments and group work, allowed our students to both individually and collectively articulate a voice in our contemporary times that carries their critical understanding of what it means to witness, remember and write the Holocaust into the future.

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Isaachar ber Ryback, *Shtetl, Mayn Khorever Heym - a Gedekhenish* ("My little town, my destroyed home, in memory").
Berlin: Shvelen, 1923. Gift of Annette Freund and Penn's Jewish Studies Program in partnership with the Penn Libraries.

Faculty News Addendum

Nili R. Gold, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, recently completed the manuscript for her book on the intersections of architecture, literature and memory in the city of Haifa, *Haifa: City of Steps*. Thanks to the Jewish Studies Lucius Littauer Foundation Publishing Award, an artist was commissioned to hand-draw six custom-made maps for the book, each corresponding with one area of Haifa highlighted in a given chapter. The book will be published in September, 2017 by University Press of New England. Professor Gold is now in the final stages of editing the manuscript of a revised Hebrew edition (not a translation) of this book, to be published in Israel in 2018. Additionally, the poetic biography of Yehuda Amichai, which she published in 2008, has recently been translated into Hebrew and adapted for Israeli readership and will be published in 2017 by Mineged.

Her current scholarly efforts are focused on the work of the Hebrew author and scholar of Japanese philosophy, Yoel Hoffmann. In the fall, Professor Gold presented the opening lecture at a conference in his honor at Doshisha University in Kyoto. She will present another paper on his work at the National Association of Hebrew Professors Annual Conference in June in New York, and is also at work on a comprehensive volume of scholarly articles on his oeuvre.

This year, Professor Gold is enthusiastically immersed in her teaching and is busy planning this spring's Middle East Film Festival, featuring Natalie Portman's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*. This film also complements her course *Fantasy, Dreams and Madness*, in which she teaches the Amos Oz autobiography upon which it is based.



The Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa, built 1913. Courtesy of Haifa City Archives; photographer W. Loewenheim.