

JEWISH STUDIES

at the University of Pennsylvania



THROUGH ITS JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OFFERS AN UNPARALLELED ARRAY OF INTELLECTUAL AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. ALONG WITH TEACHER-SCHOLARS, THE UNIVERSITY IS HOME TO SOME OF AMERICA'S GREATEST RESEARCH LIBRARIES IN JUDAICA AND HEBRAICA.

CONTENTS

pp. 2-3 Directors' Letters	pp. 17-19 Katz Center
pp. 4-9 Jewish Studies Program	pp. 20-22 Libraries
pp. 10-11 Graduate Studies	pp. 23 Museum
pp. 12-16 Faculty	pp. 24 Gifts

Above left: "Photograph of a Jewish scribe, ca. 1917." From the Moldovan Family Collection of Judaica, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

The Jewish Studies Program

Undergraduates: The conscious creation of a Jewish Studies Program, rather than a Department, expresses the conviction that the riches of Jewish culture and the history of Jewish communities of different times and places ought not be isolated or marginalized, but fully integrated into many fields of the Humanities and, where relevant, the Social Sciences. Faculty members associated with the Program teach an average of 400

undergraduate students per year. Students may declare a major or a minor in Jewish Studies.

Graduate students enrolled in many different departments within Penn's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and other Penn Graduate Schools, come together in reading groups of their own design that are sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program (JSP). Graduate students also run a Jewish Studies-funded annual conference on a

topic that cuts across disciplinary lines. "Outside of Russia," the JSP-supported Graduate Conference taking place on March 19–20, 2015, will examine the complex transnational narratives of 20th century russophone emigrants, Jews prominent among them, who took up cultural production in other lands.

The Community: Many JSP-sponsored presentations listed in the Newsletter are open to the public.

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 many 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 2015–16 theme is: "Jews Beyond Reason: Exploring Emotion, the Unconscious, and Other Dimensions of Jews' Inner Lives."

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

Several initiatives of Penn's Jewish Studies Program (JSP) in the 2013–14 academic year were firsts: We partnered with Penn departments, programs and schools that had never before been venues for showcasing and exploring the range of Jewish intellectual and cultural riches, along with the many dimensions of Jewish experience. Highlights included a conference on "Thinking Legally vs. Thinking Historically," co-sponsored with the Penn Law School (Oct., 2013); an academic lecture co-sponsored with Penn's Annenberg School of Communication, on the African Hebrew Israelites who reside in Dimona—in the presence of that community's local Philadelphia affiliates and an Israeli representative (Feb., 2014); and a Yom HaShoah event co-sponsored with Penn's Medical School and the V.A. Hospital: a conversation between mental health specialists who discussed the ways that the study of Holocaust survivor families sheds light on the challenges faced by families of today's American military personnel who have suffered PTSD in Iraq and Afghanistan (April, 2014). These were among the 23 extracurricular programs sponsored by the JSP last year. A full list appears in the Newsletter.

I single out one other extraordinary program that took place last year, the Alexander Colloquium concert of Early Modern Jewish Music, "Una Festa Ebraica," by the Europe-based Lucidarium Ensemble (Nov., 2013), because the performance was emblematic of JSP's renewed commitment toward showcasing the arts, as they relate to Jewish Studies. Three events of this nature will take

place this Fall: a Klezmer concert featuring world-class performers, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Penn Libraries' acquisition of the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Sound Archive (Sept., 2014); a video-piece by Israeli artist, Yael Bartana, as part of PennDesign Series called "Itinerant Belongings," (Nov., 2014); and a one-man theater performance, "In Between," by Penn's own Ibrahim Miari, based on autobiographical material about growing up the son of an Israeli Jewish mother and a Palestinian Muslim father (Dec., 2014). These events and others will be widely publicized, and friends of Penn's Jewish Studies program are warmly invited to attend. A fuller list of Fall cultural events appears in the Newsletter; (this list is still a work in progress).

The JSP, like the humanities at large, is actively seeking new ways to attract undergraduates to its wide range of courses. Toward this end, we have established a Jewish Studies Undergraduate Advisory Board, whose members represent a spectrum of Jewish and non-Jewish students who take JSP courses. In conversation with their peers—some involved in Hillel-sponsored courses, and some not—these student leaders are helping Penn faculty members assess the changing priorities of undergraduates.

A final note: Members of the JSP faculty are thrilled to welcome our new colleague in the Religious Studies Department, Professor Steven Weitzman, as the new Director of the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Building on the remarkable institutional legacy of Professor David Ruderman, Steve will shepherd the



Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies as it explores new intellectual new frontiers and synergistically contributes to the vigor of Jewish Studies on the Penn campus.

May the coming year be one of good health and growth, in a peaceful world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Talya Fishman".

Talya Fishman

Director, Jewish Studies Program

Associate Professor, Department of
Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

The University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Program produces the Jewish Studies newsletter annually. We are grateful to Michelle and Peter, C'81, WG'85, Roth for their ongoing sponsorship of this newsletter. Editors: Christine Walsh and Talya Fishman

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

In 1626, about 50 years before Philadelphia was established, the scholar Francis Bacon imagined an institution that reminds me in many ways of the Katz Center. The place in question was located on a remote island where life was so good and the natives so wise that those who chanced upon the island, including a small group of Jews who had somehow arrived there, rarely wanted to leave. At the center of this wondrous society was an institute founded many centuries before, the “House of Salomon,” a kind of research center established to uncover the secrets of life and help bring light to the world.

The Katz Center has come to be known informally as the House of David, tribute to David Ruderman whose directorship has made it such a vital center for Judaic studies. But it also has the qualities of Salomon’s House. As in Bacon’s vision, it draws scholars from all four corners of the globe, giving them the time and support they need to advance their research free of many of the cares of ordinary life. It is home to the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, the oldest English language journal of Jewish studies, and it has facilitated the publication of untold numbers of books, many in partnership with Penn Press.

But unlike the Salomon’s House of Bacon’s imagination, the Katz Center is not located on an island, literally or metaphorically. It thrives through the connections it has developed with individual scholars, other centers and departments, and the broader public. An especially important partner is Penn’s Jewish Studies Program, which also developed out of the university’s pioneering history of engagement in Jewish studies. I am delighted to be affiliated with such an outstanding faculty, to work with the program’s

director Talya Fishman, and to participate in its educational mission. Thanks to our partnership with the Jewish Studies Program, we will be able to bring some of the Center’s fellows into the classroom and to share them with students in other ways, and to foster public lectures by renowned scholars Natalie Zemon Davis and Susannah Heschel.

The focus of this year’s fellowship program at the Katz Center is the beginnings of academic Jewish studies—how Jewish scholars came to engage academic scholarship, how such study spread from Germany to the rest of Europe, Russia, the US and Israel, the resistance it encountered, and the ways this engagement shaped religious, cultural, and political life. The word “academic” today often connotes irrelevant or impractical. That was not how academia was perceived in the nineteenth-century context from which Jewish studies emerged, and Jews engaged in academia precisely to have an effect on the larger world. The coming year will offer opportunities to consider the impact and relevance of such scholarship—as, for example during a symposium marking the centennial of the death of Solomon Schechter. Apart from giving his name to Jewish day schools, Schechter is famous for remarkable research which included the discovery of the Cairo Genizah documents. He is also important for his leadership as an early president of JTS, and an early editor and contributor to the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. The conference will explore the man and his scholarship in their historical context but also as a case study in how scholarship can change a community.

Another significant difference between the House of Salomon and the Katz Center is that the Katz Center is real. The House of Salomon, described in a



novel entitled the *New Atlantis*, was a utopian fantasy, existing in an imaginary realm somewhere between Peru and Japan. The Katz Center, by contrast, exists in three dimensions, in real time and in a real place, 420 Walnut Street. How does a utopia become an actuality? Through the effort of many people—the extraordinary leadership of David Ruderman, the commitment of many other faculty members, the vision and generosity of the center’s Board of Overseers and donors, the guidance and support of the university itself, the remarkable efforts of the center’s wonderful staff, and the creativity and engagement brought by the center’s fellows, among others. I am coming to recognize what it must have taken to turn this particular vision into a reality, and it is an honor to help sustain the center as a source of light for today’s intellectual explorers.

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

Steven Weitzman

Director of the Katz Center of
Advanced Judaic Studies

Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew
and Semitic Languages and Literatures
Ella Darivoff

The Jewish Studies Program

2014 FALL COURSES

Language Courses

JWST 031 BEGINNING YIDDISH I
JWST 033 INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH I
JWST 051 ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW I
JWST 052 ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW II
JWST 053 INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW III
JWST 054 INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW IV

JWST 059 ADVANCED MODERN HEBREW: CONVERSATION & COMPOSITION • Readings include plays, poems, short stories, and journalism published in Israel today. Themes include Jewish-Arab relations, the founding of the State, family ties and intergenerational conflict, war and recent dynamic changes in Israeli society.

JWST 171 ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL HEBREW I
JWST 173 INTRO TO BIBLICAL HEBREW PROSE

Thematic Courses

JWST 100 THEMES IN JEWISH TRADITION: JEWISH POLITICAL THOUGHT & ACTION • Explores conceptions of Jewish political and legal authority, its scope and limits; messianism and political passivity; medieval communal organizations; Jewish political theory; the Israelite polity as a reference point for governance; struggles for Emancipation & consequences; Socialism; varieties of Zionism; challenges of maintaining Israel as a Jewish, liberal democratic state; global political concerns of contemporary Jews.

JWST 130 THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE • Surveys major developments in American Jewish life from the colonial period to the present, with special attention to issues of ethnicity, acculturation, and identity.

JWST 150 INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE • Survey of the major themes and ideas of the Bible, with special attention to the contributions of archaeology and modern Biblical scholarship, including Biblical criticism and the responses to it in Judaism and Christianity.

JWST 154 MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN TRANSLATION: HOLDING A MIRROR: WHO AM I? • This course is a filmmaker's voyage into the definition of Israeli identity as reflected in Israeli cinema and its central characters.

JWST 157 MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN JEWRY • Exploration of intellectual, social, and cultural developments in Jewish civilization from the dawn of rabbinic culture in the Near East through the assault on established conceptions of faith and religious authority in 17th c. Europe.

JWST 230 SECULAR JUDAISM • Can Judaism exist without the religion? Through a historical lens, course examines lives of important Jews who at different times and places attempted their own answers to these questions.

JWST 230 JEWISH HISTORY AND JEWISH MEMORY • Considers Jewish reflections on the meaning of the past from the Bible until the present. Survey of Jewish historical writing including Josephus, medieval chronicles written in the Moslem and Christian worlds, Jewish histories of the Renaissance and

Early Modern Europe, the academic study of Judaism in the 19th century; and contemporary historical trends.

JWST 230 THE HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES OF REFORM JUDAISM • Includes the changing belief structure of the movement, an analytic comparison of Reform Judaism with other religious streams in modern Judaism, and a historical analysis and assessment of the questions that remain relevant for the movement today.

JWST 257 RABBINIC NARRATIVE • Introduces students to Rabbinic narrative and modern critical approaches to its study. Explores the place of narratives in Rabbinic literature, in particular the function and role of narrative in the Mishnah and the Talmud, where one would least expect to find narratives.

JWST 260 JEWISH FOLKLORE • Examines Jewish oral traditions occurring in literary and religious texts, some quite

ancient. It explores ways in which traditions diversified as Jews migrated to different lands, and as these regions underwent historical, social, and cultural changes.

JWST 261 JEWISH AMERICAN LITERATURE • Explores questions about ethnic literature through fiction, poetry, drama, and other writings by Jews in America, from their arrival in 1654 to the present.



Prof. Ronit Engel teaching Modern Hebrew language.

JWST 320 SPIRIT AND LAW • Explores both the critiques of Jewish Law, and Jewish reflections on the Law's meaning and purpose, by examining a range of primary sources within their intellectual and historical contexts.

JWST 350 WISDOM IN THE BIBLE • Explores how the Bible answers ultimate issue questions and what this can tell us about the human condition during biblical times.

JWST 399 SENIOR HONORS THESIS
JWST 735 EARLY JUDAISM/EARLY CHRISTIANITY SEMINAR

College of Liberal and Professional Studies Courses

JWST 231 STUDIES IN JUDEO-SPANISH/LADINO I • Discuss the history and language of the Jews in Spain prior to their expulsion in 1492 and follow up with their history in the Ottoman Empire. Introduction to phonology of Ladino.

Related Course

GRMN 526 THE TROUBLE WITH FREUD: PSYCHOANALYSIS, LITERATURE, CULTURE • Seminar will concentrate on Freud's descriptions of psychoanalytic theory and practice, as well as his writings on literature and culture.

The Jewish Studies Program

2014 - 2015 CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Note: These events are all co-sponsored with other Penn entities.

FALL 2014

Sunday, September 7 • 2:00pm

A Concert of Folk, Theater, and Klezmer Songs

Klezmer Concert: Dan Blackberg Ensemble
Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall, 3400 Spruce Street

Thursday, September 9 • 5:30pm

“The Struggle for Gender Equality in Jewish Divorce Law”

Professor Shahar Lifshitz, Bar Ilan University: Gruss Professor of Talmudic Law, Penn Law School

Silverman Hall, Bernard G. Segal Moot Courtroom, 3501 Sansom Street

Monday, September 23 • 8:45am

19th Century Jewish Scholarship in Hungary

Dr. Mirjam Thulin, Leibniz Institute of European History
Mr. Tom Tearney, University of Pennsylvania
209 College Hall

Monday, September 29 • 5:30pm

Sub Specie Hominis: The Emergence of Kant's Critique in the Mirror of His Correspondence with Marcus Herz

Prof. Boris Gasparov, Columbia University
209 College Hall

Tuesday, September 30 • 5:30pm

“Civil Unions for All”: A Remedy for the Predicament of Israeli Marriage Law”

Professor Shahar Lifshitz, Bar Ilan University: Gruss Professor of Talmudic Law, Penn Law School
Silverman Hall, Bernard G. Segal Moot Courtroom, 3501 Sansom Street.

Monday, October 13 • 5:00pm

The Magic of Craft: Workshops and the Materialization of Christianity in Late Antique Egypt

Prof. David Frankfurter, Boston University
Chemistry Building B13, 231 South 34th Street

Thursday, October 16 • 6:00pm

Heine and the Post-Secular

Prof. Willi Goetschel, University of Toronto
Max Kade Center (Rm 329-A, 3401 Walnut St.)

Thursday, October 30 • 5:15pm

Celebrating JSP Author Kathryn Hellerstein

“A Tradition of Question: A Conversation with Kathryn Hellerstein on the Study of Yiddish Women's Poetry”
Prof. Jeremy Dauber, Columbia University
Max Kade Center (Rm 329-A, 3401 Walnut St.)

Sunday, November 2 • 4:00pm

Why Does Jewish History Matter to American History?

Prof. Deborah Dash Moore, University of Pennsylvania
Prof. Beth Wenger, University of Pennsylvania
Prof. Thomas J. Sugrue, University of Pennsylvania
National Museum of American Jewish History, Independence Hall East

Wednesday, November 5 • 6:00-8:30

Leo Strauss: Man of Peace?: A Dialogue

Prof. Robert Howse, New York University
Prof. Anne Norton, University of Pennsylvania
Penn Hillel Harrison Library, 215 S. 39th Street

Thursday, November 6 • 5:00pm

Film Screening of Avi Neshet's The Secrets

Q&A with director, Avi Neshet, led by Eran Riklis, Israeli film director
401 Fisher-Bennett Hall, 3340 Walnut Street

Monday, November 10 • 6:30pm

Popular Anger or Planned Pogrom? What Really Happened During Kristallnacht 76 Years Ago

Prof. Michael Meyer, Hebrew Union College; Katz Center Fellow
Penn Hillel Harrison Library, 215 S. 39th Street

Sunday, November 16 • 10:00am - 4:30pm

Judaism in Islamic Studies, Islam in Jewish Studies: Reflections and Surface Tensions: A Conference

Prof. Mordechai Cohen, Yeshiva University
Prof. Daniel Frank, Ohio State University
Prof. Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College
Prof. Joe Lowry, University of Pennsylvania
Prof. Michael Pregill, Elon College
Prof. Elisha Russ-Fishbane, Wesleyan University
Van Pelt Library, 6th Floor, 3420 Walnut Street

Thursday, November 20 • 6:30pm

“Itinerant Belongings” – PennDesign’s Visiting Artist Lecture Series

Yael Bartana, Israeli Video Artist
Tuttleman Theater, Institute for Contemporary Art, 118 S 36th Street

Tuesday, November 25 • 4:30pm

Celebrating JSP Author David Ruderman

A Best-Selling Hebrew Book of the Modern Era: The Book of the Covenant of Pinhas Hurwitz and Its Remarkable Legacy
209 College Hall

Monday, December 1 • 6:00pm

“In Between”: a one-man, semi-autobiographical theater performance on growing up the son of a Muslim Palestinian father and an Israeli Jewish mother

Ibrahim Miari, University of Pennsylvania
The Rotunda, 4014 Walnut Street

SPRING 2015 (a partial list)

Thursday, February 5 • 5:00pm

Modernity in Orthodoxy

Prof. Alan Brill, Seton Hall University
location TBA

Tuesday, March 3 • 5:00pm

Regaining Jerusalem: Eschatology and Slavery in Jewish Colonization in Seventeenth-Century Suriname

Prof. Natalie Zemon Davis, Katz Center Fellow
Van Pelt Library, Class of 1978 Pavilion, 3420 Walnut Street

Monday, March 16 • Time TBA

Symposium on Solomon Schechter's Life and Legacy

National Museum of American Jewish History, Independence Mall East

March 19 - 20

Outside of Russia: A Graduate Student Conference

Examine the complex transnational narratives of 20th century russophone emigrants, Jews prominent among them, who took up cultural production in other lands.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS of 2013 - 2014

Joseph Alexander Colloquium

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium, on November 12, was a concert entitled, “**Una Festa Ebraica**,” performed by the Europe-based *Lucidarium Ensemble*. The group’s director, **Avery Gosfield**, prefaced the performance with a brief introduction to Jewish music composed in Italian, Yiddish and Hebrew during the 15th & 16th centuries.

The Joseph Alexander Colloquium, Penn’s oldest endowed lecture in Jewish Studies, is supported through the generosity of the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family. The event was co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Italian Studies, and the Italian Consulate in Philadelphia.

Bassini Internships in Jewish Studies

Under the direction of Professor **Kathryn Hellerstein**, and graduate student **Sonia Gollance**, Penn undergraduates initiated and organized the following events:

“**Tell Him that I: Poetry of Jews and Christians**”: This discussion of poetry, tradition and faith, facilitated by Rabbi Josh Bolton and Reverend Mike Chen, was initiated by undergraduate, **Allison Wattenbarger**, on April 25th.

“**Queer Theory and Rabbinic Literature**”: This talk, by Professor Gwynn Kessler of Swarthmore College, was organized by undergraduate, **Bryan Hoang**, on April 23rd.

Supported by a gift from Emilio, C’71, and Reina C’72/71, Bassini, the Bassini Internships are designed to enable undergraduate students to explore aspects of Jewish Studies outside the classroom, and expose peers to their findings.

Silvers Visiting Scholar in Jewish Studies

The eighteenth annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program, on February 27th, was a talk by **Prof. John L. Jackson, Jr.** (Richard Perry University Professor of Communication, Anthropology & Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania), entitled, “**45 Seconds from Forever: Stories of the African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem**,” on the Dimona community and its worldwide affiliates.

The Silvers Visiting Scholar Program, endowed by Patricia, CW’72 and David, C’71, Silvers, was established to enable distinguished scholars to interact on campus with students and other members of the university community.

Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish Studies

On February 5th, **Prof. Yosef Kaplan** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) delivered the seventeenth annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History, entitled, “**Cristobal Mendes, alias Abraham Franco Silveira: The Puzzling Saga of a Seventeenth-Century Converso**,” and a response was offered by **Dr. Roger Chartier** (University of Pennsylvania/Collège de France).

The Meyerhoff Lecture was established in 1997 through the generosity of a gift from the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Foundation to honor the appointment of the late Herbert Katz, W’51, as Chair of the Board of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. This event was co-sponsored by the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Jewish Studies Program, and the Department of History.

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

The fourteenth annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book was held on May 11th and 12th, 2104. **Prof. Daniel Sperber**, President of the Institute of Advanced Torah Study and Professor Emeritus of Talmud at Bar-Ilan University, led the sessions on “**The Jewish Book, Halakhah [Rabbinic Law], and Minhag [Custom]**.” Among the topics covered were: the Masorah (and problems of misunderstanding it due to its transmission); the impact of material features of the book (like lacunae and misprintings) on *halakhah*; the role of the emender; the corrective use of manuscripts and early printings for the rabbinic decisor; iconography and its interpretation; and the use of illustrations and other paratexts as sources for the historical reconstruction of *minhag* and *halakhah*.

At the Workshop’s conclusion, all the participants joined Barbie Lehmann, Esq., and Prof. Talya Fishman, JSP Director, in a celebration of Prof. David Stern, who founded the Lehmann Workshop and led it, with great success, for 14 years. Through his visionary leadership, the Workshop has enabled Judaica librarians, rare book specialists and academic scholars to gain a greater understanding of the interplay between material features of composition and manufacture, and cultural content and attitudes.

Thanks to the Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation for their generous support, and to Albert Friedberg, the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation, and Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C’66, for additional funding.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS of 2013 - 2014



Above: Israeli Filmmaker, Shemi Zarhin, with University of Pennsylvania professors Nili Gold [left] and Talya Fishman [right], before he read from and discussed his recent novel, *Some Day*, October 21, 2013.

Below: Concert of early modern Jewish music performed by the Europe-based Lucidarium Ensemble. 27th Annual Joseph Alexander Colloquium. November 12, 2013.



Photo credit: Kevin Walsh

Above: Prof. John L. Jackson, Jr., (University of Pennsylvania) delivering the 18th Annual Silvers Visiting Scholar Program. February 27, 2014.



Above: Attendees of the fourteenth annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book on "The Jewish Book, *Halakhah* [Rabbinic Law], and *Minhag* [Custom]," with Professor Daniel Sperber, President of the Institute of Advanced Torah Study; Professor Emeritus of Talmud at Bar-Ilan University. May 11-12, 2014.

The Jewish Studies Program was saddened to learn of the death of our dear friend and supporter, **Scott Mackler**, a trustee of the Joseph Alexander Foundation, on November 14, 2013. Our condolences go out to his wife, Lynn Snyder-Mackler, his sons, Alexander and Noah, his daughter-in-law Laura Mackler, his brother Harvey Mackler, and his sister Randi Windheim. *Yehi zikhro barukh.*

The Jewish Studies Program

Kutchin Seminars in Jewish Studies

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

Author and Award-Winning Israeli Filmmaker, **Shemi Zarhin**, read from and discussed his recent novel, *Some Day*, co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and The Israeli Film Festival of Philadelphia on October 21, 2013.

The 3rd Annual Middle East Film Festival, "**New Middle East Cinema**," co-sponsored by the Cinema Studies Program, the Middle East Center, and the Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations Department at the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival and International House Philadelphia on October 29 - November 2, 2013.

The **Daedalus Quartet, Charlie Abramovic & Randy Scarlatta**, performed a concert entitled "**Music from Exile**." The JSP joined the Penn Humanities Forum and the Department of Music in sponsoring this event on November 6, 2013.

A *Kristallnacht* Commemoration featuring a reading by **Vladimir Vertlib**, Chamisso Prize Winner, was co-sponsored by the Germanic Languages & Literatures Department, and Slavic Languages & Literatures Department on November 7, 2013.

Prof. Jordan Penkower (Bar Ilan University) spoke about "A Complete 12th-13th Century Torah Scroll from the East: How it Differs from Contemporary Torah Scrolls" on November 13, 2013.

"**The Elijah Cave in Haifa: A Late Antique Religious Site of Jews and Pagans**" was presented by **Prof. Tal Ilan** (Free University in Berlin), co-sponsored by the Departments of Religious Studies and Classical Studies on November 21, 2013.

A talk by **Prof. Ada Rapoport Albert** (University College London; Katz Center Fellow) on "**The Gendering of Asceticism in Rabbinic Tradition**" was co-sponsored by the Alice Paul Center for Research on Gender, and Sexuality and Women's Studies, and the Department of Religious Studies on December 5, 2013.

"**Thinking Legally vs. Thinking Historically**," a daylong conference was co-sponsored with Penn's Law School's Gruss Workshop in Jewish Law on December 12, 2013.

"**Leone Ebreo: Platonism and Kabbalah in Italian Early Renaissance**," with **Prof. Fabrizio Lelli** (University of Lecce; Katz Center fellow) was co-sponsored with the Classical Studies department on January 16, 2014.

"**Jewish Discussions of Tradition in an Islamic Context (Iraq, 10th- 11th Centuries)**," a workshop for graduate students with **Prof. Robert Brody** (Hebrew University) was co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department on January 28, 2014.

"**Traditional and Academic Approaches to Talmud Study: 'Can the Two Walk Together?'**" with **Prof. Robert Brody** (Hebrew University) was co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department on January 29, 2014.

"**Encounters with Islamic culture in Sa'adyah's Tafsir and a Responsum of Sherira Gaon**," a workshop for graduate students and faculty was led by **Prof. Bernard Septimus** (Harvard University) on February 25, 2014.

The presentation by **Prof. Matt Goldish** (Ohio State University; Katz CAJS Fellow) on "**The Scientific Commitments of London's Chief Rabbi at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century**," was co-sponsored by the Department of the History and Sociology of Science on March 24, 2014.

"**Zolotoy Plyos ~ Золотой плёс**," a musical performance, was co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, and the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures on April 3, 2014.

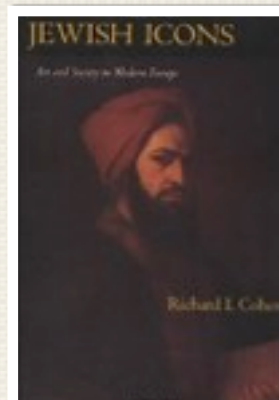
"**I Have No Mother Tongue, Just a Language I Adopted as a Home**," a talk with Israeli author **Esty Gimel Hayim**, was co-sponsored by the Middle East Center, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations Department, and the Israel Cultural Committee of Penn Hillel on April 8, 2014.

"**Transcending Trauma: How the Study of Holocaust Survivor Families Sheds Light on the Challenges Faced by Today's American Military Families**," a *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration event brought **Dr. Bea Hollander-Goldfein** (Transcending Trauma Project) into conversation with **Dr. Richard Ross** (Penn Medicine and Philadelphia VA Medical Center). It was co-sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry of the Penn Medical School, and The Philadelphia VA Medical Center on April 28, 2014.

Annual Conference: Visual Arts and Modern Jewish Culture

On March 23, 2014, the Jewish Studies Program sponsored a conference, "**The Visual Image and Modern Jewish Culture: A Colloquium in Honor of Professor Richard Cohen on his Retirement from the Hebrew University**,"

organized by Profs. David Ruderman of the History department, and Larry Silver of the Art History department. The conference brought together international presenters and students from various departments in a wide ranging discussion of Jewish visual culture. The conference was co-sponsored by Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and the History of Art department.



Prof. Richard I. Cohen's book, *Jewish Icons*

Undergraduate Student Research

Supervised by faculty affiliated with the Jewish Studies Program, graduating seniors in several departments wrote senior theses or research papers on Jewish Studies topics. These students, named below, majored in Jewish Studies, History, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Economics. They presented their findings at a well-attended gathering of students and faculty on May 2, 2014.

Shayna Golkow: "Status and Role of Orthodox Jewish and Muslim Women in America: An Inside Perspective"

Adriel Koschitzky: "Organizational Schemes in Pre-Modern Jewish Culture: Two Essays"

Jennifer Matte: "To Give, or Not To Give (and Where To Give): Spending Money and Time in Contemporary American Judaism"

Elie Peltz: "The Adaptability of Peacebuilding Organizations within Changing Political Environments: Social Boycotts and Israeli-Palestinian Civil Society Relations"

Sara Zimmerman: "'Men of Honour and Honesty': Connections Between Jews and Freemasons in Early America"



(from left) Undergraduate students Jennifer Matte, Sara Zimmerman, Shayna Golkow, and Adriel Koschitzky presented their senior theses or research papers findings (not pictured: Elie Peltz). May 2, 2014.

STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

The Phillip E. Goldfein Awards in Jewish Studies, supported by **Robert, C'63**, and **Phillip, C'34, Goldfein**, enable students to support research projects. This past year's recipients were: Undergraduate Students: **Catherine Cleveland** for research in Israel; **Danielle Kerker** for archival research, and **Arynne Wexler** for research in Israel. Graduate Students: **Martin Hershenzon** for research in Israel, and **Marc Herman** to obtain a photocopy of a Judeo-Arabic manuscript from the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

The Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies are granted for special opportunities in Judaic Studies, and supported by **Raymond** and **Ruth Brenner** (parents of Jason, W'05, Adam, W'01, and Gregory, W'99) and their family. Last year's recipients were: Graduate Students: **Raha Rafii** for participation in AJS conference; **Martin Hershenzon** for archival research in Israel, **Jaе Han** to study Syriac at Catholic University, and **Didem Uca** to study German Script at Moravian Archives.

PRIZES AND HONORS

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

The **Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies**, was awarded to **Sonia Gollance**.

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

The **Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies** was awarded to **Natalie Weinberg**.

Elie Peltz was a recipient of the **Rose Award** for his thesis, "The Adaptability of Peacebuilding Organizations within Changing Political Environments: Social Boycotts and Israeli-Palestinian Civil Society Relations."

The **Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award**, supported by **Dr. Rosaline Goldin** and **Ms. Julia Goldin**, to benefit outstanding students majoring in Jewish Studies, went to co-winners **Adriel Koschitzky** and **Sara Zimmerman**. **Shayna Golkow** was awarded Honorable Mention.

GRADUATION

Jennifer Matte graduated with a Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Major. **Allison Wattenbarger** graduated with an Interdisciplinary Minor. **Ilyssa Friedman** graduated from the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, with a Hebrew and Judaica Concentration.

The Jewish Studies Program

GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate Student Conference:

On March 3, 2014, graduate students in a variety of disciplines convened to present and discuss their own research at a day-long conference titled, **“Warring Words: Rethinking Polemic in the Study of Jews and Judaism.”** The conference was organized by graduate students **Marc Herman** and **Phillip Fackler** of Religious Studies, and **Rachel Ellis** of Sociology.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach is a second-year doctoral student and Benjamin Franklin Fellow in the Comparative Literature program focusing on English and Russian. Her research interest is contemporary American poetry by Jewish emigres from the former Soviet Union whose parents or grandparents were trauma survivors. She recently won *Split Lip Magazine's* Uppercut Chapbook Prize for *The Bear Who Ate the Stars*, due out this fall.

Sonia Gollance, is a PhD candidate in Germanic Languages and Literatures. She served as Bassini Internship coordinator in 2013–14. In March she presented a paper at the “Language Varieties and Variations” conference (UC Berkeley)



Ariel Resnikoff, Falk Fellow

and in May she participated in the AAJR Graduate Student Seminar. Gollance is the new graduate student representative for the Program Committee of the AJS. This spring she will be at the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, working on her dissertation, which explores depictions of mixed dancing in German-Jewish and Yiddish literature.

Marc Herman, PhD candidate in the Department of Religious Studies, is a Benjamin Franklin Fellow and Wexner Graduate Fellow studying Judeo-Arabic legal writings. He was awarded the 2014–2015 Knapp Family Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship in Jewish Studies to pursue his work on “Thirteenth-Century Reactions to Maimonides' *Book of the Commandments*.”

David Zvi Kalman, a doctoral student in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, is about to publish a new edition of *Birkat HaMazon* on the basis of medieval and early modern manuscripts (www.shabb.es). This past year, he delivered a paper at the MESA conference and completed a master's thesis on a work of Islamic legal maxims attributed to an 11th c. Iraqi scholar. His doctoral dissertation research will focus on the ways in which technological innovations affect religious legal systems.

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg, a fifth-year PhD student, passed her qualifying exams in September 2013, and presented some of her work on Rabbi Jacob Emden at the Lavy Colloquium at Johns Hopkins in November 2013. Her dissertation topic examines early modern *halakha* in the context of intellectual and



Jordan Paul, Falk Fellow

cultural history. Morsel-Eisenberg received a fellowship at the Center for Jewish History in New York for 2014–2015.

Alex Moshkin, is a third-year doctoral student in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, whose research interests include modern Hebrew literature, 20th century Russian literature, and the interconnection between

culture, history and sociology. His dissertation focuses on Israeli cultural production of the past 25 years in both Russian and Hebrew languages.

Josef Nothmann, a second year student in Department of History, was an International Parliamentary Fellow of the German Bundestag during the spring and summer of 2014, working in the office of Doris Barnett (SPD). He presented on “The Creation of Jewish

The Falk Fellowship

Current Falk Fellows are sixth-year student **Akhmad Sahal** (Religious Studies), fifth-year students **Sonia Gollance** (German), **David Zvi Kalman** (NELC), and **Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg** (History), fourth-year student **Ari Gordon** (NELC), and third year student **Tom Tearney** (German).

This year we are pleased to welcome two new Falk Fellows to Penn: **Jordan Paul** (NELC) is studying modern Hebrew poetry, and **Ariel Resnikoff** (COML) is studying multilingual Jewish American poetry and poetics.

The Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Graduate Fellowship, awarded directly by the Jewish Studies Program, is indispensable for recruiting and supporting 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.

Identity in a Christian Environment: Frankfurt a.M. in the 18th Century” as part of a conference in Prague.

Pavel Khazanov is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Comparative Literature program, concentrating in Russian literature and culture. His dissertation research is focused on the Russian Imperial imaginary in late Soviet and Perestroika-era culture. Since Fall 2013, he has been a co-organizer of a Russian Jewish Literature reading group at Penn.

Akhmad Sahal, doctoral student in Religious Studies, has a fellowship this year at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University Kennedy School. His dissertation considers the political thought of Sheikh Rashid Rida, the Syrian-Egyptian Muslim reformist, and that of Isaac Herzog, the first Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of the State of Israel. Both figures grappled with questions about how a modern state could be guided by religious law.

Tom Tearney, a third year student in Germanic Languages and Literatures, focuses on the intersections of German and Yiddish prose, poetry, and drama in the early 20th century, with emphasis on modernism in Europe and North America. Over the summer, he took part in the *Ausseer Gespräche* conference and an international seminar on “Literature of Transformation” hosted by the University of Graz, Austria.

Tammie Wanta is a doctoral student in Religious Studies studying Judaism and Christianity in antiquity with a special interest in literature and questions of transmission. Her dissertation is entitled “Wisdom Forgotten: Exploring the Afterlife of Traditions about the First Man’s Knowledge.” Last year she presented research at the Jewish Christianity/ Christian Judaism Section of the SBL Annual Meeting in Baltimore, and at the Fourth International Colloquium on Jewish and Christian Apocryphal Literatures at the University of Lausanne. This year she is teaching classes in New Testament and Early Christianity at Franklin and Marshall College.

The Knapp Fellowship

Current Knapp Fellow in the Jewish Studies Program is sixth-year student **Marc Herman** (RELS).

The Knapp Family Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship in Jewish Studies, funds a dissertation completion fellowship for a graduate student working in Jewish Studies.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

Anne Oravetz Albert (PhD, History, 2008) enjoyed her second fellowship term at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies in 2013-2014, which she devoted to advancing her book project, *Envisioning a Jewish Commonwealth: The Evolution of Sephardic Political Culture in the Dutch Golden Age*. In September 2014 she began serving as the Klatt Family Director for Public Programs at the Katz Center and Managing Editor of *JQR*. She published two articles this year, “The Rabbi and the Rebels: A Pamphlet on the *Herem* by Rabbi Isaac Aboab da Fonseca,” and “The Scepter of Judah: Perceptions of Jewish Authority in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam,” and will be presenting new research at the conferences of the AJS and the Renaissance Society of America.

Cornelia Aust (PhD, History, 2010), is a Research Associate at the Leibniz-Institute for European History in Mainz, Germany. Her new research project concerns Jewish appearances and the ways they were perceived by Jews and Christians in 17th- to 19th-c. Central and Eastern Europe.

Andrew Berns (PhD, History, 2011) is Assistant Professor of History at the University of South Carolina. His book *The Bible and Natural Philosophy in Renaissance Italy: Jewish and Christian Physicians in Search of Truth*, will be published by Cambridge University Press this fall. During the 2014-2015 academic year Dr. Berns will be a Fellow at the Katz Center.

Yehuda Seif (PhD, Religious Studies, 2013) taught a Tikvah Scholars course at Kohelet Yeshiva High School this past year, and a Great Jewish Books course at Eastern University's Templeton Honors College. He made *aliya* with his family this summer to open two new gap-year programs through Bnei Akiva: Yeshivat and Midreshet Torah v'Avodah.

Adam Shear (PhD, History, 2003) is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. His recent focus has been on the history of the early modern Jewish book, and the impact of print on the transmission of medieval Jewish culture. Last year, he was an adjunct fellow at the Katz Center, and was one of the co-editors

of *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David B. Ruderman* (HUC Press/University of Pittsburgh Press, 2014).

David Shyovitz (PhD, History, 2011) is an Assistant Professor in the History department in the Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies at Northwestern University. He is completing a book on medieval Jewish conceptions of the natural world, and has articles forthcoming in the *AJS Review* and the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. In 2014-15, he will be a Yad Hanadiv fellow in Jerusalem.

Kerry Wallach (PhD Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) completed her third year as Assistant Professor of German Studies at Gettysburg College. Recent publications focus on Weimar Jewish fashion and Jewish beauty queens. In 2013, she joined the editorial board of the newly reconstituted German Jewish Cultures book series of the Leo Baeck Institute. Thanks in part to the Gerald Westheimer Career Development Fellowship from the Leo Baeck Institute, she will be on research leave in 2014-2015 to complete her manuscript on Jewish recognizability in Weimar Germany.

Susan Zeelander (PhD, NELC, 2010) is a visiting scholar in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department. Her book, *Closure in Biblical Narrative*, is a study of endings of short narratives, primarily in the Book of Genesis. She presented a paper, “How Narratives End in the Book of Numbers,” at the Columbia Bible Seminar, presented at the International Society of Biblical Literature in London and Amsterdam, and participated in a panel at the Old Testament Research Colloquium at Princeton Theological Seminary. She continues to teach adult education courses.

The Jewish Studies Program

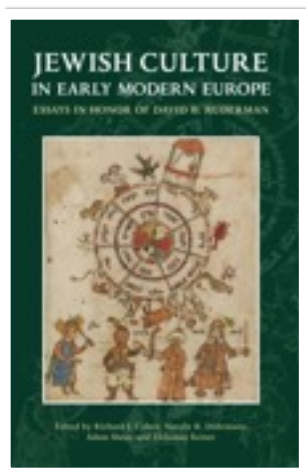
FACULTY

Awards and Honors

AI Filreis was named one of the Top Ten Innovators in Higher Education by the Chronicle of Higher Education for 2013. He was also appointed to the Minerva Academy.

Julia Wilker received the Trustees Council of Penn Women Fellowship this past summer, and was awarded a Margo Tytus Fellowship by the Department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati for spring 2015. Both awards were for her current project on women and dynastic rule in Hellenistic and Roman Judea.

David Ruderman was honored with a *Festschrift* entitled: *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David B. Ruderman*. In addition, The David B. Ruderman Distinguished Scholar Endowment was established to recruit and support an annual visiting scholar-in-residence of international stature at the Katz Center.



Festschrift honoring David Ruderman

Faculty News

Dan Ben Amos is Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Folklore. Last spring he gave the 28th Albert and Milman Parry Lecture at the University of Missouri entitled, "Old Problems Never Die (Neither Do They Fade Away): The Diffusion of Tales."

Joseph Benatov is a Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program. He teaches Hebrew courses of all levels. In November, Benatov was guest lecturer for *Kivunim*—a gap-year-in-Jerusalem program for American students. He lectured on the history of the Jewish community in Bulgaria there, at the

Philadelphia chapter of the American Jewish Committee, and at Congregation Mikveh Israel. During the academic year, he attended the "Fast Forward" symposium on language pedagogy organized by the Penn Language Center. He also translated into Bulgarian Israeli author Etgar Keret's introduction to his latest volume of short stories. Dr. Benatov's current research project focuses on the history of Sephardic Jewish life in the Balkans.

Alexander Botwinik, a Yiddish lecturer, also teaches music and choir at Har Zion Temple. He is the High

Holidays choir director at Adath Israel, and coordinates an annual choral youth *Zimria* (song festival). Botwinik is now preparing two CDs—one of his father's Yiddish art songs and one of children's songs, from the book *From Holocaust to Life: New Yiddish Songs*. He was recently awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, as master

artist, to teach Yiddish and Yiddish song to well-known klezmer trumpeter Susan Watts.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor, teaches Biblical Hebrew at Penn and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. This past year, he published *The Bible's Many Voices* and spoke about it, notably at Temple Emanu-El in Manhattan. He also reviewed Yair Zakovitch and Avigdor Shinan's *From Gods to God: How the Bible Debunked, Suppressed, or Changed Ancient Myths and Legends* for H-Judaic. Carasik completed work for the Deuteronomy volume of *The Commentators' Bible*, containing his English translation of the *Miqra'ot Gedolot* commentaries. His

weekly podcast, "Torah Talk," is available at <http://torahtalk.michaelcarasik.com>. He is the weekday Torah reader at congregation Keshet Israel Philadelphia, and was featured in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reading Torah at "the Little Shul" in South Philadelphia.

Isabel Cranz is Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She specializes in the Hebrew Bible within its ancient Near Eastern contexts. She is working on revising her dissertation on biblical and ancient Near Eastern methods for addressing guilt and impurity in cultic and ritual settings.

Natalie B. Dohrmann is Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and teaches in the departments of Religious Studies, History, and the Jewish Studies Program. She was recently appointed co-editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. Dohrmann's paper, "Mixed Messages: The Private Public Space of Rabbinic Legal Culture" will be published in a volume on the concepts of Public and Private in Roman law. She was one of the co-editor of *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe, 1500–1800*, a *Festschrift* in honor of David Ruderman (HUC/UPP 2014). Her essay "Sacred Law—Greek, Roman, Jewish," is forthcoming in *The Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. In 2014–15, she will participate in the panel "Orality, Textuality, and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible" at the SBL in San Diego and is currently at work on a project on Saul Lieberman and the new Late Antiquity, to be delivered in Ghent in February 2015.

Ronit Engel is Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages and Director of the Modern Hebrew Language Program. She published an article in Hebrew studies on adapting Hebrew-language textbooks written in Israel for university students and new Israeli immigrants for use

within the North American university environment. She was invited to lead a discussion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on how to teach Israeli culture to American university students in Hebrew language programs. Her work on this subject and on web-based Hebrew instruction led to an invitation to evaluate a new program for using the internet to develop fluency in reading newspapers in Hebrew and Arabic. Engel continues also to serve on the Committee on Pedagogy of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) and played an active role in formulating the program for the 2014 NAPH annual meeting at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, in which she took part.

Talya Fishman, Director of the Jewish Studies Program, and Associate Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, is co-editing a volume of essays on the origins of medieval Jewish subcultures, to be published by Littmann Press, Oxford. Fishman gave a paper on “The Prominence of *Minhag* in Medieval Ashkenaz: A View from Non-Ashkenazi Sources” at the University of Leed’s International Medieval Conference this summer, and one on “Custom and Law in Ashkenaz and Sepharad: The Longue Duree as a Key to Medieval Subcultural Identities” at the International Conference of the Jewish Law Association, in Antwerp. Fishman also participated on a panel memorializing John Miles Foley,



Prof. Joseph Benatov teaching Modern Hebrew language.

“Orality, Textuality, and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible,” at the SBL Conference in Baltimore. She gave a keynote address entitled, “Sacrality and



(left) Alex Ramos, a REELS PhD student, and Prof. Annette Reed (right) at the Penn Museum looking at oil lamps from Israel and the Roman Near East to show students in Introduction to the New Testament.

Legal Normativity: Varieties of Jewish Textual Authority in Historical Perspective” at the University of Nantes’ International conference on “Minorités et Cohabitations Religieuses au Moyen-Âge.” Fishman’s essay, “Scripture and the Senses in Hebrew Writings of Late Medieval Spain,” was published in the *Festschrift honoring David Ruderman*. Her new undergraduate seminar this Fall is entitled, Jewish Political Thought and Action.

Nili R. Gold, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, completed her role as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program. Gold’s article “The Corner of Balfour and Herzl Streets in Haifa: A Literary and Architectural Crossroads” was the featured literary article in the Rosh Hashanah issue of *Ha’aretz*. At the 2013 conference of the Association of Jewish Studies, Gold lectured on “The Anthologized Poetry of Haifa.” In June, she lectured on “Panorama: The Prettiest Street in the World” for the annual conference of the Association of Israel Studies and, at the National Association

of Professors of Hebrew at Ben Gurion University, on “Haifa in Yoel Hoffmann’s Writing.” She delivered a lecture on the Holocaust in Israeli

literature at a conference on “The Shoah in Israeli Culture, Memory and Politics” at Brandeis University’s Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. Gold organized visits and lectures by two Israeli artists, the acclaimed filmmaker and novelist Shemi Zarhin and the author Esty G. Hayim. She co-organized Penn’s fourth annual Middle East Film Festival. During the academic year 2014–2015, she is on sabbatical, dividing her time between research in Israel and the United States.

A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586–1987, by

Kathryn Hellerstein, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures (Yiddish), was published by Stanford University Press. In 2014, she presented the following talks: “Warsaw Meets Shanghai: Melekh Ravitsh’s China Poems and Travelogues” at the World Congress for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem; “Brazen and Modest: Women Yiddish Poets” at the National Jewish Studies Foundation Convention in Baltimore; “Translating H. Leyvik’s Verse Plays,” at the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston; “Brazen and Modest: Women and the Making of Modern Yiddish Literature” at Penn’s Women and Gender Studies Conference; “China through Yiddish Eyes” at Penn’s China Research Symposium; “Yiddish Poetry in Modern History” at Drexel University; and “Yiddish Chinoiserie” at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Arthur Kiron is the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History. He also is the Director of the Jesselson-Kaplan American Genizah Project, whose first completed project—the Gershwind-Bennett Isaac Leeser Digital Repository—is now viewable on-line

The Jewish Studies Program

FACULTY

at: <http://leeser.library.upenn.edu/> He curated an exhibition, “Constellations of Atlantic Jewish History: The Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica,” which was on display from February 18–June 9, 2014 in the Goldstein Family Gallery at the Kislak Center at the Penn Libraries. In conjunction with the exhibition, he edited and wrote the introduction to a companion volume by the same title and organized a one-day symposium to explore new fields of research opened up by the Kaplan Collection. He also organized the 15th annual Katz Center-Library on-line exhibition about Early Modern Jewish History, and co-directed the 14th annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book. He published an essay “Curating Judaica in a Digital Age” in the 20th anniversary volume about the history of the Katz Center. He served on the academic advisory committee to the Center for Jewish History in New York and chaired its sub-committee on library and archives. At the annual Association of Jewish Libraries conference in June 2014, he was invited to be a panelist on a session about digital humanities and Jewish Studies. He continues to serve on the editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship*.

Ian Lustick is the Bess W. Heyman Professor of Political Science. He made two research trips to Israel and Palestine this spring and summer, and

delivered lectures on a variety of topics in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Haifa, and Tel-Aviv. His article published last summer, “What Counts is the Counting:



Prof. Yosef Kaplan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) [center] delivering the 17th Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff lecture, with Dr. Roger Chartier (University of Pennsylvania/Collège de France) [left] and Prof. David Ruderman (University of Pennsylvania) [right]. February 5, 2014.



Dr. Richard Ross (Penn Medicine; Philadelphia VA Medical Center) [left], Dr. Bea Hollander-Goldfein (Transcending Trauma Project) [center], and Dr. Talya Fishman (University of Pennsylvania) [right] at the *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration event. April 28, 2014.

Statistical Manipulation as a Solution to Israel’s ‘Demographic Problem,’ was translated into Hebrew and published in the Tel-Aviv University journal *Public Sphere*. In June he engaged in a public debate with Yoram Ettinger in Jerusalem on manipulation of demographic data about Palestinians and Jews. In the spring he organized and facilitated a discussion

group at Penn on Hannah Arendt’s *Eichmann in Jerusalem* as well as a panel on that topic at the Association for Israel Studies annual meeting in Sde Boker, Israel. This summer Lustick published an essay in the Association for Jewish Studies journal, *Perspectives*, on “Places vs. Spaces for Palestinians and Jews” and presented a paper at Princeton University on peoples’ rights to land, focusing on claims and counterclaims pertaining to Palestine/the Land of Israel. In the spring he will be offering a course entitled International Relations of the Middle East: Conflicts in Contexts.

As part of the committee for Penn’s annual Middle East Film Festival **Ibrahim Miari**, Lecturer in Modern Hebrew Language, will be presenting the premier of “Write Down, I’m an Arab” a documentary about the story of the Palestinian national poet Mahmoud Darwish. On December 1, 2014, Miari will be performing his one-man show “In Between,” a semi autobiographical play about his upbringing in Israel. The event is co-sponsored by Penn’s Jewish Studies Program and the Theatre Arts Program.

Benjamin Nathans, Ronald S. Lauder Associate Professor of History, delivered invited talks on the dissident movement in the Soviet Union and other topics at the Humboldt University in Berlin (Germany), the European University and the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg (Russia), the Free Library of Philadelphia, Camden County College’s Center for Civic Leadership and

Photo credit: Kevin Walsh

Responsibility, and the annual conference of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Boston. He also delivered the keynote address at a Rutgers University conference on "Mobilization and Movements in Eastern Europe and Eurasia." Interviews with Nathans were broadcast on Radio Free Europe and published in the journal *Lekhaim*. His most recent publications appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the edited volume *History and Subjectivity in Russia in the Late 19th and 20th Centuries* (2013, in Russian), and the *Russian History Blog*. In 2013-14, the Open Society Foundation sent Nathans as an International Scholar to Russia to try - unsuccessfully, as it turned out - to establish an interdisciplinary program for the study of human rights at the Smolny Institute at the University of St. Petersburg.

Annette Yoshiko Reed was promoted this past year to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Religious Studies. Her publications that appeared this year included articles in *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, and *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, along with chapters in edited volumes on topics ranging from ancient Jewish sciences to Asian material cultures. She gave talks at Princeton University, Yale University, and the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Reed continues to serve on the editorial board of Mohr Siebeck's book series *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*, and is the coordinator of the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins. This year, she is a fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

David B. Ruderman completed his twentieth and final year as Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. At a special dinner in his honor, he was presented with a *festschrift* entitled: *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David*

B. Ruderman (Pittsburgh/Cincinnati, 2014), which includes 31 articles written by colleagues and former students. The Board of Overseers of the Katz Center established the David B. Ruderman Distinguished Scholar Endowment to recruit and support an annual visiting scholar-in-residence of international stature at the Katz Center. A *Best-Selling Hebrew Book of the Modern Era: The Book of the Covenant of Pinhas Hurwitz and its Remarkable Legacy* will be published this fall. Ruderman's *Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern*



Prof. Nili Gold (right) with Israeli author, Esty G. Hayim (left) on April 8, 2014.

Europe appeared in Russian translation, and *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History* appeared in Turkish translation. He completed and published several new articles during the past year and lectured at the following institutions: Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Madrid, Spain; Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, Heidelberg, Germany; Princeton University; Goethe University, Frankfurt; Center for Modern European History, University of Mainz; Maximilian University, Munich; and Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland. He was a senior fellow in the research group on Theology as Wissenschaft at Goethe University, Frankfurt, during the months of May and June, 2014.

Larry Silver, Farquhar Professor of Art History, presented a paper on "Rembrandt and the Jews: The State of the Question" at the Penn symposium in spring 2014 entitled "Visual Images and Modern Jewish Culture." His latest co-authored book investigates a seventeenth-century European topic, *Rubens, Velázquez, and the King of Spain*. He will spend spring of 2015 at the Getty Center researching the topic "Jewish Art as Marked."

Jonathan Steinberg, on sabbatical during most of 2013-2014, collaborated with Dr. Marion Kant on an edition of a diary written by Isaak Loewenstein, a young Jewish man drafted into the Prussian Army as an ordinary soldier. The diary offers a fascinating picture of life in an infantry regiment in the years after the Napoleonic Wars, and depicting how a young observant Jew coped with army life. Loewenstein writes that he had to walk from his home in Munster to Luxembourg for basic training in 1820.

David Stern, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, has two books in press that will be published this coming spring: *The Monk's Haggadah: A Fifteenth-Century Illuminated Codex from the Monastery of Tegernsee*, with a prologue by Friar Erhard von Pappenheim, and *Jewish Literary Cultures: The Ancient Period*, the first of three volumes of Stern's collected essays. He is completing *The Jewish Bible: The Material Histories of the Torah Scroll and the Hebrew Bible as a Book*. During the 2013-14 academic year, Stern was a Penn Faculty Fellow at the Penn Humanities Forum where he delivered a paper on the burning of the Talmud and other acts of violence against Jewish books. In addition, Stern published articles and essays in *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer*, *Ars Judaica*, *The Report of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies*, and *Kerem*, and delivered lectures at UCLA, The Foundation for Jewish Studies, Moscow State University, and the World Congress of

The Jewish Studies Program

FACULTY

Jewish Studies. Stern continues to serve on the Executive Board of the American Academy for Jewish Research, and directed the Manfred Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book for the fourteenth year. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the new Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow, and will participate this fall in the Global Forum of the National Library of Israel.

Liliane Weissberg, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science and Professor of German and Comparative Literature, spent the summer of 2013 as a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in Munich, Germany. In the fall, she divided her teaching schedule between Penn and the ETH Zurich, where she served as a Visiting Professor in Jewish culture and history of science. In late spring and summer 2014, Weissberg was a Humboldt Research Award Visiting Professor at the University of Stuttgart, and did research at the German Literary Archives in Marbach. She was a co-sponsor of the summer school at the German Literary Archives in Marbach (2013), and participated in the summer schools of the University of Graz in Bad Aussee, Austria (2013, 2014) and Seggau Castle, Austria (2014). Weissberg lectured widely in the U.S. and Europe and published on Sigmund Freud, Fritz Bauer, Hannah Arendt, and many other Jewish writers and intellectuals; she also served as a discussant for the Jewish Film Festival in Philadelphia. Her book/catalog *Über Haschisch: Gershom Scholem, Siegfried Unseld und das Werk*

von Walter Benjamin (2012) is due to appear in Italian translation.

Beth S. Wenger, Professor of History, serves as Chair of Penn's History Department. She spent the 2013–14 academic year as Convening Head Fellow at the University of Michigan's Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies whose fellowship group focused on "New Perspectives on Gender & Jewish Life." Her anthology, co-edited with Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet and titled *Gender in Judaism and Islam:*



Dr. Arthur Kiron, showing students in Prof. Beth Wenger's American Jewish Experience course items from the new Kaplan collection on the 6th floor of the Van Pelt Library.

Common Lives, Uncommon Heritage, will be published in the fall of 2014 by NYU Press. Wenger contributed an essay titled, "Did North American Jewry have an Early Modern Period?" to the recently published *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David B. Ruderman*. Other publications this year include essays in *Chasing Dreams: Baseball & Becoming American* (National Museum of American Jewish History, 2014), and *Why Jewish Women's History Matters: An Archive of Stories in Honor of Gail Reimer* (Jewish Women's Archive, 2014). Wenger delivered the Shaol & Louis Pozez Memorial Lecture at the University of Arizona, the Pearl A. and George M. Zeltzer Lecture at Wayne

State University, along with presentations at the University of Michigan and at the Association for Jewish Studies conference. Wenger serves as a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and of the Association for Jewish Studies. She continues her role as consultant to the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Julia Wilker is Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical Studies. Her research and teaching interests include Jews in the Greco-Roman World. In 2013-14, she spoke in Konstanz, Germany on concepts of royal succession under Herod the Great, in Berlin, on the Second Athenian League, and on hegemony at sea in the fourth century BCE. Wilker presented on women of the Hasmonean dynasty in a faculty works-in-progress seminar at Penn's Alice Paul Center, and on women at Herod's court at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, where she also served as a respondent in a session on Josephus. Her publications in 2013–14 included articles on the role of dynastic women in Hasmonean Judea and on concepts of sea power in late classical Greece. A co-edited volume on

Roman client kings in the series "Berlin Studies of the Ancient World" will be published later this year. Among her courses this year were graduate seminars on authors from the provinces of the Hellenistic and Roman empires, and modern scholarship on the Hellenistic period. Wilker will be on leave in 2014–15, to work on her book concerning women and dynastic rule in Hellenistic and Roman Judea. For this project, she has been awarded the Trustees Council of Penn Women Fellowship and the Margo Tytus Fellowship of the Classics Department at the University of Cincinnati for spring 2015.

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

The 2013–2014 Academic Year

The 2013–2014 Fellowship Program **“Constructing Borders and Crossing Boundaries: Social, Cultural, and Religious Change in Early Modern Jewish History”** ended with great fanfare, as it marked the final year of David Ruderman’s leadership. This in-depth intellectual celebration of the early modern period brought together scholars from around the globe to discuss the deep changes in Jewish culture between 1500 and 1800. It explored the seismic reverberations in Jewish life caused by advances in science, the advent of print, political and religious upheaval, expulsions, and changes in economic structures. As a place a separation and of contact, the idea of the boundary between technologies, peoples, and ideas lent itself to considerations of this dynamic era. This year’s volume collects some of the finest work of the fellowship, and is being edited by David Ruderman and Francesca Bregoli (Queens College). Ruderman edited the first CJS volume with David N. Myers (UCLA, and current *JQR* coeditor) in 1998, so this project is a fitting book-end. Fellows and invited scholars gathered at year’s end for a capstone colloquium, the twentieth annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies on April 29–May 1.

Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David B. Ruderman, edited by Richard I. Cohen, Natalie B. Dohrmann, Adam Shear and Elchanan Reiner, appeared in April from HUC/University of Pittsburgh Press. Among the contributors were Penn graduates Anne Oravetz Albert, Andrew Berns, Francesca Bregoli, J. H. (Yossi) Chajes, Yaacob Dweck, Benjamin Fisher, Debra Kaplan, Rebecca Kobrin, and Adam Shear—all at the moment teaching at various academic institutions in USA and Israel—as well as Penn faculty members, Roger Chartier, Talya

Fishman, and Beth Wenger, and a distinguished array of scholars from American, European, and Israeli universities.

On February 5, 2014, a day of study devoted to the *converso* legacy, was opened by a seminar called “Rethinking Early Modern Conversos: From ‘Potential’ or ‘Fuzzy’ Jews to Iberian ‘Non-Jewish Jews’” delivered by short-term fellow Claude B. Stuczynski (Bar-Ilan University). Prof. Roger Chartier responded to this as well as to the Meyerhoff Lecture (described on p. 6).

Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies attracted hundreds of people to venues throughout greater Philadelphia. The theme binding the 12 lectures was **“Moving into Modernity: The Shaping of Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe.”** The opening lecture took place at the National Museum for American Jewish History.

Taking Note: Scholars and Scholarship at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 1993–2014, is a history of the Center’s first two decades. It includes reflections by major figures, among them Penn president Amy Gutmann and Princeton historian Anthony Grafton, as well as many others. It is also a record of the Center’s accomplishments, including a complete list of all past fellows, topics, and publications of the Center in its life as part of the University of Pennsylvania, and is richly illustrated by numerous items from the library archives. The book in its entirety is available as an animated ebook, or can be downloaded as a PDF from the Katz Center website (katz.sas.upenn.edu).

We marked the publication of this booklet with a public event at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology on May 1, 2014. “Taking Note” was a roundtable discussion on the legacy of the Katz Center in its first 20 years and the place and role of academic Jewish studies in the decades to come. Panelists were Peter Stallybrass (Penn), Piet van Boxel (Oxford), Elsie R. Stern (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College), David N. Myers (UCLA), and Annette Yoshiko Reed (Penn). Penn historian Ben Nathans moderated.



A formal portrait of the first Ella Darivoff director of the Katz Center was commissioned by the Chair of the Board of Overseers, Tom Katz, and currently hangs on the 5th floor. It was presented to David Ruderman at his retirement dinner on April 30.



Incoming Katz Center Director Steven Weitzman (left) with Associate Director Natalie Dohrmann, past Board Chair Phil Darivoff, Elissa Ellant Katz and current Board Chair Thomas O. Katz at David Ruderman’s retirement celebration.



The 2014 spring fellows: (back row L to R) Anne Albert, Joseph Davis, Rebekka Voss, Francesca Bregoli, Fabrizio Lelli, Joseph Hacker, Robert Jütte, Theo Dunkelgrün, Yael Sela-Teichler, Lucia Raspe, Rachel Greenblatt, Richard Cohen, François Guesnet, Jesús de Prado Plumed; (seated L to R) Yossi Chajes, Israel Bartal, David Ruderman, Elchanan Reiner, Matt Goldish.

The 2014–2015 Academic Year

We look forward to welcoming the incoming 2014–2015 fellows—each of whom will bring new perspectives to the **Origins, Context, and Diffusion of the Academic Study of Judaism**. On March 3, 2015, Natalie Zemon Davis (University of Toronto), renowned historian, will be at the Katz Center as the first David B. Ruderman Distinguished Scholar, an endowment established this last year by the Board of Overseers as an enduring tribute to Prof. Ruderman’s contributions to the Center.

Please visit our website to learn more about the year.
(F) indicates fall semester only; (S) indicates spring semester only

Natalia Aleksion (S)

Touro College
Albert J. Wood Fellowship
Critical Followers: Polish Jewish Historians Look at *Wissenschaft des Judentums*

Andrew Berns

University of South Carolina
Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship
Italian Jewry, Changes in the Land, and the *Wissenschaft des Judentums*

Amos Bitzan

Stanford University
Was There a Jewish Historicism in the Nineteenth Century?

Clémence Boulouque (F)

New York University
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
Between *Wissenschaft* Mystique and Science of Mysticism: Elia Benamozegh and Kabbalah

Daniel Boušek (S)

Charles University, Prague
Robert Carrady Fellowship
Medieval Muslim Jewish Polemics and Nineteenth-Century Jewish Scholars

Andreas Brämer

Institute for the History of German Jewry, Hamburg
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship
A Science of Faith? *Wissenschaft des Judentums* in Nineteenth-Century Germany between Denominational Theology and Empirical Research

Yitzhak Conforti (S)

Bar-Ilan University
Ella Darivoff Fellowship
The Ethnic and Cultural Origins of Zionist Historiography: History, Memory, and Utopia

Michal Friedman (S)

Carnegie Mellon University
Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship
Recovering Jewish Spain: Politics, Historiography, and Institutionalization of the Jewish Past in Spain, 1845–1935

Chanan Gafni (F)

Ben Gurion University of the Negev and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
The Debate over the Oral Law in the Nineteenth Century

Hanan Harif (F)

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Primo Levi Fellowship
Shelomo Dov Goitein: Research, Ideology, and In-Between

Michael A. Meyer (F)

Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship
Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship
Dispersion/Diversion: Consequences of the Migration of Jewish Studies from Germany to America

Katalin Franciska Rac (F)

University of Florida
Ignaz Goldziher (1850–1921): Founder of Islamic Studies and Advocate of Modern Jewish Studies in Hungary

Annette Yoshiko Reed

University of Pennsylvania
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
Judaism and the Memory of the Apostles: Late Antique and Modern Perspectives on “Jewish Christianity” and the Pseudo-Clementines

Asher Salah (S)

Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem
Primo Levi Fellowship
The Science of Judaism and the Question of Jewish Reform in Nineteenth-Century Italy

Dorothea M. Salzer

University of Potsdam
Jody Ellant and Howard Reiter Family Fellowship
Bible Stories for Jewish Children in the Context of Haskalah and the *Wissenschaft des Judentums*

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Stefan Schorch

Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship
The Extent, Role, and Context of Samaritan Studies within the
Wissenschaft des Judentums

Dani Schrire

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship
Jewish Studies in Context: The Emergence of Jewish Folklore in
International Scholarly Networks

Mirjam Thulin

Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz, Germany
Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship
From Breslau to New York: Instituting Conservative *Wissenschaft des*
Judentums

Christian Wiese (S)

Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship
Wissenschaft des Judentums and Jewish Nationalism in the Late
Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Deborah Yalen (S)

Colorado State University
Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship
Forging a New “Empire of Knowledge”:
Soviet Jewish Scholarship during the Interwar Years

Irene E. Zwiep (F)

University of Amsterdam
Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship
Truth, Beauty, and the Jews: A Conceptual History of Nineteenth-
Century Jewish Historicism

Short Term Fellows

Jan Bremmer

University of Groningen

Natalie Zemon Davis

University of Toronto
David B. Ruderman Distinguished
Scholar

Noah Gerber

The Hebrew University of
Jerusalem

Susannah Heschel

Dartmouth College

David N. Myers

UCLA

Yael Sela-Teichler

The Open University of Israel

Adjunct Fellows

Bernard Dov Cooperman

University of Maryland

Marco Di Giulio

Franklin & Marshall College

Ismar Schorsch

Jewish Theological Seminary

2015–2016 Academic Year

The theme for the 2015–2016 academic year will be
**Jews Beyond Reason: Exploring Emotion, the
Unconscious and Other Dimensions of Jews'
Inner Lives.**

During its 2015–2016 fellowship year, the Katz Center will focus 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. The topic can be explored through various disciplinary perspectives such as history, literary criticism, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, art, and musicology. Relevant fellowship proposals might address any of the following topics:

- Emotions and feelings. Though rooted in neurological and physical responses, scholars recognize that emotions—like love, anger, anxiety, joy, fear, empathy, sympathy, sadness, desire, pain, and pleasure—are shaped by culture. What is there to be learned about emotions in Jewish cultural contexts?
- Sensation. Another area of research that engages fields such as art history, film studies, ethnomusicology, ethics, and literature is sensation, a topic that includes sight, sound, touch, or scent within Jewish cultural or artistic contexts.
- The nonrational within rationality itself. One of the projects associated with postmodernism is a critique of rationality, the exposure of its metaphysical foundations and blind spots. The year is open to research that explores nonrational dimensions of Jewish philosophy or other modes of rationality, including that which draws on new methods or theories to challenge the distinction between reason and nonrational dimensions of subjectivity/cognition.
- The unconscious. Interest in psychoanalysis continues to thrive, as does the deployment of psychoanalytic approaches to analyze literature and understand behavior. The center welcomes proposals that bridge Jewish studies and the study of psychoanalysis and its history.
- Mental illness. The idea of “madness” or mental illness in Jewish contexts approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.
- Imagination. What is the history of imagination in Jewish culture? How is the imagination understood within specific periods of history or by particular thinkers, and how does that history relate to the broader history of imagination? Also potentially relevant are studies of Jewish artists and their engagement with movements that emphasize the nonrational (Romanticism, Expressionism, etc.).

For full information, please see our website
(katz.sas.upenn.edu).

Judaica at Penn's Libraries

JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn continued to grow as an integrated unit within the University Libraries system under the management of **Arthur Kiron**, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections. Other full time staff of the Library at the Katz Center – are **Dr. Bruce Nielsen**, **Judith Leifer**, and **Josef Gulka, G'70**. And our newest arrival **Smadar Shtuhl**.

NEW COLLECTION GIFTS

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

The Moldovan Family Collection of Judaica

In the summer of 2014, Joseph and Susan Moldovan (both Class of 1976) presented to the Penn Libraries an extraordinary gift consisting of over 1,200 books, pamphlets, scrolls, graphic art and art reference works of Judaica. This collection was assembled by Joseph Moldovan with his late parents Dr. Alfred and Mrs. Jean Moldovan over the course of many decades and has been donated in their honor and memory. The Moldovan collection consists of over 600 *haggadot* dating from the 17th-20th centuries printed in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Ladino, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Yiddish. The largest portion is concentrated in the 19th and early 20th centuries emanating from over twenty different towns, cities, and countries. Many are beautifully printed and illustrated and most unusually include two *haggadot* printed in scroll form. The Moldovan Family collection also features dozens of liturgical works and specialized historical imprints. Among the more noteworthy items are: a Yiddish translation of the medieval chronicle *Sefer Yosipon*, printed by Moshe Katz, the important Prague Hebrew printer, in 1607; a number of early modern Christian Hebraist works, including Jacques Basnage's translation from Latin into French of Petrus Cunaeus' *Republic of the Hebrews*, which was printed in Amsterdam in 1713, as well as finely illustrated nineteenth-century texts, such as a red leather, gold-embossed and tooled German edition of Gustave Doré's illustrated Bible. Most significant, perhaps, is the Moldovan's visual collection of nearly 250 historical prints and engravings of rabbis, synagogues, family scenes, and depictions of Jewish ceremonies and costumes dating from the 17th–19th centuries, from Europe and the Ottoman empire. The Moldovan gift joins the Moldovan Family French Judaica collection donated in 2012, which together constitute a substantial boon to Penn's modern Jewish historical holdings.



An illustration of Lionel de Rothschild which appeared in *Vanity Fair* in 1877. From the Moldovan Family Collection of Judaica, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

The Alfonso Cassuto Collection of *Converso* Culture

The Alfonso Cassuto Collection of Iberian *Converso* culture was started in 1835 by Jehuda de Mordechai Cassuto (b. Amsterdam, 1808 – d. Hamburg, 1893) who acquired a sizeable library assembled in the 17th century by the Namias Family of Hamburg. The port city of Hamburg was home to an important branch of the Sephardic Diaspora in the

early modern period. Subsequent generations of the family greatly expanded the library. The present collection came to Penn partly by purchase and partly as a family gift. It belonged to Alfonso Cassuto, the Hamburg-born Jewish bibliophile and scholar, who immigrated with his family to Portugal 1933. Alfonso Cassuto (b. Hamburg, 1910 – d. Portugal, 1990) was a direct descendant of Jehuda de Mordechai. Alfonso's son Álvaro Cassuto, the distinguished composer, conductor, and music director of a variety of orchestras in Portugal as well as in the United States, worked with the Penn Libraries over the course of several years to realize this project.

One portion of the Cassuto collection at Penn was won at a series of three auctions in New York City organized by Daniel Kestenbaum, of the Kestenbaum and Company Judaica auction house. The auctions were held between February of 2011 and June of 2012. The remainder of the current collection at Penn was donated by the Cassuto family of Lisbon in the Spring of 2014.

The Alfonso Cassuto Collection consists of nearly 200 works in ten different languages, including rare printed books and manuscripts related to the early modern Portuguese Inquisition and to *Converso* culture generally. Among them: accounts of *autos da fe*, printed royal edicts, works of poetry and drama, philosophical and scientific treatises and medical publications, such as those by Jacob de Castro-Sarmiento which deal with mineralogy, zoology, botany, smallpox, pharmacology, gravity and tides. Among the most significant, unknown manuscripts awaiting study and publication, is an essay about New Christians by the *Converso* physician Antonio Ribeiro Sanchez and an anonymous essay about the Toledo Edict. There are a number of important Hebrew works of biblical and liturgical nature, including prayers, hymns, and sermons from the community of the Azores Islands that returned openly to Judaism in the 19th century for the first time since the 15th century expulsions. The Penn Libraries and its Judaica Collections express our deep thanks to Álvaro Cassuto and the Cassuto family in Lisbon for their generosity and consideration in support of our scholarly mission of teaching and research.



Abraham Pereyra, d. 1699. *Espejo de la vanidad del mundo* Title page. *En Amsterdam : En casa de Alexandro lanse y a su costa*, Año 5431 [i.e. 1671]. From the Alfonso Cassuto Collection, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica

During the summer of 2014, Arnold and Deanne Kaplan presented an exceptional collection of 215 items of Atlantic Jewish business, religious, and political history to add to the Kaplan Collection they established at Penn in 2012. This new group encompasses an astonishing range of geographical locations: at least forty-four distinct cities, towns, and/or western territories, including New Spain (Mexico), the Idaho Territory, and London, England. The earliest document in the group dates from 1666, the latest to 1915 – a span of nearly two-hundred fifty years. While the majority of the material is concentrated in the nineteenth century, there are also a number of important 18th century printed pamphlets relating to political rights and Jewish emancipation. Among the diverse types of materials are manuscript letters, printed pamphlets, broadsides, and books, including the first American printing of Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise*, printed in Philadelphia in 1838. There are also art works such as an oil painting of an early nineteenth-century Dutch Sephardic Jewish family named Naar, made in New York. This painting will join other three-dimensional objects on long-term loan to the National Museum of American Jewish History, thanks to a special partnership between the two institutions. Additional visual and graphic arts items

Judaica at Penn's Libraries

include stereo and cabinet photographs, trade cards, a silk political ribbon, sheet music, and a veteran's medal from the Grand Lodge of MA. There also are dozens of billheads, bonds, deeds, receipts, notes payable, and a contract for sale of a slave. Among the diverse types of businesses in which Jews were engaged documented here are: clothing, dry goods, furniture, gloves, hosiery, insurance, jewelry, mining, precious metals, shoes, tobacco, wine and spirits.

Lachs Holy Land Map Collection

Dr. Phyllis Lachs has donated twenty-three fine antique maps of the Holy Land and views of Jerusalem. These works, which date from the mid-16th through the mid-19th centuries, feature some of the leading cartographers and printers of the early modern world, including Anville, Blaeu, Bonfrere, Braun and Hogenberg, Calmet, Chatelaine, De Wit, L'Isle, Ortelius, Reland, Sanson, Seutter, and Stoopendaal. All but three of the maps are hand-colored and many of the engravings were made using copper plate printing. Among the diverse places of printing represented are: Amsterdam, Antwerp, Augsburg, Koln, Leiden, Paris, Philadelphia, and Utrecht. In conjunction with the gift of the maps came a collection of ca. 1,500 volumes of books and visual items, including five framed postcards, a rare German printed leaf with a view of ancient Chaldea modeled anachronistically on an early modern European walled city, and a three-dimensional Hebrew clock illustrated by twelve painted scenes modeled on the Chagall stained glass windows at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.



From the Lachs Holy Land Map Collection, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

Mark Podwal's Holocaust Art Portfolio "All this has come upon us"

The Penn Libraries were honored to receive a special gift from Penn alumnus Ken Stein, to purchase one of the numbered sets of the highly acclaimed Holocaust Art portfolio of prints of painting and drawings by Dr. Mark Podwal entitled "All this has come upon us." This series of forty-two original art works was exhibited at the Terezin Ghetto Museum in 2014. They have been published as archival pigment prints (giclee prints) with each set, individually signed by the artist, housed in a clamshell archival case. Drawing upon the description of Jews as the "People of the Book," each artwork in the series resembles an individual page of a book. "Page after Page," according to Podwal, "illuminates the saying that 'Misfortune seldom misses a Jew.'" The artist pairs images of post-biblical tragedies and injustices with biblical verses taken from the Book of Psalms. For example, he draws upon the fifth century Church Father, Augustine, who interpreted Psalm 59, verses 12-13 as offering guidance for Christian treatment of Jews. Similarly, Podwal shows the Spanish Inquisition's coat of arms, which quotes Psalm 74:22; "Rise up, God, and defend Your cause; remember how fools mock You all day long." Visual metaphors portray historical scenes of sorrow. Podwal provides multiple unexpected juxtapositions. "... Goose-stepping Germans (who) carry away a menorah (just) as the Romans do ... [to] a frieze on the Arch of Titus"; "The Roman she-wolf, a menorah in its jaws, is (depicted) on an imagined Roman coin"; "a monstrous skull has tombstone teeth denoting the Black Death"; "a matzah moon shines bright in a blood red sky over Polná, town of an 1899 Blood Libel"; "a yellow star, mandated by the Nazis is sewn not

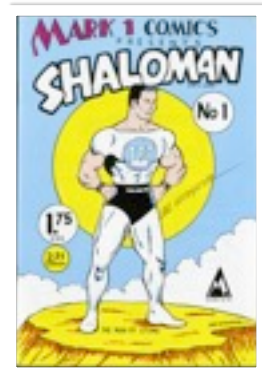
with thread but with barbed wire." "Psalm 13:3 asks, 'How long shall my enemy dominate me?'" Prague's Jewish Town Hall Hebrew clock has hands, writes Podwal, because "domination can be measured in time, [while]... the Roman numerals clock, with no hands, implies that domination is immeasurable." Podwal's calligraphy occasionally offers its own commentary: "Barbed wire is drawn across Psalm 74:7, as if imprisoning the Hebrew, to symbolize the Jews arrested following Kristallnacht"; "A verse from Psalm 126, the psalm almost chosen as Israel's national anthem, proclaims, 'Those who plant with tears will harvest in joy.'"

Gift by Al Wiesner of his Comic Book Series *Shaloman*

The Penn Libraries are delighted to announce the gift of an entire Judaica comic book series, *Shaloman*, by author, graphic artist and Philadelphia native, Al Wiesner. The complete four volume set plus sequels includes an authenticated, certified copy of the first issue. The super hero Shaloman is known for being "Faster than a speeding latke! Able to

leap tall blintzes in a single round! It's *Shaloman*, the defenseless! The kosher crusader aids the oppressed."

Shaloman "blends a Jewish superhero with exciting tales that combine time travel, ultra sci-fi with adventure. Some issues deal with Hebrew lore and mystery. Some stories are as up-to-date as laser-controlled robots..." The *Shaloman* series is a welcome and important addition to the Penn Libraries' significant collections of comic books and graphic novels.



Cover page of *Shaloman*, no. 1. University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

"Going...Going...Gone: Buying and Selling Rare Judaica" Penn Libraries Orrery Society Event held at

Kestenbaum & Co. Auction House in New York City

On Thursday evening, November 7, 2013, the Penn Libraries partnered with the Kestenbaum & Company Auctioneers of Rare Books, Manuscripts and Fine Arts House in New York City to present a behind-the-scenes look at the auctioning and acquisition of rare Judaica. The program format featured Daniel Kestenbaum, the founder and Director of Kestenbaum & Co., being interviewed by Penn's Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections. The discussion focused on subjects like: What makes an item "rare?" How is value ascribed? What role does the auction house play as a cultural broker in the world of Jewish learning? what drives the Penn Libraries' collecting interests in Judaica? How do auction opportunities impact scholarship at the University? The well-attended event was sponsored by the Penn Libraries' Orrery Society and organized under the leadership of the Society's co-chairs: Kimberly Hirschman, W'87, and Marilyn Weitzman Kahn, CW'68, G'69. The Society was established to expand University and alumni awareness of the importance that the Libraries' collections play in helping Penn achieve its scholarly mission. It also increases the Libraries' digital and print collections through the establishment of acquisition funds, annual gifts in support of collections, and gifts of in-kind collections.

Judaica at Penn's Libraries

Exhibition of the Kaplan Collection

From February 12, 2014, through June 9, 2014, a special exhibition "Constellations of Atlantic Jewish History: The Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica" was on display in the Goldstein Gallery at the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts at the Penn Libraries. The Kaplan Collection, donated to Penn in November of 2012, consists of over 11,000 individual items that document an astonishingly broad range of commercial, social, religious, political, and cultural ties that connected Jews and the general public from the colonial era through the onset of mass migration at the end of the nineteenth century. The exhibition, mounted in partnership with the National Museum of American Jewish History, featured a treasure trove of original documents. Among the earliest items in the Collection is a late 16th-century codex of the proceedings of the Inquisition in Mexico City against a New Christian and engraved maps dating from the 17th and 18th centuries which mark Jewish permanent settlements in the New World. A major component of the Kaplan exhibition focused on the development of Jewish mercantile, social and religious activity in the Americas of the 19th century.

Kaplan Exhibition Companion Volume Published

Thanks to the generosity of the Kaplans, a companion volume accompanied the mounting of the Kaplan Exhibition, called, *Constellations of Atlantic Jewish History: The Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica* by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries (2014). This volume, beautifully designed by Andrea Gottschalk at the Penn Libraries, was printed in three formats – a numbered, deluxe edition of fifty copies, a hardback edition, and soft paper version. The publication represents several years of dedicated work on the part of numerous Penn Libraries staff and faculty and the participation of four distinguished scholars of early American Jewish History: Dianne Ashton, Aviva Ben-Ur, Adam Mendelsohn, and Jonathan Sarna. The companion volume contains a detailed checklist of the Kaplan items displayed during the physical exhibition. It will be put on-line in the near future.

Kaplan Collection Symposium

In conjunction with the Kaplan exhibition, the Penn Libraries convened a one-day public symposium on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, in the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts, 6th floor of the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center. It consisted of four sessions, the first on "Space and Time in the Atlantic Jewish World" chaired by David Ruderman (University of Pennsylvania). Aviva Ben-Ur (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) spoke on the topic of "Atlantic Jewish History: A Conceptual Reorientation" and Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University) presented a paper on "Marking Time: Notes from the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica on How 19th-Century American Jews Lived Their Religion." The second session, "Making a Living - The Business of Being Jewish in America" was chaired by Lila Corwin Berman (Temple University). Adam Mendelsohn (College of Charleston) delivered a paper entitled "A Covenant of Commerce: The Business of Jews in America" and Dianne Ashton (Rowan University) gave a paper about "The Kaplan Collection of Victorian Trade Cards." The third and final session took the form of a roundtable about "Atlantic Jewish History and Future Research." This session was chaired by Michael Zuckerman (University of Pennsylvania). The panelists were Melissa R. Klapper (Rowan University), Josh Perelman (National Museum of American Jewish History), and Lance Sussman (Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel Congregation).



Rosenbaum's Store & Rail-Road House, Clay St. S.F. as they appeared after the Earthquake Oct. 21st 1868. From the Kaplan Collection, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

News from the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Sound Archive

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the gifting of the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Sound Archive to the University of Pennsylvania Libraries. In the years since its extraordinary database of over 35,000 tracks was made public, the Archive has become the go-to destination for scholars, musicians, students, and members of the public interested in Jewish sound recordings. Since 2002, the Freedmans, assisted by RA Friedman and support staff, fielded over 2,500 public service contacts. During the last fiscal year (FY14), 98 contacts were processed. Among the most exciting recent gifts to the Freedman Jewish Sound Archive were approximately two hundred 78 rpm instrumental recordings of Eastern and Central European folk dances, a genre which had been missing from the collection. Another treasure came into the collection thanks to Barbara Moskow, a classically trained opera soprano who donated her recordings of Yiddish art songs, a compilation of CDs, and an impressive collection of sheet music. Barbara has also authorized the reproduction of her recordings without compensation, and has permitted their release on the internet. Another boon to the collection comes from the Freedmans themselves who travel the world to locate and bring home Jewish sound records. In the last year, they obtained twelve CDs and seven DVDs for the Archive. In the last year, a friend and supporter of the archive brought from Israel five Yiddish DVDs produced for Israeli television that are now incorporated in the collection. The Archive now boasts a world class collection of over 300 Judaica DVDs in various languages. The work of the Freedman Archive extends beyond the doors of the Penn Libraries into the classroom and public lectures, many delivered by Bob, the Curator of the Freedman Archive. Most recently Bob and Molly attended "Yidstock" at the National Yiddish Book Center, in Amherst Massachusetts. One of the Klezmer troupes who performed there – the New Klezmer Yiddish Orchestra – also performed at Penn on September 7th 2014 in an overflowing celebration in Bodek Lounge in Houston Hall. The event, co-sponsored by the Penn Libraries and Penn's Jewish Studies Program, marked the Archive's fifteenth anniversary at the University.

New Katz CAJS/Library Web Exhibit! The Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a beautiful virtual exhibit "Constructing Borders & Crossing Boundaries: Social, Cultural, & Religious Change in Early Modern Jewish History." <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows14/>

The National Museum of American Jewish History

Internships

For seventeen years, Penn students have gained hands-on experience in Jewish history by serving as interns at the National Museum of American Jewish History on Independence Mall (NMAJH). Under the supervision of **Prof. Beth Wenger**, students study artifacts and prepare background for exhibitions. They receive Independent Study credit, either in the Department of History or in the Jewish Studies Program. Two undergraduates — **Emily Brewer, C'15**, and **Sara Zimmerman, C'14** — participated in the internship program at the museum last year. Since the summer of 2012, Penn's Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) also began sponsoring a paid summer internship at the National Museum of American Jewish History as part of its internship programs in the humanities. Undergraduates **Alexa Levy, C'16**, and **Michael Rosenberg, C'15**, served as museum interns in the summer of 2014.

Lecture Series

The Penn Jewish Studies Program has just concluded a three-year collaboration with the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH), thanks to a gift from the Arlene and Stanley Ginsburg Family Foundation. The series was designed to draw connections between key themes in American Jewish history and broader dimensions of American history and culture. The programs sponsored each semester for three years brought leading scholars to the Museum and the Penn community, and fostered provocative dialogue and discussion. We thank the Ginsburg Family for their generosity and support. A list of programs in the series follows:

Getting Ahead: Immigrants, Business, and Ethnic Identity

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Beth S. Wenger, Chair of the History Department, Director of the Jewish Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania; NMAJH Founding Historian (Moderator);
Hasia Diner, Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History; Director of the Goldstein Goren Center for American Jewish History, New York University;
Jennifer Lee, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine;
Diane Vecchio, Professor of History, Furman University.

Religion & Politics: Faith, Democracy, and American Public Life

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Jane Eisner, editor in chief of *The Jewish Daily Forward* (Moderator);
John J. Dilulio, Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society, Faculty Director & Co-Chair of the Director's Advisory Group, Robert A. Fox Leadership Program, University of Pennsylvania;
E.J. Dionne, Jr., Senior Fellow, the Brookings Institution; Opinion Writer, *The Washington Post*; Professor, Georgetown University;
Sarah Barringer Gordon, Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania.

Dialogues & Divergences: The Ongoing Evolution of Black-Jewish Relations in America

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Sara Lomax-Reese, President and General Manager of WURD Radio in Philadelphia (Moderator);
Dr. Cheryl Greenberg, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of History at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut;



(from left): Joseph Berger, Jennifer I. Rodríguez, Mae Ngai, and Tamar Jacoby at "Who Should be an American? The Past and Future of Immigration Policy" on October 3, 2013.

Dr. John L. Jackson, Jr, Richard Perry University Professor of Communication and Anthropology, Senior Advisor to the Provost on Diversity, and the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the Annenberg School for Communication and School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.

Who Should Be an American? The Past and Future of Immigration Policy

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Joseph Berger, Author; Metropolitan Reporter, *The New York Times* (Moderator);
Tamar Jacoby, President and CEO, ImmigrationWorks USA;
Mae Ngai, Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies and Professor of History, Columbia University;
Jennifer Rodríguez, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, City of Philadelphia.

Remembering Tragedy: Commemoration and Memorialization in America

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Ivy L. Barsky, NMAJH Chief Executive Officer and Gwen Goodman Director (Moderator);

Alice M. Greenwald, Memorial Museum Director for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum;
James E. Young, Director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Why Does Jewish History Matter to American History?

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Beth S. Wenger, Chair of the History Department, University of Pennsylvania; NMAJH Founding Historian (Moderator);
Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History and Director, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan;

Thomas J. Sugrue, David Boies Professor of History and Sociology and Director of the Penn Social Science and Policy Forum, University of Pennsylvania.



From left: Dr. James E. Young, Alice M. Greenwald, Stanley Ginsburg, Arlene Ginsburg, Beth S. Wenger, Ivy L. Barsky at "Remembering Tragedy" on April 27, 2014.

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