

JEWISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

The Jewish Studies Program (JSP)

is an interdisciplinary academic group with over twenty faculty members drawn from nine departments that coordinates all courses relating to Jewish Studies in the University. Through this design, the JSP integrates the riches of Jewish culture and history into the humanities and social sciences. Faculty members associated with the Program teach an average of 400 undergraduate students per year.

Undergraduates may declare a major or a minor in Jewish Studies. Graduate students in different departments and schools at Penn convene conferences and reading groups within the Jewish Studies Program. The Community: Numerous JSP-sponsored events per year are open to the broader community at Penn and in the Philadelphia area.



“Old man walking” Illustration by Isaac Ber Ryback. *Mon Village* (Paris: [n.p.], ca. 1960-1970) no. 8 of 250. The only color publication of Ryback’s art work. Acquired by the Penn Libraries in partnership with Penn’s Jewish Studies Program, thanks to the generosity of Annette Freund. Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

The Herbert D. Katz

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

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

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Greetings from the Director, Jewish Studies Program

From my vantage point at the end of the Fall 2017 semester, I look back to celebrate some of the highlights of the rich array of some twenty events and programs that took place in the Jewish Studies Program last year, in 2016-2017.

We anchored our programming in the fall and the spring with two outstanding events on hybridity in Jewish music and voice. In Fall 2016, for the Alexander Colloquium, Walter Feldman, a pioneering scholar and musician in the revival of klezmer music, revealed how klezmer music developed in Jewish Eastern Europe from unexpected sources, fusing synagogue prayers, Western European dance tunes, Baroque classical melodies, and the songs of Ottoman Turkey. In Spring 2017, as the Silvers Visiting Scholar, Hana Wirth-Nesher spoke on the role of accent in Jewish American writing, from Yiddish-speaking immigrant writers to contemporary authors who are creating a new Jewish American voice. The annual Kristallnacht Commemoration lecture, cosponsored with Germanic Languages & Literatures, was given by Nancy Sinkoff on the late Holocaust historian Lucy Davidowicz.

As in previous years, the range of lectures sponsored by Jewish Studies awakened the mind and pleased the spirit, while addressing some of the pressing issues in the today's world. Visiting scholars spoke on matters of Israel and the Middle East, such as Zionism within the PLO and peace after the peace process, as well as on representations of the Holocaust in Leah Goldberg's Hebrew play. We screened a new film based on Amos Oz's memoir, and spoke with the producer/editor by Skype. National politics brought forth several panels—one on the relationship between religion and public life in the aftermath of the 2016 election, and several roundtables and symposia on how to understand current events in terms of history, "Inglorious Comparisons: On the Uses and Abuses of Historical Analogy" and "Collective Memory and the Historical Past." The 2017 centenary of the Russian Revolution occasioned a panel on how 1917 changed the world. A panel at Penn Law School addressed "The Role of Religion in a Changing Landscape," while another event there focused on "Rabbinic Constitutionalism in the Talmud." Theology and political thought joined forces in a lecture to illuminate the question, "Is Man a Sabbatical Animal?" Yet another lecture explicated the Talmudic traces within Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling. We heard about the complexity of religion within one contemporary Jewish family in "On and Off the Derech: Turning Towards and Away from Ultra-Orthodox Judaism" and, in another talk, about the intersection of Jewish genealogy and history.

April was a most intellectually fruitful month. Jewish Studies hosted a symposium honoring our esteemed colleague, "Dan Ben-Amos: Fifty Years of Folklore at Penn," which featured a roundtable of distinguished faculty, all Penn alumni who wrote dissertations under the guidance



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of Professor Ben-Amos, and two keynote speakers, from Tel Aviv and from New York/ Warsaw. A few days later, scholars, poets, and translators from Penn and other US and European universities convened for a two-day Jewish Studies graduate student conference titled, "(Un)Witnessable: Holocaust in the East."

As in each of the past seventeen years, Jewish Studies hosted the annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book, at which scholars, librarians, and collectors studied "Collecting Hebrew Books from the Medieval Period to the Modern Era."

Jewish Studies has been fortunate to collaborate with many departments and programs at Penn to bring such a wealth of scholarship to our students, faculty, and the wider community. Our partners last year included: the Departments of Art History, Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Political Science, Religious Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures; the Programs of Cinema Studies and of Comparative Literature; the Center for Italian Studies, the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the Middle East Center, the Penn Law School, as well as the National Constitution Center, the National Museum of American Jewish History, and the American Jewish Historical Society.

I am grateful to be working with Steven Weitzman, director of the Katz Center to develop our many projects that connect the JSP and the Katz Center.

With best wishes for 2018,

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

Greetings from the Director, Katz Center

In the current academic year, the Katz Center aims to bridge the divide between the humanities and the sciences by focusing its fellowship program on “Nature between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World.” Mindful that society in general is having to rethink its relationship to nature, our goal is to illumine how science and religion have shaped how Jews understand, imagine and interact with nature.

As in the past at the Katz Center, the year includes historians and textual scholars from the U.S. Israel and Europe, bringing them together with scholars from fields like anthropology and Jewish philosophy for a year that explores the history of medicine, genetics, environmental studies, and the intersections of science and mysticism, among many other subjects. We are excited that the theme gives us a chance to connect Jewish Studies to larger scholarly conversations through connections with faculty from the History of Science department and collaborations with organizations like the Chemical Heritage Foundation and the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

Thanks to our director of public programs, Anne Albert, the Katz Center is running programs for the community focused on Jews and nature. Plans include a lecture by writer Rebecca Goldstein on science and mysticism and a program on new research in the genetics of the Jews. See our website for updated information.

In addition to its fellowship program, the Katz Center is also moving ahead with its efforts to incubate new research. Thanks to the creative leadership of associate director Natalie Dohrmann, the center has continued its collaboration with the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, enlisting Parisian scholar Alessandro Guetta to undertake a study of a rare manuscript in the institute’s collection and run a virtual seminar with graduate students from around the world.

In partnership with Professor Elisheva Baumgarten of the Hebrew University, the center continues its summer school for graduate students in Jewish Studies—this year with a Jerusalem-based program focused on the personal and the interpersonal Jewish history. The Katz Center also cosponsored a session at the World Congress in Jewish Studies in Jerusalem that explored the future of the Jewish Studies research institute, with the goal of laying the groundwork for a network of such centers.

On a more personal note, the past year had moments of sadness and joy that need to be acknowledged. The moments of sadness included the tragic loss of Professor Elliott Horowitz, co-editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and a scholar beloved for a unique combination of erudition, roving curiosity, and a willingness to think in creative and off-beat ways about Jewish history. The moments of joy included a chance to honor Tom Katz, chair of the Center’s board of overseers, for his leadership, dedication and



support. Among his innumerable contributions, Tom has been the force behind a partnership between the Center and CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, that aims to share the fruits of new Jewish Studies research with rabbis and the communities they lead. Another happy moment is the ascension of Ivan Ross as the next chair of the center’s board of overseers.

I have come to learn in my three years as director of the Katz Center that the future isn’t around the corner, it is always already here. We are already advertising for our 2018-19 fellowship year, “Jews in Modern Islamic Contexts,” planning our next summer school, and figuring out how to better serve graduate students. I thank the Jewish Studies program and its director Kathryn Hellerstein for being a generous-hearted partner, and look forward to working with her to make this year an intellectual feast in Jewish Studies for scholars, students and community members.

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

Courses

Fall 2017

JWST031 - Beginning Yiddish I
 JWST051 - Elementary Modern Hebrew I
 JWST052 - Elementary Modern Hebrew II
 JWST053 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
 JWST054 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV
 JWST059 - Hebrew Conversation & Writing
 JWST100 - Jewish Political Thought & Action
 JWST122 - Religions of the West
 JWST126 - Introduction to Jewish Mysticism
 JWST130 - American Jewish Experience
 JWST132 - History of God
 JWST136 - Death and the Afterlife
 JWST151 - Gender and Family in Talmud
 JWST154 - Image of Haifa and Other Cities
 JWST171 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 JWST173 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
 JWST201 - Jewish History and Memory
 JWST231 - Studies in Ladino
 JWST259 - Hebrew Short Story
 JWST261 - Jewish American Literature
 JWST262 - Representations in the Holocaust
 JWST335 - Muslims, Christians, Jews
 JWST380 - Modern Jewish Intellectual & Cultural History
 JWST438 - Readings in Modern Yiddish Literature

JWST471 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
 JWST473 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I

Spring 2018

JWST032 - Beginning Yiddish II
 JWST051 - Elementary Modern Hebrew I
 JWST052 - Elementary Modern Hebrew II
 JWST053 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
 JWST054 - Intermediate Modern Hebrew IV
 JWST059 - Food in Israeli Culture
 JWST102 - Jewish Humor
 JWST131 - How to Read the Bible
 JWST151 - Talmudic Perspectives in Context
 JWST154 - The Founders of Israeli Literature
 JWST156 - Jews and Judaism in Antiquity
 JWST172 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew II
 JWST174 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II
 JWST213 - The Religious Other
 JWST214 - Re-Reading the Holocaust
 JWST231 - Studies in Ladino
 JWST320 - Spirit and Law
 JWST359 - Many Voices of Israel
 JWST410 - The Song of Songs
 JWST582 - Walter Benjamin
 PSCI398 - International Politics & Arab-Israeli Conflict



Languages

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

Yiddish Since 1993, Penn's Yiddish Language Program, has offered four semesters of coursework in Yiddish language to develop students' skills in communication, comprehension, reading, and expression, both oral and written. Cultural materials, including songs, literature, journalism, film, theater, and web-based digital resources, are integrated into the curriculum. A fifth semester course, taught in Yiddish, offers students the opportunity to apply and further hone their skills by reading, writing, listening, and speaking about Yiddish literature and culture. In 2016-2017, the Yiddish Language Program offered four courses: Beginning Yiddish I and II taught by **Alexander (Sender) Botwinik**, and Intermediate Yiddish I and II, by **Kathryn Hellerstein**. Hellerstein also taught courses that include Yiddish texts in English translation: *Women and Jewish Literature* and *Translating Cultures*. Enrichment activities included a lecture and concert by Botwinik, and distinguished musical guests, on Yiddish Holocaust songs composed by his father, Cantor David Botwinik, an event organized by the Intermediate Yiddish students, sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program Bassini Interns, and mentored by German graduate student Tom Tearney. The intermediate students also attended a session on Yiddish theater and political songs, offered by Bob Freedman, curator of the Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Sound Archive at the Penn Libraries Special Collections. The 2017 Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies at Penn was awarded to Alexander Eisenthal. Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes went to Max L. Alper, Palmer Z. Paul, Adam Sax, Murray Skolnick, and Sophia Weinstein.

Ladino

For the last six years, the Jewish Studies Program has offered a course in Ladino, also known as Judeo-Spanish. Taught by visiting lecturer **Daisy Braverman**, this course broadens Penn's instruction in Jewish languages and links our Program to Penn's Language Center.

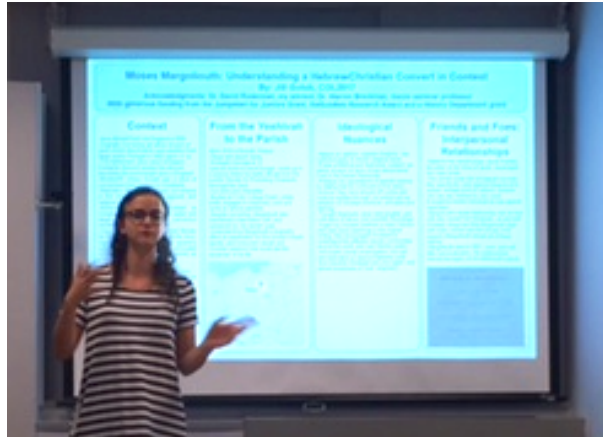
Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Student Research

On April 27, 2017, students and faculty attended an event to learn about—and celebrate—original research in Jewish Studies produced by five College seniors. They completed their research under the supervision of different Jewish Studies faculty members.

Liza Bernstein (PSCI) — faculty director, Ian Lustick
“Israel and the Other Diaspora: Understanding the Emergence of the Palestinian Other through Israel's Relationship to Diaspora Jewry”

Hannah Fagin (HIST) — faculty director, Beth Wenger
“A Long, Hot Summer: The 1964 Columbia Avenue Race



Jill Golub, C'17, presented her research on Moses Margoliouth on April 27, 2017.

Riot and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia”

Jill Golub (HIST) — faculty director, David Ruderman
“Between Judaism and Christianity: The Intellectual Journey of Moses Margoliouth”

Sarah Samuels (HIST) — faculty director, Beth Wenger
“‘An Outstanding and Unusual Contribution’: The Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars”

Dalia Wolfson (COML) — faculty director, Kathryn Hellerstein
“The World *Evreiskii Mir* Curated: A Russian-Jewish Literary Encounter in Revolutionary Russia”

Bassini Internships in Jewish Studies

Under the guidance of Director Kathryn Hellerstein, Undergraduate Director Ronit Engel, and especially graduate student coordinators, Tom Tearney (Germanic Languages and Literatures), and Jordan Paul (NELC), students initiated and organized the following Bassini Internship events in 2016-2017:

Dalia Wolfson curated an exhibit of archival photos from the Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University.



From left, back row: graduate students Tom Tearney, Jordan Paul, Ariel Resnikoff. Front row: Syra Ortiz-Blanes, C'17, Dalia Wolfson, C'17, and Prof. Ronit Engel at an exhibit of archival photos from the Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge, curated by Bassini Intern Dalia Wolfson.



Alexander Botwinik (Penn) at the keyboard, with guest singer, John Packard.

Elizabeth Dunoff, organized a talk with Professor Yuval Jobano (Tel Aviv University and Katz Fellow) on “Democracy and Religious Pluralism in Israel.”

Yiddish students, **Alexander Eisenthal**, **Murray Skolnick**, and **Sophia Weinstein**, invited Alexander Botwinik, Penn Yiddish lecturer and music teacher, to present a concert of Yiddish songs composed by his father, Cantor David Botwinik, and released on the CD *From Holocaust to Life*. Lisa Willson (soprano) and John Packard (tenor) made guest appearances.

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.

Prizes and Honors

Moshe Greenberg Prize for Excellence in Hebrew: **Victor Adeleke**

Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies: **Tamar Rothstein**

Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies: **Alexander Eisenthal**

Winner, Samuel & Esther Goldin Endowment Award: co-winners: **Sarah Samuels** and **Logan M. Staller**

Honorable Mention, Samuel & Esther Goldin Endowment Award: **Hannah Fagin, Jill Golub, and Liza Bernstein**

Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes: **Max L. Alper, Palmer Z. Paul, Adam Sax, Murray Skolnick, and Sophia Weinstein**



Student Research Awards

Brenner Family Fund (Supported by the generosity of Raymond and Ruth Brenner; their sons, Adam Brenner, W'01; Gregory Brenner, W'99; and Jason Brenner, W'05.)

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg, doctoral candidate in the Department of History, used Brenner funds to attend the World Congress for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem in the summer of 2017, where she presented a paper on "Intellectual Networks in 16th-c. Ashkenaz: Responsa and the Rabbinic Republic of Letters."



Russian State Library and RGALI (Moscow).

Tom Tearney, doctoral candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, used the Brenner Funds to visit the Franz Werfel Papers at the Charles E. Young Library at UCLA for research on Werfel, a German-Jewish writer, who is the subject of Tom's dissertation.

Goldfein Scholarship Fund (Supported by the generosity of Phillip Goldfein, Robert Goldfein, and Doris Goldfein Cohen.)

Alisa Feldman, undergraduate major in Health and Societies, used Goldfein Funds to do fieldwork in Israel for her senior thesis, "Be Fruitful and Medicalize: IVF Risk Communication and the Politics of Assisted Reproduction in Israel."

Jordan Paul, doctoral candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, traveled to Israel to do a series of interviews with the Israeli author Ruth Almog, whose work figures prominently in her dissertation on 20th and 21st century Israeli writers.

Julia Stinchcomb, doctoral candidate in Religious Studies, used the funds to travel to the 8th Enoch Seminar Nangeroni Meeting in Florence, Italy, on "New Perspectives in the Study of Islamic Origins," where she presented a paper on "The Queen of Sheba in the Quran and Late Antique Midrash."

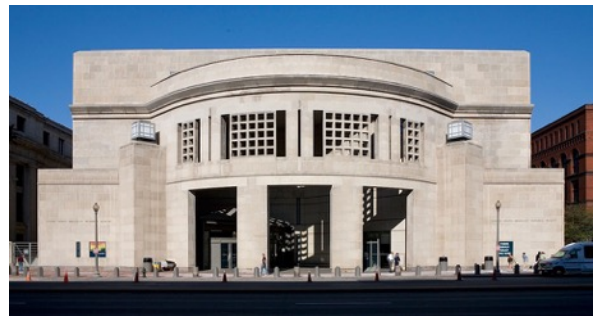
Julia Dasbach, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, benefitted from the Goldfein Fund support for her research trips to the United States Holocaust Museum and Memorial holdings of imaginative literature, for her dissertation, "Lyric Witness: Intergenerational Representation of the Holocaust in America."

Alexander Eisenthal, a doctoral candidate in the Department of English, was able to advance his skills in Yiddish language at the YIVO Uriel Weinreich Yiddish Summer Program, for his dissertation research on, "The Writer as Teacher: Abraham Cahan, Yiddish Socialism, and the Nationality of American Realism."

Louis Schwartz and Elaine Friedman Schwartz Memorial Award (Supported by the generosity of James E. Schwartz, C'78, and Susan L. Cohen)

Dalia Wolfson, undergraduate major in Comparative Literature, to fund her research trip to the archives of the Russian State Library and RGALI (Moscow) and the Russian National Library (St. Petersburg), in preparation for her honors thesis, "The World *Evreiskii Mir* Curated: A Russian-Jewish Literary Encounter in Revolutionary Russia."

Julia Dasbach, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, funded research trips to the United States Holocaust Museum and Memorial holdings of imaginative literature, for her dissertation, "Lyric Witness: Intergenerational Representation of the Holocaust in America."



United States Holocaust Museum and Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Graduate Studies

Falk Fellowship

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

The Falk Fellowship is one of the most valuable elements of the Jewish Studies Program at Penn. Because of Ed's foresight in establishing the Fellowship, Penn is able to ensure the future of Jewish Studies in America and to educate and produce the scholars and teachers of tomorrow.

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

Graduate Student Colloquium:

On April 26-27, 2017, graduate students throughout Penn and from other US and European universities convened for a two-day conference titled, "(Un)Witnessable: Holocaust in the East." The conference was organized entirely by Comparative Literature graduate student, **Julia Dasbach**. It consisted of three parts: 1) "A Reading of Contemporary Poetry and Prose Related to the Holocaust;" participants included well-known contemporary poets and writers, as well as Penn faculty and graduate students — Sam Sax, Taije Silverman, Judith Greenberg, Courtney Sender, Harriet Levin Millan, Kathryn Hellerstein, and Ariel Resnikoff; 2) Three panels, "Witnessing through the Arts," "Complicity and Perpetration," and "Vehicles of Memory," with Penn graduate student participants included those from Penn — Adam Sax, Pavel Khazanov, and Sam Stark — and visitors from Rutgers, Arizona State University, Klaipeda University, Emory, Illinois College, University of Kansas, University of Maryland College Park, Princeton, Old Dominion University, Washington State University, Clark University, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; and 3) The Keynote lecture, "Witnessing and Remembering the Holocaust in Belarus," presented by Professor Anika Walke (Washington University, St. Louis).



Penn Comparative Literature and Literary Theory Ph.D. student, Adam Sax, presenting his paper.



Conference organizer, Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach, reading an opening poem at "(Un)Witnessable: Holocaust in the East."



University of Kansas History Ph.D. student, Alana Holland, presenting her paper. Panel participants (l to r): Prof. Irena Grudzinska Gross (Princeton); History Ph.D. student Josh Klein (University of Maryland College Park); Prof. Robert Kunath (Illinois College); and Pavel Khazanov (University of Pennsylvania)

Graduate Student News

Sonia Gollance earned her doctorate in Germanic Languages and Literatures in May 2017. Her dissertation, "Harmonious Instability: (Mixed) Dancing and partner choice in German-Jewish and Yiddish Literature," analyzed the literary trope of Jewish mixed-sex dancing in German and Yiddish literature, a project supported by a Graduate Research Fellowship at the Center for Jewish History and a Completion Fellowship from the Association for Jewish Studies. Gollance gave presentations at Yale University, the Association for Jewish Studies conference, the Nineteenth Century Studies Association conference, the Center for Jewish History, the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival, and Yiddish New York. Her work appeared in *Austrian Studies* 24 and the edited volume *Freedom to Move: Dance as Cultural Manifestation*. In October 2017 she began a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Modern Jewish Studies at the University of Göttingen (Germany).

Ari M. Gordon is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, concentrating in the field of Arabic and Islamic Studies. His research uses ritual and sacred space as windows into the early history of Muslim-Jewish relations. Ari's dissertation explores these themes as they emerge in Islamic and Jewish orientation for prayer (towards Jerusalem and Mecca) in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. In the 2016-17 academic year, Ari presented his research at several conferences, including the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), a Research Meeting of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ) and "Spatial Thought in Islamic Societies 1000-1600: The Politics of Genre, Image and Text."

Marc Herman, defended his dissertation, titled "Systematizing God's Law: Rabbanite Jurisprudence in the Islamic World from the Tenth to the Thirteenth Centuries," in September 2016. His dissertation examined medieval Jewish legal theory and the ways that Jews took advantage of ideas found in Islamic legal theory to explain their own tradition. He is currently a research fellow at Lehigh University, and for the academic year of 2016-17 was the Rabin-Shvidler Joint Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies at Fordham University and Columbia University. He has forthcoming articles in the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and *Jewish History*. In the summer, he presented research at the Institut du Pluralisme Religieux et de l'Athéisme at the University of Nantes and at the Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies at Bar Ilan University.

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg is has spent the past academic year researching and writing her dissertation on the "Organization of Halakhic Knowledge in Early Modern Ashkenaz." She received an AJS Dissertation Completion Fellowship to complete and defend her dissertation in Spring 2018.

Alex Moshkin is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. His dissertation, "The Fourth Wave: Israeli-Russian Literature and Film 1989-2016," examines the institutions and works of literature and film that emerged in the course of the last 28 years in Russian and Hebrew languages by Israeli-Russian cultural producers. He was a 2015 Dean's Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania and a recipient of a BGI Research Grant from Brandeis University (2015), a

President Gutmann Leadership Award (2016), and a Brenner Research Award (2016). In 2016-2017, Alex was a fellow of STAB (School of Theory and Activism, Bishkek), participating in the theoretical program "Against Nature: Queer Theory, Science Fiction, and Contemporary Art"—one of the first Queer Studies initiatives in Central Asia.

Jordan Paul is a fourth-year doctoral student in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, specializing in Modern Hebrew Literature. She completed her coursework this past year, and is now embarking on an in-depth study of the late-life style of the "Generation of the State." To that end, she was the recipient of a Summer 2017 Goldfein Research Award from the Program in Jewish Studies, a grant which enabled her to conduct research interviews in Israel. Her interests also include the theory and practice of literary

translation, as well as the overt and covert effects of authorial multilingualism.

Ariel Resnikoff's is in the fourth year of his doctorate in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. This past year he designed & taught two courses, one on diaspora poetics & the other on the relationship between talk & text in modern/contemporary poetry. In the Spring of 2017 he was awarded a Deans Award for Distinguished Teaching, as well as the Ezra Pound Prize for Literary Translation from the university. His most recent scholarly & creative work can be found &/or is forthcoming in *Jacket2*, *Golden Handcuffs Review*, *Mantis* & *the Dibur Journal*.

Tom Tearney completed the fifth year of his PhD program in Germanic Languages and Literatures. He spent the past academic year completing his final comprehensive exams and he recently defended his prospectus. Tom is now writing his dissertation, "*Wege der Verheißung: Jewish and Catholic Thought in Franz Werfel's Work*," and conducted research at UCLA this summer. He also served as the graduate advisor for the Bassini Jewish Studies Internship Program. For 2017-2018, Tom received a Fulbright Research Fellowship to Austria, and is spending the year working in Vienna.

David Zvi Kalman is completing his dissertation on the rabbinic reception of mechanical devices. He published an article on the future of Jewish codes in Tel Aviv University's



Sonia Gollance (PhD Germanic Language and Literatures, 2017) with Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein on Commencement Day 2017.

law journal; he also spoke at the Jewish Law Association conference in Tel Aviv. For his research on the history of the grogger, published in *The Jewish Daily Forward*, David Zvi received a Simon Rockower Award from the American Jewish Press Association for excellence in Jewish journalism.

Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach served as the chief organizer of the Jewish Studies Graduate Student Conference, (Un)Witnessable: Holocaust in the East, a two-day event that brought together young and established scholars from across the country and Europe, and included readings of contemporary poetry and prose related to the Holocaust, academic panels, and a keynote address. Julia was also awarded the Goldfein Research Award, the Louis Schwartz and Elaine Friedman Schwartz Memorial Research Award, the summer Dissertation Research Fellowship, and for the

forth year in a row, the William Carlos Williams Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets for the best poem by a graduate student.

Jillian Stinchcomb finished the third year of her PhD program in Religious Studies by preparing for exams and completing her teaching assistant responsibilities. Her dissertation topic is the reception history of the Queen of Sheba in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic literature in the first millennium. She gave several talks at Yale, Barnard, and NYU on the Alphabet of Ben Sira, Targum Sheni Esther, and reception in Late Antiquity. One highlight was her presentation on the Queen of Sheba in the Qur'an and Late Antique Midrash presented at the Nangeroni Meeting in Florence, Italy, made possible with the support of Jewish Studies through the Goldfein Award.



Alumni News

Anne Oravetz Albert (PhD, History, 2008) is the Klatt Family Director for Public Programs at Penn's Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Managing Editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. She is completing a book on seventeenth-century Dutch Jewish politics.

Susan Marks (PhD, Religious Studies, 2003) writes on another hot summer day in Florida. Nevertheless these are exciting times for New College of Florida, where she is the Klingenstein Professor of Judaic Studies. The Florida legislature has decided to grow NCF by 50%, from 800 to 1200 students, with an appropriate number of new hires. As for her research, this past year, she was pleased to contribute to a *Journal of Ancient Judaism* theme volume on food and Qumran, "Reconsidering Reclining at Qumran," *JAJ* 7 (2016) 86-101.

Adam Shear (PhD, History, 2003) teaches at the University of Pittsburgh where he directs the Jewish Studies Program. Beyond Pitt, he is involved in a number of collaborative projects and endeavors that are helping shape the field of Jewish studies nationally and internationally. In the last year, he continued as co-director of the Footprints project, tracking movement of early modern Jewish printed books after publication (<https://footprints.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/>). He continues to serve on editorial boards for the University of Pittsburgh Press and Hebrew Union College Press. He also became co-editor of the *AJS Review* for a four-year term in summer of 2016 and joined the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in fall 2016. In 2017, he taught in the Hebrew University-Katz Center summer school in Jerusalem. Research and conferences in 2016-2017 took him to New York, Paris, St Andrews, Oxford, and Jerusalem. Penn connections and relationships continue to play a crucial role in all of this work and he is grateful not only for the wonderful graduate training but for the ongoing collaborations with Penn faculty and Katz fellows on a number of projects.



"Old woman knitting" Illustration by Isaac Ber Ryback. *Mon Village* (Paris: [n.p.], ca. 1960-1970). The only color publication of Ryback's art work. Acquired by the Penn Libraries in partnership with Penn's Jewish Studies Program.

David Shyovitz (PhD, History, 2011) celebrated two milestones in May 2017: he was promoted to Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies at Northwestern University; and his first book (*A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz*) was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in their Jewish Cultures and Contexts series. Over the course of the 2016-17 year, he delivered invited lectures in Berlin, Frankfurt, Jerusalem, New York, and Chicago.

Kerry Wallach (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) is Associate Professor of German Studies at Gettysburg College. She recently received tenure and became Chair of the Department of German Studies. Her first book, *Passing Illusions: Jewish Visibility in Weimar Germany*, was published in August 2017 by the University of Michigan Press. The book explores instances in the 1920s and early 1930s when Jewish visibility was concealed, revealed, or contested. Its introduction and conclusion discuss Jewish passing in comparative contexts with a focus on African American racial passing and queer passing.

Faculty

News

Dan Ben Amos, Professor of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Folklore, gave the Don Yoder Lecture in Religious Folklife and Folk Belief at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society, the keynote address at “Jewish Folklore in the 21st Century: An International Symposium,” and the Dorson Lecture at Indiana University, Bloomington Indiana. He guest edited a special issue of *Western Folklore*, in honor of Roger D. Abrahams, and published “The Brothers Grimm: Then and Now,” in *The Tale from the Brothers Grimm to Our Times: Diffusion and Study*. His book review of Wolfgang Mieder’s *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, appeared in *Folklore*.

Joseph Benatov is Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program. He teaches Hebrew courses at all levels. During the 2016-17 academic year, Dr. Benatov received the Fred and Ellen Lewis Joint Distribution Committee Archives research fellowship. He was also nominated for the Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award. He attended a Hebrew pedagogy conference at Yale University, and also presented his research at the Jewish Museum of Maryland; the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in New York; the Yiddish Cultural Festival at Haverford College; the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Philadelphia; and to audiences in Indianapolis; Chevy Chase, Maryland; and the Philadelphia area. Dr. Benatov participated in the yearly pedagogical symposium of the Penn Language Center and conducted summer archival work overseas. His ongoing research focuses on the history of the Sephardic Jewish communities of the Balkans.

Alexander (Sender) Botwinik is a Yiddish lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Botwinik teaches music and choir at Har Zion Temple and coordinates an annual choral youth *Zimria* (song festival). In January 2017, Alexander released a CD entitled “From Holocaust to Life – Yiddish Art Songs,” which comprises 15 songs by his father, composer David Botwinik. Alexander Botwinik gave a musical presentation in April 2017, organized by Penn Jewish Studies Bassini Interns, which featured a talk interspersed with selections from the new CD — some of

which were performed live by internationally acclaimed opera singers Lisa Willson DeNolfo and John Packard. Botwinik is now working on producing a second CD of his father’s music, featuring children’s songs.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, gave the annual Teshuvah Lecture at Congregation Or Zarua in New York, and taught Psalm 114 as poetry at Limmud Philly. He also finished the Genesis volume of the

Commentators’ Bible, completing the Pentateuch, and he chaired a panel about a possible new Jewish translation of the Bible at the National Museum of American Jewish History.

Isabel Cranz is Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Her area of specialization is the Hebrew Bible in relation to its ancient Near Eastern contexts. Her first book *Atonement and Purification: Priestly and Assyro-Babylonian Perspectives on Sin and its Consequences* was published by Mohr Siebeck, as part of the series *Forschungen zum Alten Testament II*. In the 2016-2017

academic year, Cranz produced two articles. The first, “Magic and Maledictions: Zechariah 5:1-4 in its ancient Near Eastern Context,” was published in *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*. The second, “Advice for a Good Doctor’s Visit: King Asa meets Ben Sira is forthcoming in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

Natalie B. Dohrmann is Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and coeditor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, and teaches in the departments of Religious Studies, History, and the Jewish Studies Program. Recent publications include an introduction to a reissue of Boaz Cohen’s *Jewish and Roman Law: A Comparative Study* (1966); “What is Jewish Law? – Jewish Legal Culture and Thought in Antiquity (5th c. BCE.– 7th c. CE),” in *A Companion to Jews and Judaism in the Late Antique World, 3rd Century BCE -7th Century CE*; and “Media and Rabbinic Literature (up to the mid 3rd c. CE)” in the *Dictionary of Biblical Media*. In May she delivered a talk, “Imperialism, Censorship, and the Rabbinic Library,” at the École Française in Rome, which will be published by the École Française in 2018. She taught in the Katz Center/Hebrew University Summer Institute for Graduate Students in Jerusalem in August.



Prof. Beth Wenger’s American Jewish History class visited the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan collection of Americana with Dr. Arthur Kiron in Fall 2017.

Ronit Engel is Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Director of the Modern Hebrew Language Program, and the Undergraduate Director for the Jewish Studies Program. Engel continues to serve on the Committee on Pedagogy of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) and was a member of the organization's 2017 International Conference Committee, held at NYU June 27-29, 2017. At Penn she is engaged in ongoing research into the application of electronic technologies to foreign language instruction. Some of the results of that research can be seen in the internationally-renowned website, Hebrew on the Web, which Engel continues to develop and expand from year to year. Her expertise was also featured in her review of the latest supplemental readings and exercises published by the Hebrew language unit of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in the *Journal of Hebrew Higher Education*. She was an active participant in a conference on Hebrew studies at Brown University and chaired a session on the theme of assessment at a national conference on Hebrew-language pedagogy held at Yale University. She also served as external evaluator for the Hebrew program at Hunter College.

Talya Fishman, Associate Professor of Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History of the Medieval and Early Modern Periods, gave four seminars in Paris, at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* during her sabbatical year. These lectures, and one at UCLA, were connected with her ongoing exploration of the cultural functions of certain illuminated Hebrew bibles of the late Middle Ages. At a conference of *L'Institut du Pluralisme Religieux et de l'Atheisme*, in Nantes, Fishman presented on "The Place of Custom in the Legal Systems of Medieval Jews: A Historical Investigation of Regional Differences," and at the Annual Conference of Intellectual History, in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, she delivered a paper entitled, "Jewish Discussions of Creed in the Era of Confessionalization." She discussed her research on "Masorah in Medieval Ashkenaz: Anchor, Mnemonic, Tool," at a conference on "Ashkenaz at the Crossroads of Cultural Transfer" in Frankfurt, and she was a respondent at a Jerusalem conference, "*Sefer Hasidim* in Context." She also completed the editing of a volume of invited essays, *Regional Identities and Cultures of Medieval Jews*, to be published by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization in 2018.

Nili R. Gold, Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Language and Literature, recently completed her book, *Haifa: City of Steps*, on architecture, literature and memory in the city of Haifa. It is illustrated by over thirty-five

photographs and six hand-drawn custom-made maps. Gold has also finished the manuscript of a revised Hebrew edition (not a translation) of this book, to be published in Israel in 2018. In addition, her 2008 poetic biography, *Yehuda Amichai: The Making of Israel's National Poet*, has been translated into Hebrew and adapted for Israeli readership. In the fall, Professor Gold presented the opening lecture at a conference in honor of the Israeli author Yoel Hoffmann at Doshisha University in Kyoto, to be published in 2018. She presented a different paper on his work at the National Association of Hebrew Professors Annual Conference in June in New York. In the spring semester, Professor Gold co-organized the annual Middle East Film Festival, featuring Natalie Portman's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, with the film's Israeli editor as a guest speaker.

Kathryn Hellerstein, is Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Ruth Meltzer Director of the Jewish Studies Program. Her book, *A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586-1987*, received the Modern Language Association 2015 Fenia and Yakov Leviant Prize

in Yiddish Studies at the 2017 MLA convention. Publications included two translations from the Yiddish: "Rachel," by Roza Yakubovitch, on the CD, *Women of Valor* (an oratorio on the stories of Biblical women), composed by Andrea Clearfield, performed by the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony (Albany Records, 2017), and "Shelter Me in A Leaf," by Kadya Molodowsky, in *Siddur Lev Shalem for Shabbat and Festival* (Rabbinical Assembly). Her own poem, "Today," came out in *Jewish Currents*. She lectured twice at Boston

University, on translating Yiddish poetry and on women poets changing the Jewish liturgy. She spoke on the South African/ Jewish American novelist, Rose Moss," for Universidad De Málaga, Málaga, Spain; and on "Jewish American Women Poets: Anthologists and Translators" at Shanghai International Studies University. She co-organized a workshop on "China and Ashkenazic Jewry: Transnational Encounters" at the Diane and Guilford Glazer Institute of Jewish and Israel Studies, Nanjing University, supported by the Penn China Research and Engagement Fund, and spoke on "The Metamorphosis of a Course: Translating Cultures" at Penn's Center for Teaching and Learning.

Arthur Kiron is the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, head of the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History at Penn. During the last academic year, he delivered conference papers at Oxford University, in Braganca, Portugal; and at the Association of Jewish Studies in NYC. He directs the



Emeritus Penn Prof. Samuel Klausner (seated) visited the Hebrew class of the Director of the Modern Hebrew Language Program, Prof. Ronit Engel.

Judaica Digital Humanities (DH) Lab at Penn, established in October of 2016, supervises four start-up Judaica DH projects and the Jesselson-Kaplan American Genizah project. He organized the 18th annual Katz Center-Library on-line exhibition “Expanding Jewish Political Thought,” and co-directed the 17th annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book. He supervised the curation of a new exhibition, “In Sight: Seeing the People of the Holy Land Photography,” and he continues to serve on the editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship* and on numerous other professional, academic, and communal advisory boards.



Penn Hillel panel looked at parallels between Trump’s travel ban and past restrictions on Jewish immigration in Feb 2017. l to r: Penn Jewish Studies professors: Ben Nathans (History), Liliane Weissberg (Germanic Languages & Literatures), Ian Lustick (Political Science), and Beth Wenger (History).

Ian Lustick Bess W. Heyman Chair in Political Science, took the side of the Latkes in the First Annual Latke-Hamentaschen Debate, sponsored by Chabad House at the University of Pennsylvania. His article, “Four Constructions of the Holocaust in Israeli Political Culture,” was published in April by *Contemporary Jewry*. The article was accompanied by four comments by scholars from a variety of disciplines. Among his lectures/paper presentations this year: “Chaim Gans’s *A Political Theory for the Jewish People* (European Association for Israel Studies, London); “Thinking about State Demise: Israel as a Case in Point,” (King’s College, London); “The Peace Process: Why so Much Process, so Little Peace?” (Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.); “Annexation as a Progressive Problem Shift” (Hebrew University, Jerusalem); and “The Balfour Declaration 100 Years Later: A Radically and Accidentally Relevant Document” (Association for Israel Studies Conference, Brandeis University). With Matthew Berkman, he also published a chapter in a Cambridge University Press book titled “Zionist Theories of Peace in the pre-State Era: Legacies of Dissimulation and Israel’s Arab Minority.”

Ibrahim Miari is Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program. He was invited by the Jewish Film Festival in Philadelphia to be a presenter for the

Israeli/Arab film *In Between*. After the film Miari held a Q&A with the audience. In April 2017, Miari was on a panel discussion and to present his one man show, “In Between,” at the International Conference on Israeli Art and Society, entitled “Israeli Artist in Conversation with Israel” at UC Berkeley. In October 2016, Miari participated in the Hebrew Pedagogy Seminar at Yale University. The seminar entitled: “Assessment as a Means of Enhancing Hebrew Acquisition.” In Summer of 2016 Ibrahim traveled to Providence, RI for the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH). An International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture. The conference took place at Brown University.

Benjamin Nathans, Associate Professor of History, is completing a book entitled *To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause: A History of the Soviet Dissident Movement*. He presented portions of his research to audiences at the Universities of Bremen and Tübingen (Germany), as well as at the University of Chicago, NYU, Georgetown, and the University of Southern California Law School. His essay “The Real Power of Putin” appeared in the *New York Review of Books*, was highlighted in the *New York Times*’ “What We’re Reading” column, and appeared in Polish translation in *Gazeta Wyborcza*. Nathans is also co-editor of the volume *From Europe’s East to the Middle East: Israeli Lineages*, based on scholarly conferences in Tokyo and Baltimore.

David B. Ruderman Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History, worked at Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main as the Alexander van Humboldt Research Award Fellow for the second year of a four year appointment (May-July, 2017). He was also the Nirit and Michael Shaoul Fellow at the Mortimer and Raymond Sachler Institute for Advanced Studies at Tel Aviv University (March, 2017), and University Centre Saint Ignatius/Institute for Jewish Studies Visiting Professor for Jewish-Christian Relations at the University of Antwerp (February, 2017). He delivered the F.D. Maurice Lectures in the Theology Department of King’s College London on the subject of “Missionaries, Converts, and Maskilim: An Entangled History of Christians, Jews, and Those In Between in Nineteenth Century Europe.” He published several new articles and gave lectures at the Center for Jewish History in New York, The University of North Carolina, The University of Amsterdam, The University of Antwerp, the Jewish Museum, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University, Goethe University, Frankfurt, and the Frei Universität, Berlin.

Larry Silver, Farquhar Professor of Art History, had much more in the way of publications about Christian art, not least a couple of articles in press about Martin Luther (500 years since the kickoff of the Reformation in 1517), as well as about the Dutch painter of religious hell scenes, Hieronymus Bosch (d. 1516), on whom he both lectured and published articles and reviews. He lectured at the April

Conney Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on Jewish Art, "Fifty Years after Harold Rosenberg: Is there a Jewish Art (Yet)?" and published a related article in *Ars Judaica*, "Jewish Art and Modernity."

Liliane Weissberg, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in the School of Arts and Sciences, was DAAD Visiting Professor in the Departments of German, English, and Political Science at the RWTH Aachen, Germany, in the summer semester 2016, and AIANI Fellow at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, in Fall 2016. In Summer 2017, she was named a Fellow at the Research Center Sanssouci at the University of Potsdam, Germany. Weissberg published essays on Charlotte Salomon, Sigmund Freud, Else Lasker-Schüler, Franz Kafka, Max Horkheimer, and on German-Jewish studies in general. She presented lectures at Yale, Rochester, Aachen, Hannover, Innsbruck, Leipzig, at the literary archives in Wolfenbüttel, and at Penn. She has served on the board of the Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum for European Jewish Studies in Potsdam, the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture in Leipzig, the Leo Baeck Institute (London), as well as other institutions. In spring/summer 2018, Weissberg will return as a Fellow to the Center for Advanced Studies in Munich.

Steven Weitzman, is the Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures Ella Darivoff; Director of the Katz Center of Advanced Judaic Studies. His publications in 2016-17 include two volumes. *The Origin of the Jews: the Quest for Roots in a Rootless Age* (Princeton University Press) explores the efforts by historians, archaeologists, geneticists, social scientists and other kinds of scholar to illumine the origin of the Jews, when and how they came to be. The other volume ventures beyond Jewish Studies: *The FBI and Religion: Faith and National Security before and after 9/11*, co-edited with Sylvester Johnson and published by the University of California Press, is the first-ever effort to recount the religious dimensions of the FBI's history: its interaction with Muslims, Catholics, Jews, Mormons and other religious groups; the role of religion in shaping the thinking and actions of leaders like J. Edgar Hoover; and the FBI's impact on religious liberty and the expression of religious dissent. In his role as director of the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Weitzman oversaw a year devoted to developing new angles on Jewish political thought while also continuing initiatives like the center's summer school for graduate students in Jewish Studies, a partnership with Professor Elisheva Baumgarten of the Hebrew

University, and LEAP, an educational initiative meant to put rabbis in dialogue with new research in Jewish Studies, undertaken in partnership with CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. Weitzman is enjoying the Center's fellowship program in 2017-18 which focuses on Jews and the study of nature, and involves historians, anthropologists, and scholars of Jewish texts in the effort to understand how Jews have conceived, investigated and sought to reshape the natural world, and their contributions to the history of science, medicine, and technology.

Beth S. Wenger the Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History, continues to serve as Chair of Penn's History Department. She also serves as Chair of the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York. Wenger's article, "Federation Men: The Masculine World of New York Jewish Philanthropy, 1880-1945," appeared in a 2017 issue of the journal, *American Jewish History*. Her essay, "Salo Baron and the Vitality of American Jewish Life," will be published in a forthcoming volume, *From Galicia to New York: Salo W. Baron and His Legacy*. Wenger continues to work as Academic Director of the Jewish Counterculture Oral History Project, which documents the experiences of the founding members of the Havurah movement. She serves as a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians and of the Association for Jewish Studies. A founding historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, she continues her role as consultant to the Museum.

Julia Wilker, Assistant Professor of Classical Studies, teaches Ancient History in the Department of Classical Studies. Her courses in the academic year 2016-2017 included undergraduate classes on Ancient Mediterranean Empires, the Jewish Diaspora in the Roman Empire, and a class on the Paradox of Monarchy among ancient Jews, Greek, and Romans, co-taught with Natalie Dohrmann. She also taught a graduate seminar together with Cynthia Damon on Livy and the Hellenistic period. In 2016-2017, she published an article on a popular tradition on the early Hasmonean dynasty, which appeared in the *Journal for the Study of Judaism*; other publications include a chapter on the Jews in Rome under the Flavians for a forthcoming edited volume on the Flavian dynasty, a chapter on representations of the Roman Emperor in client kingdoms, and an article on the foreign relations of Hasmonean Judaea. Wilker is on leave in Fall and

will teach an undergraduate class on Cleopatra and a graduate course on Problems in Hellenistic History in Spring 2018.



On June 13, 2017, Kathryn Hellerstein (center) led a workshop, with Professors Xu Xin and Song Lihong, respectively Director and Deputy Director, at the Glazer Institute for Jewish and Israel Studies at Nanjing University. Professor David Stern (Harvard University and emeritus Penn) participated, along with colleagues from Columbia University, Nanjing University, Sichuan International Studies University, and Henan University.

Cultural Programs

Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

On November 3, 2016, the JSP co-sponsored the **Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture** with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and the Department of History. **Bonnie Honig** (Brown University) lectured on “‘Is Man a ‘Sabbatical Animal?’ Giorgio Agamben, Franz Rosenzweig, and A.J. Heschel.”

Silvers Visiting Scholar Program

The Twenty-First Annual **Silvers Visiting Scholar Program** on, “Speaking Jewish, Writing English,” with **Hana Wirth-Nesher**, (Tel Aviv University; founding director of the Goldreich Family Institute for Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture at TAU.) Wirth-Nesher addressed the role of accent in Jewish American writing from Yiddish speaking immigrant writers to contemporary authors, from evasion to celebration. The lecture on April 5, 2017, was sponsored by David, C’71, and Patricia, CW’72, Silvers, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.



l to r: Prof. Ronit Engel (Penn), Prof. Hana Wirth-Nesher (Tel Aviv University; 2017 Silvers Visiting Scholar), and Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn).



Prof. Walter Feldman demonstrating dance during his Joseph Alexander Colloquium talk on Nov. 14, 2016.

Joseph Alexander Colloquium

The Thirty-First Annual **Joseph Alexander Colloquium** was a lecture entitled, “The Klezmer as Mediator in Ashkenazic Culture: Fusion and Choice,” given by **Walter Feldman**, a leading researcher in both Ottoman and Ashkenazic music. The event on November 14, 2016, was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family, and explored how, by including musical elements of the synagogue liturgy along with early West European dance music, Baroque music and Ottoman Turkish music, the klezmerim ensured that their music would be positioned between the secular and the religious poles, and between the East and the West.

Kutchin Seminars

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

“Studying Zionism in the Palestine Liberation Organization,” with **Jonathan Gribetz** (Princeton University), cosponsored by the Middle East Center, on September 20, 2016.

“Representing the Holocaust: Lea Goldberg’s play ‘The Lady of the Palace’ Between German and Hebrew,” with the Israeli scholar **Giddon Ticotsky**, cosponsored by the Katz Center, on September 27, 2016.

“Religion, Politics, and the 2016 Election,” a panel discussion on relationship between religion and public life with **John J. DiIulio, Jr.** (University of Pennsylvania), **Jane Eisner** (The Jewish Daily Forward), **John Lapinski** (University of

Pennsylvania), **Melissa Wilde** (University of Pennsylvania), and **Dick Polman** (moderator) of NewsWorks/WHYY, cosponsored by the National Museum of American Jewish History, Penn’s Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, the National Constitution Center, and the Arlene and Stanley Ginsburg Family Foundation, on September 29, 2016.

“‘Is Man a ‘Sabbatical Animal?’ Giorgio Agamben, Franz Rosenzweig, and A.J. Heschel,” the Meyerhoff Lecture with **Bonnie Honig** (Brown University), cosponsored by the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and the Department of History, on November 3, 2016.

“Dubnow’s Other Daughter: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Beginnings of *Khurbanforschung* (Holocaust Research) in the United States” with **Nancy Sinkoff** (Rutgers University), the annual Kristallnacht Commemoration, cosponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages



Prof. Nili Gold (Penn) with the Israeli scholar Giddon Ticotsky at his talk on Sept. 27, 2016.

& Literatures, on November 9, 2016.

Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law: Rabbinic Constitutionalism with Rabbi **David Flatto** (Professor of Law and Jewish Studies at Penn State University and Associate Professor of Law and Jewish Philosophy at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), cosponsored with the Penn Law School, on November 21, 2016.

“Peace After the Peace Process: Unorthodox Views from Israel/Palestine,” a panel discussion with **Sami Awad** (Bethlehem-based Palestinian activist), Rabbi **Yehuda HaKohen** (peace activist), **Sa'ed Atshan** (Swarthmore College), **Lihi Ben Shitrit** (University of Georgia; Katz Center fellow), and moderated by **Ian Lustick** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the Departments of Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Progressive Jewish Alliance, on February 6, 2017.

“Sanhedrin on the Sistine Ceiling: Talmudic Traces in Michelangelo's Frescoes,” with **Benjamin Braude** (Boston College), cosponsored by the Medieval Studies Program, the Department of History, and the Department of Art History, on February 15, 2017.

“Inglorious Comparisons: On the Uses and Abuses of Historical Analogy,” a roundtable discussion with **Susan Buck-Morss** (CUNY Graduate Center), **Susannah Heschel** (Dartmouth College), **Jonathan Steinberg** (University of Pennsylvania), and **Frank Trommler** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by SAS, Penn Humanities Forum, SASGov, GAPSA, the Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures, English, History, History of Art, Philosophy, and the Programs in Cinema & Media Studies, Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, and the Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism, on February 23, 2017.



l to r: Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn), Prof. Nancy Sinkoff (Rutgers), and Prof. Catriona MacLeod on Nov. 9, 2016.

“On and Off the *Derech*: Turning Towards and Away from Ultra-Orthodox Judaism: A Family Story,” with **Donald Weber** (Holyoke College), cosponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, on March 23, 2017.

Middle East Film Festival 2017, featuring **Inbal B. Lessner** (producer/editor), **Mayhar Entezari** (University of Pennsylvania), **Ezgi Cakmak** (University of Pennsylvania), **Rabih Moussawi** (Villanova University), and **Huda Fakhreddine** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the Cinema and Media Studies Program, the Middle East Center, and the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Department, on March 27-31, 2017.

“The Role of Religion in a Changing Landscape” the Gruss Law Lecture with **Sarah Barringer Gordon** (Penn Law School), **Adnan A. Zulfiqar** (Penn Law School), **Mark R. Silk** (Trinity College), **Leora Batnitzky** (Princeton University), **David Ellenson** (Brandeis University), **Julie E. Cooper** (Tel Aviv University; Katz Center fellow) and moderator: **David C. Flatto** (Penn Law School, Gruss Professor), cosponsored with the Penn Law School, on April 5, 2017.

“Collective Memory and the Historical Past” with **Jeffrey Andrew Barash** (University of Amiens, France), and respondent, **Warren Breckman** (University of

Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the Department of History, the Department of Philosophy, the Jewish Studies Program, and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, on April 7, 2017.

“Out of The Past: The Jewish Family’s History is Real History,” with Penn alumnus and attorney **James Schwartz, C’78**, on April 13, 2017.

“‘In Between’ — Show on Multi-Cultural Identity,” featuring **Ibrahim Miari** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by Wharton's Graduate Student Association, Middle East and North Africa Club, and the Jewish Associations of MBA's, as well as Penn's Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations department, and the Middle East Center, on April 19, 2017.

“Then and Now: How 1917 Changed the World,” a discussion with **Jennifer D. Keene** (Chapman University), **Tony Michels** (University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Benjamin Nathans** (University of Pennsylvania), **Beth S. Wenger** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the National Museum of American Jewish History, the American Jewish Historical Society and the History Department, on May 7, 2017.



Prof. Donald Weber (Holyoke College) with Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein (Penn) on Mar. 23, 2017.

Symposium: Dan Ben-Amos: Fifty Years of Folklore at Penn

On April 23, 2017, the Jewish Studies Program sponsored a symposium, “Dan Ben-Amos: Fifty Years of Folklore at Penn,” organized by Kathryn Hellerstein (University of Pennsylvania). It was cosponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations. It featured an opening keynote from Prof. **Eli Yassif** (Tel Aviv University), followed by a roundtable composed of five Penn doctoral alumni whose Ph.D. dissertations Dan Ben-Amos directed: Prof. **Simon Bronner** (Penn State University, Harrisburg), Prof. **Itzik Gottesman** (University of Texas, Austin), Prof. **Amy Horowitz** (Indiana University, Bloomington), Prof. **Chava Weissler** (Lehigh University), and Prof. **Yael Zerubavel** (Rutgers University). The closing keynote was delivered by a former Penn faculty member, and current museum director, Prof. **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** (New York University, and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews).



Prof. Dan Ben-Amos surrounded by his colleagues on Apr. 23, 2017.



Attendees of the 2017 Lehmann Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book.

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

Seventeen years ago, the Jewish Studies Program established the Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, co-sponsored with Van Pelt Library and the Katz Center. With the support of the Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation, a group of approximately forty scholars, librarians, and graduate students from America, Canada, and Israel gathered at the Katz Center on May 7-8, 2017, for the intensive two-day workshop on “Collecting Hebrew Books From the Medieval Period to the Modern Era” led by Dr. **Joseph Hacker** of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Jewish Counterculture Oral History Project

Penn’s Jewish Studies Program is sponsoring an oral history project to document the creation of the Havurah movement. Beginning in the 1960s, a generation of young Jews set out to revolutionize and reinvigorate American Judaism. They were part of a broader Jewish counterculture whose members rejected what they deemed stale forms of Jewish practice in favor of more democratic, egalitarian and spiritually meaningful religious experiences.

The Havurah movement represents a signal effort to reinvent Jewish communal worship and social life outside the framework of traditional synagogue denominations and structures. By documenting the experiences of members of the early Havurah movement, this project will preserve for the historical record this effort to create new, self-conscious modes of religious expression. The Havurah movement represents a signal innovation that left a lasting imprint on Jewish political, social and religious life.

This project began when Michael Strassfeld, an early member of Boston’s Havurat Shalom a co-editor of *The Jewish Catalog*, donated his papers to the Penn Libraries. Strassfeld expressed a strong desire to collect oral histories of the founders of the Havurah movement. He assumed the role of

Executive Director of the project, with Professor Beth Wenger serving as Academic Director, and Arthur Kiron supervising the Penn Libraries collection procedures and technical efforts. Jayne Guberman, an experienced oral historian, soon joined the project to conduct the interviews, along with Noam Osband, who recently completed his doctorate in anthropology and served as videographer. A national executive board and advisory committee of scholars and Havurah founders have also been created to consult on the project as it takes shape.

During the last year, we completed the twenty-five oral histories originally planned. We interviewed early participants in Boston’s Havurat Shalom, the New York Havurah and Washington’s Fabrogen. Once they are processed, the interviews and transcripts will be permanently stored in Penn’s Libraries’ Scholarly Commons digital repository and made freely available to the public. To view the home page for the project, see: <http://repository.upenn.edu/jcchp/>

Funding for the project came from private donors and more recently from Penn’s Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society.



Rabbi Michael Strassfeld Collection, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

Katz Center

HERBERT D.
KATZ CENTER
FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES
University of Pennsylvania

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania is a global leader in the study of Jewish civilization, opening new vistas in the humanities and social sciences. With a prestigious fellowship program, a vast Judaica library, and a leading scholarly journal, the Katz Center links scholars to scholars, researchers to resources, and ideas to the wider world. Learn more about us online at katz.sas.upenn.edu.

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

The Katz Center's international post-doctoral fellowship program, in which intellectual camaraderie is the essence of the experience for fellows at all stages of their academic careers, has served as a model for similar institutions since its inception. Fellows work on their individual projects alongside scholars with diverse interests but a shared thematic focus, and draw on the deep collections and expertise of the Penn Libraries to support their research. They also have many opportunities to engage with the Penn community. Faculty and graduate students are always welcome at the weekly Ruth Meltzer seminars, which take place at the Katz Center, and fellows participate in many talks and seminars on Penn's campus. The Katz Center's Meyerhoff Lecture brings a notable speaker to campus in partnership with the JSP each year; and fellows and other invited scholars present the findings of the year's research at the two fellow-conceived conferences: a December symposium, and the Gruss Colloquium held in April, both open to the wider academic community. Editors chosen from among the fellows produce a volume of essays that is published by Penn Press as part of the Jewish Culture and Contexts series.



2017–2018: Nature between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World

This fellowship year, scholars at the Katz Center are exploring the theories, institutions, and paradigms that shape how Jews have studied nature, and the ideas, applications, and cultural and religious consequences that emerged from such study. Their research encompasses thinkers, texts, theories, and approaches ranging from classical to Muslim to secular. Collectively, the fellows are working to expand our understanding of the history of science, the anthropology of science, philosophy, philology, environmental studies, and much more. [For a full list of 2017–2018 fellows, see page 18.]

Looking Ahead: Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts

In 2018–2019, the Katz Center fellowship will support scholarship on Jewish life, culture, and thought as these have developed in modern times across North Africa, the Levant, the Arabian Peninsula, and Central and South Asia. Fellows will question the meaning of modernity beyond the more familiar European, American, and Israeli contexts.



Fall 2017 fellows and guests gathered for the weekly Ruth Meltzer Seminar.



Jewish Quarterly Review

Established by Israel Abrahams and Claude Montefiore in 1889, the *Jewish Quarterly Review* is the oldest English-language journal in the field of Jewish studies. Today's *JQR*, housed at the Katz Center, preserves the attention to textual detail so characteristic of the journal's early years, while encouraging scholarship in a wide range of fields and time

periods. In each quarterly issue the ancient stands alongside the modern, the historical alongside the literary, the textual alongside the contextual.

Recent issues are bristling with good scholarship. Check out our forum "People of the Epistle: Letters in Jewish Intellectual Life;" Tovi Bibring on the influence of French romance on medieval Hebrew poetry; Benjamin Williams on why a camel belongs with gnats, fleas, and flies in midrashic lists; Deborah Starr on Jewish characters in Egyptian film; and Jonathan Marc Gribetz on the repurposing of the Pittsburgh Platform by the PLO.

2017-2018 Fellows

Julia Watts Belser

Georgetown University
Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense
Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship
*Nature, Sex, and Power in Rabbinic
Tales of Noah and Sodom:
Tracing the Afterlives of Cataclysm*

Eyal Ben-Eliyahu | Spring

University of Haifa
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz
Distinguished Fellowship
The Rabbinic Perception of the World

Julie Chajes | Fall

Tel Aviv University
Albert J. Wood Fellowship
*Kabbalah and American π : James
Ralston Skinner and the Modernization
of American Religion*

J. H. (Yossi) Chajes | Fall

University of Haifa
Maurice Amado Foundation
Fellowship
*Visualizing Nature in the Kabbalistic
Cosmos*

Yulia Egorova | Fall

Durham University
Ella Darivoff Fellowship
*History, Sovereignty, and "Jewish
Genetics"*

Yitzhaq Feder | Spring

University of Haifa
Robert Carrady Fellowship
*Naturalistic Tendencies in the Hebrew
Bible*

Gad Freudenthal | Spring

French National Center for Scientific
Research (Emeritus)
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz
Distinguished Fellowship
*Scientific Literature in Hebrew and
Judeo-German in German Lands
before Mendelssohn*

Debra Glasberg Gail

New York University
Primo Levi Fellowship
*Scientific Authority and Jewish Law in
Early Modern Italy*

Sofiya Grachova | Spring

POLIN Museum of the History of
Polish Jews
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
*East European Jews, Health, Race,
and Citizenship, 1830–1930*

Christine Hayes | Spring

Yale University
Gruss Visiting Professor of Law,
University of Pennsylvania Law
School
*Nature, Incongruity, and Humor in
Rabbinic Literature*

Daniel Langton | Fall

University of Manchester
Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship
*Darwin's Jews: Evolutionary Theory,
Jewish Thought, and Interfaith
Relations*

Lennart Lehmhaus | Fall

Collaborative Research Center 980
"Episteme in Motion,"
Free University of Berlin
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld
Fellowship
*Bodies of Knowledge: Rabbinic
Approaches to Medicine and Science in
Late Antiquity*

Anat Mooreville

University of California, Davis
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
*Jews and Global Health in the
Twentieth Century*

Agata Paluch

Free University of Berlin
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
*Between Kabbalah, Magic, and
Natural Science in Early Modern East-
Central Europe*

Zalman Rothschild | Spring

Harvard University
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship
Theories of Materiality in Hasidism

Adelheid Voskuhl | Spring

University of Pennsylvania
Jody Ellant and Howard Reiter Family
Fellowship
*Technology and Modernity:
Engineering Cultures and Jewish
Cultures in the Second Industrial
Revolution*

Christian Wiese | Spring

Goethe University
Dalck and Rose Feith Family
Fellowship
*Hans Jonas, Ernst Bloch, and Günter
Anders on Nature, Technology, and
Human Responsibility*

Affiliated Scholars

Natalia Aleksium

Touro College

Iris Idelson-Shein

Goethe University

Robert Jütte

Institute of the History of Medicine of
the Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart

Maoz Kahana

Tel Aviv University

Ephraim Kanarfogel

Yeshiva University

Dana Lloyd

Syracuse University

Amos Morris-Reich

University of Haifa

Projit Bihari Mukharji

University of Pennsylvania

Tamar Rabinowitz

Brooklyn College

Annette Yoshiko Reed

New York University

David B. Ruderman

University of Pennsylvania

Shlomo Sela

Bar-Ilan University

David Shyovitz

Northwestern University

Pavel Sládek

Charles University, Prague

Sacha Stern

University College London

Mira Beth Wasserman

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Political Ramifications: Expanding Jewish Political Thought

During the 2016–2017 fellowship year, the Katz Center focused on the study of Jewish political thought. Scholars worked in fields ranging from ancient to contemporary, researching philosophy and theory to challenge established understandings of Jewish political history.

2016–2017 Fellows List

John Ackerman | University of Kent
Lihi Ben Shitrit | University of Georgia
Samuel Brody | University of Kansas
Julie Cooper | Tel Aviv University
Lois Dubin | Smith College
Arye Edrei | Tel Aviv University
Golan Gur | University of Cambridge
Yuval Jobani | Tel Aviv University
Meirav Jones | Yale University
Rebecca A. Kobrin | Columbia University
Nitzan Lebovic | Lehigh University
Mordechai Levy-Eichel | Princeton University
Menachem Lorberbaum | Tel Aviv University
Vered Sakal | Tel Aviv University
Orr Scharf | The Open University of Israel
Claude B. Stuczynski | Bar-Ilan



From left (back): Steven Weitzman, Marc Herman, Lihi Ben Shitrit, Vered Sakal, Philipp von Wussow, Orr Scharf, Michael Fagenblatt, Yuval Jobani, Assaf Tamari; (front) Samuel Brody, Julie Cooper, Menachem Lorberbaum, Meirav Jones, Lois Dubin.

University
Vasileios Syros | Academy of Finland
Joshua Teplitzky | Stony Brook University
Giddon Ticotsky | Stanford University
Irene Tucker | University of California, Irvine
Philipp von Wussow | Goethe University

In addition, affiliated scholars included: Michael Fagenblatt, Vivian Liska, David N. Myers, Michael Walzer, Leora Batnitzky, David Flatto, Michael J. Gerhardt, Marc Herman, Bonnie Honig, Ephraim Kanarfogel, Alexander Kaye, Suzanne Last Stone, Vincent Lloyd, Elliot Ratzman, Cara Rock-Singer, Elizabeth Shanks Alexander, Assaf Tamari, Ashley Walters.



Bonnie Honig delivers the 20th Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture.

20th Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

Bonnie Honig (Brown University) delivered this year's Meyerhoff Lecture, titled "Is Man a 'Sabbatical Animal'?" Giorgio Agamben, Franz Rosenzweig, and A. J. Heschel." She put Agamben into dialogue with Judaic ideas of Sabbath and argued that the necessary implication of the weekly Sabbath is not only temporary relief from work or injustice, but also periodic reestablishment of equality. Honig is Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science at Brown University and Affiliated Research Professor at the American Bar Foundation, Chicago.

December Workshop

The Katz Center's fall conference, "Jewish Political Thought beyond Borders," sought to highlight new resources and modes in political thought that escape, erode, and challenge established confines and impasses. The day-long conference included topics that spanned spatial, temporal, and disciplinary boundaries.



From left: Irene Tucker, David Myers, Liliane Weissberg.

23rd Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

The fellowship year culminated in the Katz Center's annual Gruss Colloquium titled "Expanding Jewish Political Thought: Beneath, Between, Before, and Beyond the State." Over the course of two days, fellows and invited scholars presented research on the role of Jewish political philosophy, theory, and thought. Among the invited participants were Kenneth B. Moss (Johns Hopkins University); Anne Norton (University of Pennsylvania); Sam Fleischacker (University of Illinois, Chicago); Samuel Moyn (Harvard University); and Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (Ben Gurion University).



Elliot Ratzman speaks at the 2017 Gruss Colloquium.

Fellows Julie Cooper and Samuel Brody are editing a volume showcasing some of the best work produced during the 2016–2017 academic year.

Scholars & Manuscripts

The Katz Center has developed its partnership with Penn Libraries' Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (SIMS) through an invitational fellowship, funded in part by the David Ruderman Visiting Scholar fund, which aims to pair a distinguished scholar with one of our medieval manuscript holdings. The scholar visits Penn to work with materials, and then shares his or her findings with the broader community in a range of venues and media, among them a graduate seminar, a public lecture, and a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

2015–2016 Fellow: **Professor Y. Tzvi Langerman** (Bar-Ilan University) Manuscript: A fifteenth-century Sicilian medical miscellany (UPenn MS Codex 1649)

2016–2017 Fellow: **Professor Alessandro Guetta** (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales, Paris) Manuscripts: Malkiel Aschkenazi's *Tavnit ha-mishkan* and *Hanukat ha-bayit*, seventeenth-century Mantua

2017–2018 Fellow: **Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger** (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris) Manuscript: April 25, 2018

2018–2019 Fellow: **Professor Dr. Elisabeth Hollender** (Seminar für Judaistik, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität) Manuscript: *Maḥazor minhag Ashkenaz le-Yamim hanora'im ule-Sukot* (LKCAJS Rar Ms 382), late thirteenth- or early fourteenth-century Ashkenaz

Outreach and Education

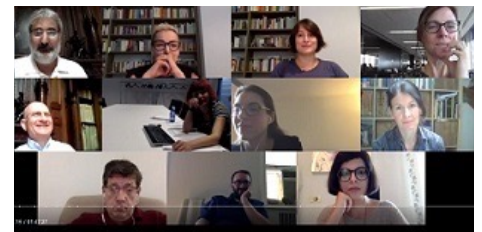
Online Programming

The SIMS-Katz Fellows present the manuscripts under study in an online mini-course, which together will form a series. Professor Alessandro Guetta's, which is currently in production, will be added to that of Professor Langermann in 2018 (search for "Langermann" at edX.org).

In addition, the SIMS-Katz partnership hosted its first **Penn Virtual Seminar in Manuscript Studies** on June 29, 2017, gathering some of the finest advanced graduate students and early career academics from institutions across Europe, the United States, and Israel, on the topic of Italian Jewish literature of the early modern period. A live online discussion facilitated exchange among scholars working on similar topics in various locations and proved that this can be a model for strengthening scholarship and building communities of researchers.

Local Programming

Katz Center fellows speak, teach, and write widely beyond the boundaries of academia, and the Center organizes outreach programs each year in partnership with host institutions throughout the Philadelphia area, including libraries, museums, and places of worship. In 2016–2017, these programs offered depth and perspective on Jewish politics during a particularly contentious and fractured time. Highlights included a panel discussion at the National Constitution Center featuring fellows Menachem Lorberbaum and Suzanne Last Stone among others, a lecture by Julie Cooper on Jewish political thought in a changing world, and a series on interwar Jewish politics featuring Rebecca Kobrin and Philipp von Wussow. These and other programs exploring the political thought and culture of Jews in diverse global and historical contexts, were recorded and are available on our website.



Alessandro Guetta's online mini-course.



Participants in the 2017 Advanced Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies get acquainted in Jerusalem.



Participants in "Cracked Voices: Stories of Jewish Political Dissent and Fracture." From left: Daniel Mark (Villanova University), Lital Levy (Princeton University), Carole Zabar (Other Israel Film Festival), Anne O. Albert (Katz Center), Eli Valley (Village Voice, New Republic), Samuel Brody (Katz Center/University of Kansas), Keren Soffer Sharon (Jews for Racial and Economic Justice).

Summer School

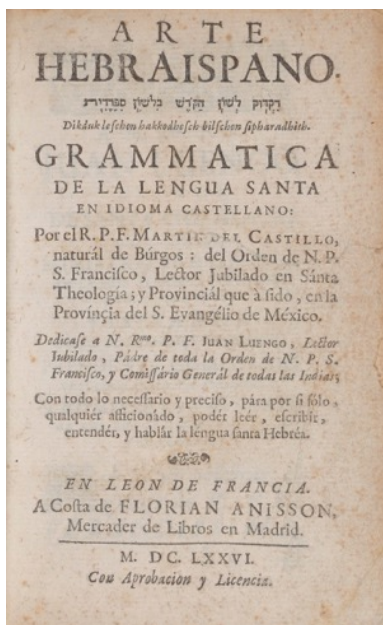
Every summer, the Katz Center partners with the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to offer a weeklong intensive course—a "summer school"—for graduate students in Jewish studies. Directed by Steven Weitzman (Katz Center) and Elisheva Baumgarten (Hebrew University), the program is located in alternate years in Philadelphia and Israel, and the 2017 program took place in Jerusalem in the facilities of the Mandel School. A diverse and talented group of two dozen students from three continents came together with a stellar faculty for an immersive experience of interdisciplinary study on the topic of the personal and interpersonal in Jewish history and culture. This year's topic, "Personal/Interpersonal: I, You, and We in Jewish Culture and History," explored the place of individuals and the relationships between them in Jewish societies of the past and present. The 2018 program will take place in Philadelphia, June 24–28, on the topic of "Out of This World: The Supernatural in Jewish Culture and History." We thank Dr. Garry Rayant and Dr. Kathy Fields-Rayant for their generous support of the summer school.

Judaica at Penn's Libraries

The Judaica Collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, at the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, at the Fisher Fine Arts Library, and at the University Museum—continued to grow as an integrated unit within the University Libraries system under the management of Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections. The full time staff of the Library at the Katz Center during the last academic year— Dr. Bruce Nielsen, Judaica Public Services Librarian and Archivist; Judith Leifer, who handles faculty requests and provides bibliographical support to the Curator, and Josef Gulka G'70, who supervises circulation – provided an exceptionally high level of service, both in terms of quantity and quality. Overall, Penn's Judaica staff responded to 588 public service contacts, paged and shelved 5,331 circulating volumes, administered the consultation of 609 rare items, delivered tours of the rare book room at Library at the Katz Center to 134 people, and filled hundreds of Faculty Express, Inter-Campus, Borrow-Direct and Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.

New Judaica Collection Gifts

The Penn Libraries received several important Judaica gifts and special acquisitions made by possibly by Judaica endowments; The Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection added nearly 350 new pieces of early American Judaica. Among the highlights is an extremely rare map which may be the earliest cartographic evidence of the existence and location of the Jewish colony of Surinam's second synagogue building, Congregation Beraha VeSalom. The copper-engraved map, with contemporary hand-coloring accentuated with gold, was printed in Amsterdam by the Dutch cartographer and publisher Johannes van Keulen in 1687 in the second edition of his *Sea-Atlas [or Zee-Fakkel]*.



Martin del Castillo, *Arte Hebraispano*. Dikduk Lashon Hakodesh Belshon Sepharadith. *Grammatica de la Lengua Santa* (Lyon: Florian Anisson, 1676), marks the first evidence of Hebrew printing for the Spanish New World.

Another landmark item of early American Judaica acquired for the

Kaplan Collection is a Hebrew grammar by the Converso Martin del Castillo, printed in Lyon in 1676, which marks first evidence of Hebrew printing for the Spanish New World. Bearing a tri-lingual title in Latin, Hebrew and Spanish, this *Arte Hebraispano*. *Dikduk Lashon Hakodesh Belshon Sepharadith*. *Grammatica de la Lengua Santa* was published by a Spanish bookdealer (mercader de libros) from Madrid named Florian Anisson. The title page explains that the grammar is meant for the Catholic mission in Mexico City (Friar Martin belonged to the Franciscan Order of the Mexican Provincia del Santa Evangelio), which otherwise lacked Hebrew type with which to print such a book.

Thanks to the **Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment for Sephardic Studies**, we were able to acquire a number of highly significant rare manuscripts and printed works which support our growing corpus of primary source materials for studying Sephardic Jewries. Among the highlights was our successful bid at a **Sotheby's** auction for a 14th century Hebrew manuscript containing two unknown works of science and philosophy. The text of the first work is a dialogue between the *Sekhel* (Intellect) and the *Neshamah* (Soul) which, according to Prof. Tzvi Langermann of Bar Ilan University and a former Katz Center Fellow at Penn, may be the earliest known example of the encounter between Arabic philosophy and Hebrew letters. The second handwritten Hebrew text is a medieval Jewish ethical will composed by an unnamed father to convey to his son his most dearly held beliefs and his fervent wish that he take them to heart and live by them.



Map of Surinam. Amsterdam: Johannes van Keulen, 1687, which may be the earliest cartographic evidence of the existence and location of the Jewish colony of Surinam's second synagogue building, Congregation Beraha VeSalom. Acquired thanks to Arnold Kaplan.

Thanks to the **Barney and Eleanor Frommer Memorial Judaica Endowment**, we were able to bid successfully at a **Kestenbaum & Co.** auction on a landmark work of printed Judaica: the first English translation of the Hebrew daily prayer book, printed in London in 1770. The book bears the transliterated title “Tephilloth” [Prayers] followed by the English explanation that it contains “the Forms of Prayers Which are Publicly Read in the Synagogues, and Used in All Families.” The Frommer Memorial Judaica Endowment also made it possible for us to select and purchase a special collection of Judaica historical prints from **Don Cresswell**, the esteemed owner of the Philadelphia Print Shop. This collection of graphic material spans the 17th - 19th centuries and features representations of Jews from across Europe and the Levant.

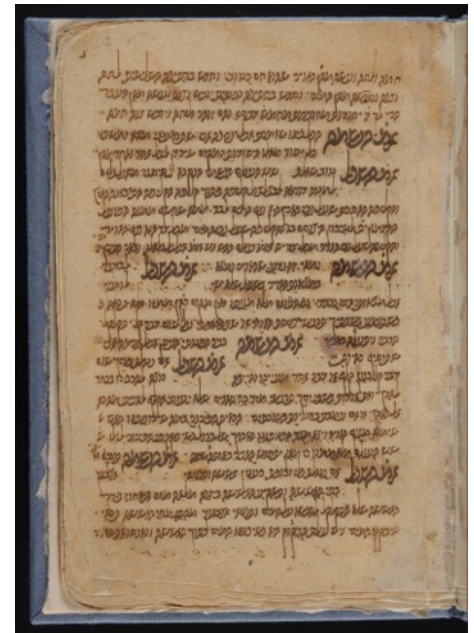
Thanks to the **Gershwind-Bennett Judaica Endowment**, the Penn Libraries were able to strengthen our primary source holdings through the acquisition of an important collection about the fate of Jews in the Age of Fascism. The collection, purchased from **Bolerium Books** in San Francisco, contains a range of ephemeral leaflets, scarce books and unusual pamphlets relate to Jewish social activism and responses to the rise of Fascism and its anti-Semitic echo in America from the late 1920s to the early 1950s, documenting Jewish responses to the Holocaust and postwar efforts to find common cause with African Americans in the fight against racism.

Thanks to the **Rare Judaica Endowment for the Library at the Katz Center**, we successfully bid at a **Kestenbaum & Co.** auction on a unique 19th century Hebrew manuscript travelogue to the Holy Land. Entitled *Hibat ha-Kodesh*, this five-year pilgrimage account during the years 1844-1848, kept by Feivush Freidman of Jagielnica in Poland, a Chassidic follower of the Ruzhiner Rebbe of Sadigur. The author describes the places he visited in the Land of Israel in the course of his travels. Other highly significant primary research material acquired thanks to the Rare Judaica Endowment is an archive of approximately seventy-five original documents related to Isaac Ber Levinsohn (RIBAL, 1788-1860), the forerunner of Russian Jewish enlightenment movement. The collection includes correspondence, scholarly and literary writings in the hand of RIBAL.

Thanks to the generosity of **Annette Freund**, the **Penn Libraries in partnership with Penn’s Jewish Studies Program**, was able to purchase from **Eric Chaim Kline Bookseller** a portfolio of fifteen posthumously published color lithographs of the avant-garde Jewish artist Isaac Ber Ryback (1897-1935). This first, limited edition, the only work of Ryback’s issued in color, depicts scenes of shtetl life such as musicians playing; a shoemaker working in his atelier; an old woman knitting; a knife sharpener working while a little boy waits to have his scissors sharpened; a rabbi reading the Torah; an old man walking, followed by a cock; children being served by the ice-cream merchant; a couple dancing; and a wedding celebration.

The **Penn Libraries Jewish Counterculture collection**, started with the donation of **the Rabbi Michael Strassfeld Papers** in 2016, continued to grow with the acquisition of the archive of **Allan Solomonow**, a San Francisco Bay Area militant peace advocate who was jailed for eight months in 1969 in federal prison for mutilating a copy of his draft card by tearing off his signature, a founder of CONAME (Committee on Nonviolence and the Middle East) and assisted in the formation and administration of Breira (“Alternative” in Hebrew), another organization. His papers represent almost 50 years of activism on behalf of these causes, especially on Middle East peace from a Jewish pacifist perspective and his correspondence with numerous religious and political organizations.

Professor **Chava Weissler**, one of the founding members of Havurat Shalom and a renowned scholar of Yiddish, and the Havurah movement, donated her professional papers to the Penn Libraries. The collection consists of four file drawers of research materials, including photocopies of *tekhines* and other early Yiddish texts, with the donor’s annotations; additional



14th cent. Hebrew manuscript of a philosophical dialogue and ethical Will. Ms. Codex 1856, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania Libraries. Acquired thanks to the Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment for Sephardic Studies in partnership with the Kislak Center.



“Tephilloth” [Prayers] being “the Forms of Prayers Which are Publicly Read in the Synagogues, and Used in All Families. The first English translation of the Hebrew daily prayer book, printed in London in 1770. Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Acquired thanks to the Barney and Eleanor Frommer Memorial Judaica Endowment.

source materials for various chapters of her book on *tekhines*, annotations of secondary sources, drafts of chapters, including some unwritten ones. The donation also included some unusual items of contemporary Yiddish popular culture, such as eleven American Hasidic Coloring books, three children's books in Yiddish, four Jewish graphic novels in English, a group of Torah and rebbe trading cards and stickers, as well as the 1998 English edition of An-sky's *Dybbuk*. The collection has been fully processed and a finding aid has been produced.

David Solis-Cohen and Carol Baker Solis-Cohen donated a unique 395 page typescript documenting Cyrus Adler's travels to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. The typescript includes a diaristic account of travel to Paris and meetings with various officials, followed by transcriptions of correspondence, reports, and drafts of memoranda concerning the fate of Jews living in various countries throughout Southern and Eastern Europe such as Greece, including the City of Salonica, Lithuania, Poland and Galicia, Romania, Ukraine, as well as in Palestine. There is a typescript of a "strictly confidential" draft of a "Statement of the Zionist Organization Regarding Palestine, with specific proposals to be presented to the Peace Conference;" calls for protection of Jewish minority rights and their property in these countries; transcriptions of correspondence, including with U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and a "Memorandum of Interview had at Paris with President Wilson, Monday, May 26, 1919, By Louis Marshall and Doctor Cyrus Adler." In short, contained here is rich trove of documents to mine for the reconstruction of international Jewish diplomatic and relief efforts in the aftermath of World War. It can be viewed online at: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows17/Kobrindiary.html>

Thanks to the **Mark Zucker Judaica Endowment**, we were able to purchase at a **Kestenbaum and Co. auction** a rare group of original Jewish works with their rare illustrated wrappers printed in Polish and published mainly in Warsaw, Lodz, and Cracow in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust in 1945-46. This collection constitutes a kind of "she'erit ha-pleitah" or surviving remnant of Polish Jewish culture.

Sol Raiskin donated a collection of Hebrew-language children's books authored by **Barbara Elefant-Raiskin**, including *Mah 'osah ha-ruah* ("What does the wind do?").

Lee Ecker donation of colonial American Judaica to the Kaplan Collection

Lee Ecker donated a rare receipt, dated November 18, 1746, signed by the Jewish merchant Naphtali Hart, a founding member of the Newport Synagogue for a partial payment to Samuel Vernon, for the use of the sloop Molly. The Ecker gift complements a related item in the Kaplan Collection written in the preceding year: a 1745 transaction between William Vernon, Samuel's younger brother, and Naphtali Samuel Hart, bearing the same signature.

Digital Judaica at the Penn Libraries

Establishment of the Penn Judaica Digital Humanities Lab

In October of 2016, thanks to a significant start-up gift from the Gershwind and Bennett families, the Penn Libraries launched an integrated Judaica Digital Humanities Lab. The initiative seeks not only to create innovative projects and tools utilizing our Judaica content; it also is a pioneering effort to coordinate traditionally disparate library and academic operations. To that end, we hired Laura Newman Eckstein, who reports to Laurie Allen, the Assistant Director of Digital Scholarship in the Libraries' Teaching, Research and Learning (TRL) cluster, and liaison to the Price Lab for Digital Humanities, to serve as the Judaica DH project coordinator. Working in close coordination with TRL and the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Laura has implemented project priorities,



Barbara Elefant-Raiskin. *Mah 'osah ha-ruah?* [What does the wind do?]. (Petah Tikvah, Israel : [Zalmy (Shlomy) Raiskin], 2016). Gift of Sol Raiskin.

created project documentation, and defined project goals. We wrote a successful grant proposal to Zooniverse to develop a crowd-sourcing platform and paleography tool for Cairo Genizah manuscript transcription. Phase one of the project, entitled "Scribes of the Cairo Genizah, in partnership with the Princeton University Genizah Project, the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cambridge University Library, and scholars across North America, Europe and Israel, went live in August of 2017. Laura has also worked tirelessly to develop our Penn Judaica DH website featuring our current and legacy projects: <https://judaicadh.github.io/about/>

New Judaica E-Resources Added:

Dead Sea Scrolls Electronic Library Biblical Texts
 Dead Sea Scrolls Electronic Library Non-Biblical Texts
 Flavius Josephus Online
 Haaretz
 Sifriyat Kotar

Special Penn Judaica Projects

The Jewish Counter Culture Oral History Project

In partnership with Beth Wenger, chair of the History Dept. and Penn's Jewish Studies Program and Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, the Executive Director, we are on schedule to complete the interviewing of twenty-five founding members of Havurat Shalom, a group of Jews which met to worship outside the framework of the traditional synagogue and was the kernel of what became the "Havurah movement."

Together with Sarah Wipperman and Kenny Whitestone at Penn's Scholarly Commons we have coordinated the long-term storage solution for the videographies and transcriptions and have begun to put online the JCCOHP interviews and transcriptions of the interviews. See: <http://repository.upenn.edu/jcchp/>

SIMS-Katz Fellowship and MOOC

Working in partnership with Lynn Ransom, Curator and Project Manager of the Schoenberg Medieval Database Project at the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (SIMS) and Natalie Dohrmann, Associate Director of the Katz Center, the Penn Libraries coordinated the second SIMS-Katz manuscript research fellowship. Prof. Alessandro Guetta, a former Katz Fellow from INALCO (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales) in Paris, was invited to study two early seventeenth century Hebrew manuscripts and created a MOOC: <https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/content/alessandro-guetta-imalco-paris-films-mooc> He also led an on-line seminar, and is scheduled to give a public lecture about the project, in partnership with Penn's Jewish Studies Program, on February 27, 2018: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst/events/2018/sims-katz-seminar-alessandro-guetta>

Public Programs and Exhibitions

Lenkin Holy Land Collection Exhibition

On April 4, 2017, we opened an exhibition entitled "**In Sight: Gender and Vision in Early Photographs of the Holy Land; Selections from the Lenkin Family Collection of Photography**" curated by **Hila Fishman**, a visiting graduate student from Israel and designed by **Andrea Gottschalk**. This exhibition, which is on view in the Kamin Gallery on the first floor of the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library through November 10, 2017, focuses on the different ways in which the Holy Land's inhabitants appear in these photographs and reclaims them as subjects in their own right, not merely as props in someone else's story. These highly aesthetic and at times surprising representations yield complicated realms of vision, imagination, artistic expression and documentation as they move freely from the constructed environment of the studio to the dynamic activities of street.

Holy Land Photography Facial Recognition Software Innovation

In conjunction with the Holy land photography exhibition, **Laura Newman Eckstein**, our Judaica Digital Humanities Coordinator, experimented with a python script to search the entire corpus of the Lenkin collection with facial recognition software which she then edited to create a digital gallery of faces. She then posted a blog and video tutorial of how others might use the same software application: <https://medium.com/@judaicadh/facial-recognition-and-holy-land-images-292e689657fe> **Dennis Mullen**, our web design expert at the Kislak Center, in turn, turned the selection into a slide show. Plans are underway to put the exhibition and gallery of faces on-line after the physical exhibition comes down in November of 2017.

Rare Hebrew Titles Project

Jasmin Shinohara, our Hebraica original cataloger and **Dr. David G. Cook**, one of our LKCAJS library volunteers completed the copy cataloging of several thousand Hebrew titles printed after 1865. Dr. Cook has continued to process/copy catalog our backlog of several thousand rare Hebraica printed works dating from before 1864 housed at the LKCAJS and finished this project in March of 2016. He is now working with Jasmin to get these records into Voyager (they are currently in an OCLC save file awaiting review). To date, Dr. Cook has searched and downloaded over 5,000 records, not including the Reich facsimile project, which consisted of nearly 1,000 additional records.

Judaica Archival Processing

Louise Strauss, a board member of the Katz Center and a LKCAJS volunteer completed the cataloguing of the Lenkin Holy Land Collection, the Lazard Holy Land post card collection, the Narinsky Holy Land post card collection, the Baron Holy Land post card collection, the conversion of legacy LKCAJS archival finding aids into Archivist Toolkit, with the training of support of Holly Mengel. Louise also completed the processing and produced finding aids for the Boonin Family Collection; Nathaniel Reich Papers, and the Albert J. Wood Collection. Bruce Nielsen accessioned more than 2,000 Kaplan legacy uncatalogued materials which were re-housed and added to Archivist Toolkit, with the training and support of **Holly Mengel**.

Pre-1601 Hebrew Manuscripts Cataloguing

With the support of **William Noel**, Director of the Kislak Center, and in conjunction with Amey Hutchins and the staff of the Kislak Center, we coordinated the completion of the cataloging of Penn's pre-1601 CE Hebrew manuscripts, working with **Heidi Lerner**, a Hebraica metadata specialist, and great friend and colleague, based at Stanford University Library.

Katz Penn Libraries Web Exhibition

The Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a virtual exhibit “Expanding Jewish Political Thought: Beneath, between, before, & beyond the state.”

To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows17/>

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

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

On May 8 and 9, 2017, The Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania Libraries and the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, hosted the seventeenth annual **Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book** on May 7-8 (Sunday-Monday), 2017, at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. This year’s workshop, on the topic of “Collecting Hebrew Books From the Medieval Period to the Modern Era.” was led by **Joseph R. Hacker**, Professor emeritus of Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Fellow of Academia Ambrosiana in Milan, Italy. We extend our thanks to the **Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation** for their generous support, and also recognize and thank **Albert Friedberg**, the **Lucius N. Littauer Foundation**, the **University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation**, and **Andrew H. Cohn, Esq., C’66**, for additional funding.

In Memoriam

The Penn Libraries lost one of our own, **David Giovacchini**, Penn’s Middle East Studies Librarian, who passed away in December of 2016. His death came as a shock to our community. David was a deeply learned, devoted scholar-librarian, with fluency in Arabic, Persian and Turkish. He was a beloved father and husband, a creative musician and a U.S. Army veteran. Among his signal achievements at the Penn Libraries was the acquisition of an extraordinary collection of lithographic

books printed in Fez, Morocco, during the latter half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Giovacchini family.

Penn’s Judaica Collections mourn the passing of Professor **Elliott Horowitz**, a scholar, editor, author, and regular library donor who relished making gifts of unusual items such as a Hebrew issue of *Popeye*. He will be sorely missed and we extend our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues around the world. May his memory be for a blessing.

It is with great sorrow that we communicate the news of the passing of **Sarah Anne Lehmann**. Mrs. Lehmann and the Lehmann Foundation that she and her husband the late **Dr. Manfred R. Lehmann** established, has supported Penn’s **Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book** since its inception in 2000. To **Barbara Lehmann Siegel** and to **Karen Lehmann Eisner**, the daughters of Manfred and Sara Lehman, and to their extended families, we send our heartfelt condolences.

We also mourn the passing of **Jack Lunzer**, an extraordinary collector of Hebrew books, a successful businessman, philanthropist and larger than life personality who built The Valmadonna Library, the finest private collection of early printed Hebrew books in the world and over which he served as Custodian. Jack also quietly made a number of donations to the Penn Libraries and supported scholarship about the Jewish book and Hebrew printing in Livorno. We extend our deepest sympathies to the entire **Lunzer family**.

Thank You!

We are especially happy to acknowledge and thank our library volunteers, **Dr. David G. Cook, M’68, GM’74**, and **Louise A. Strauss, C’82**, as well as the many individuals for their gifts and donations during the last academic year. [For a list of Library Donors, see page 26.]



“Wedding ceremony” Illustration by Isaac Ber Ryback. *Mon Village* (Paris: [n.p.], ca. 1960-1970).

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July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017

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"Children being served by the ice-cream merchant,"
 Illustration by Isaac Ber Ryback. *Mon Village* (Paris: [n.p.], ca. 1960-1970)

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

In Class

Photographing a [W]hole

In the spring of 2017, I traveled to Poland as a part of a trip with Penn Hillel, called Jewish Encounters with Memory and Renaissance. As the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor and the great granddaughter of a Holocaust victim sent on the very last train from France to Auschwitz, I found this trip to be trip emotionally difficult. In addition to this personal challenge, today's Poland presented me with an academic challenge bringing to life questions that authors I had read in class addressed in their works. One such author was Georges Didi-Huberman, French philosopher and noted art historian, whose work I read for a final paper in Professor Liliane Weissberg's Jewish Studies course entitled, "Topics in Aesthetics: Hannah Arendt" In his book, *Peuples exposés, peuples figurants*, Didi-Huberman cites French philosopher Jacques Rancière who writes: "...what the genocides and the ethnic cleansings deny is in effect the first 'right to an image'... the right to be included in the image of common humanity." Didi-Huberman then refers to individuals denied the "right to an image" as, "people without faces." In Warsaw, we met with educators and public history museum curators who explained how the Polish government sponsored World War II history narrative silence Jewish suffering in the Holocaust. In effect, the current Polish narrative refuses Jewish Holocaust victims the right to an image. Noticing that a "whole" picture of the victims of the Holocaust was absent, I decided to take my own pictures in an attempt to highlight the lost "right to an image" of Jewish victims and their descendants in post-Holocaust Poland.

The first photo I took in Poland was of these Jewish figurines. With large noses and bags of money, these figurines perpetuate a Jewish stereotype that has been the pictorial backbone of the rhetoric used in many anti-Semitic moments throughout history. The Jewish population in Poland today has decreased drastically from its pre-Holocaust population of approximately 3.25 million. The YIVO Encyclopedia estimates the Jewish population to be as low as 3,000 while the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee claims the numbers is as high as 100,000. Importantly, without many real Jews left in Poland, these figurines form a misrepresented face of the Jews to Polish society. As a result, the figurines deny Jews the right to an image in today's Poland.



On visiting Auschwitz, I took a photo of the so-called "International Monument to the Victims of Fascism at Auschwitz Birkenau." The highest point of the monument is a black marble slab with a triangle carved into it representing the camp's political prisoners. Just before the monument's unveiling in 1967, a technical committee, including representatives from the Polish Ministry of Culture, installed the slab paying homage to the political prisoners, in lieu of a stone sculpture resembling a family of victims. In fact, 90% of Auschwitz victims were Jewish, while only 10% of its victims were political prisoners. The technical committee's decision to introduce the marble slab with the triangle supports the Polish narrative that the Poles and the Jews suffered equally during the Second World War. It additionally propagates the now largely debunked Polish belief that Auschwitz was a camp for Polish prisoners, intended for the destruction of Poles. Even the monument at the center of the Jewish-genocide silences the minority Jewish narrative.

In Krakow, I photographed an old synagogue, which locals have transformed into a bar. Without a significant Jewish population in Poland today, many of the old synagogues, like this one, have been repurposed. On the walls of the bar, I could still make out faded Hebrew letters, evidence of the building's past life. The entrance to the bar is the old Torah Ark. Importantly, most of the Jews who attended this synagogue died in the Holocaust. Yet, no sign explains what the bar used to be, or what happened to those who once frequented its building. The presence of the bar hides the building's past and consequentially refuses Jewish victims the right to be seen and remembered in the Krakow cityscape.

Ultimately, my experience in Poland is summed up by the memorial at "Ghetto Heroes Square" in Krakow. Empty chairs stand across the square facing different directions. The chairs featured in the photo I took symbolize Polish bystanders who looked on as the Nazis and their collaborators deported the Jews. The majority of the chairs, however, face the direction of the concentration camps. Different perspectives and fates can be gleaned from the directions the empty chairs face. This is the Poland that I saw, a country with empty chairs and one-directional perspectives, as demonstrated through the government-sponsored, monolithic telling of Polish World War II history. The image this history presents has holes.

By: Kyra Schulman, C'18

Double major in History and French; Minor in Music
Jewish Studies Bassini Intern, 2017-2018

University of Pennsylvania
Jewish Studies Program
711 Williams Hall
255 S. 36th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305

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