

# 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.



Decorative Papercut Mizrah, indicating the eastern direction to face for prayer, early 20th century. Gift of Joseph T. Moldovan, C'76 and Susan Alcalay Moldovan, C'76.

## 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 2018-2019 theme is "Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts."

**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

At the start of Spring semester 2019, 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 2017-2018.

We framed our programming in the fall and the spring with two exceptional speakers who summoned the Holocaust and its aftermath. In Fall 2017, for the 32nd Alexander Colloquium, Omer Bartov, spoke on “Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz,” about the devastating interactions between the Jewish community and their Polish and Ukrainian neighbors during the Nazi period. For the 22nd Silvers Visiting Scholar Program, we welcomed Nobel Prize winning brain scientist, Eric Kandel to speak on his experiences as a young refugee during the war, and on the science of memory, in “From Vienna to New York: Memory of a Life in Two Worlds.” The annual Kristallnacht Commemoration lecture, cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, was given by Sara Horowitz, on a Prague Jewish writer who wrote in German, “Belated Encounter: The Recovered Literary Legacy of H. G. Adler.”

As in past years, Jewish Studies sponsored a range of lectures that stimulated thought and feeling, and addressed some of the pressing current issues. Collaborating with the Katz Center, Penn’s School of Law, and a number of departments, Jewish Studies brought distinguished scholars to Penn to speak on a variety of topics, from Franz Kafka and Yiddishism, to Walter Benjamin and modern Scripture, to Sephardi-Mizrahi Jewish music and culture, to the archeological mystery of the “Mistress of the Lions” in Tel Beth Shemesh, to Jewish law in the medieval Islamic context, to Talmudic civil law, and to the philosophical and religious influences on Einstein’s thought.

This year, in cooperation with the Katz Center and the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, Jewish Studies co-hosted two workshops on of the treasures in the Schoenberg collection, by experts from Paris.

From manuscripts to movies, Jewish Studies co-sponsored four screenings of new films, partnering with the Department of Africana Studies, and the student group, PB&J to screen *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities*, and to host a discussion with the director, Aviva Kempner. We brought director Jon Kean (C’89) to campus to show *After Auschwitz: The Stories of Six Women*, and screened the Israeli film, *Brave Miss World*, followed by a discussion with editor and producer, Inbal Lessner.

We celebrated the publication of new books by colleagues in Jewish Studies, Nili Gold and Steven Weitzman, and we co-sponsored the 21st Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Judaic Studies, presented by David Ruderman.

The Jewish Studies Program cosponsored two major conferences organized by faculty this year: Beth Wenger co-organized the 2018 Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History, “Fractured Paradigms: Rethinking the Study of American Jews,” at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia; and I co-organized “China and Ashkenazic

Jewry: Transnational Encounters,” at Nanjing University, supported by Penn’s China Research and Engagement Fund.

As in each of the past eighteen years, Jewish Studies hosted the annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book.

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 Africana Studies, Anthropology, Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Philosophy, Religious Studies; the Programs of Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World, Cinema Studies, Comparative Literature and Theory, Global Medieval Studies, and the Visual Studies Program; the Centers of Ancient Studies, Italian Studies, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Middle East Center, Neuroscience and Society, and the Penn Law School, as well as MindCORE, the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Penn Hillel.

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

With best wishes,



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



# Greetings from the Director, Katz Center

After a year of exploring the connections between Jewish studies and the history of science and medicine, the Katz Center turns its attention in 2018-19 to the study of Jewish life in modern Islamic contexts.

The study of modern Jewish experience and culture in areas like North Africa, Yemen, Iraq and other regions shaped by Islamic culture has taken great strides in recent decades, and proof of how vital this subfield is comes in the form of the cohort of outstanding fellows who will be at the Katz Center and Penn during the year. They represent an outstanding and diverse group of scholars from around the world, including a 2018 winner of the Israel Prize and scholars coming from places like Turkey and India.

The year is about the relationship between Judaism and Islam, and the third key term is modernity—we are aiming for a year that will also look at modernity in new ways by moving beyond the more familiar European, American and Israeli contexts in which it is normally situated. This latter issue is the focus of our opening seminar at the Katz Center, that launches the year with a panel discussion about the meaning(s) of modernity in Jewish-Islamic contexts.

As in years' past, we seek to welcome the university community and the larger public into our quest through public programs scheduled in the community or on campus that involve our fellows and other scholars whose work bears on our theme. In the early fall, we will be launching a new website for the Katz Center where you can find updated information about our programs, peruse a blog with articles, interviews with fellows, and other fascinating tidbits, and make use of other features we hope will be helpful.

The fellowship is just one part of what the Katz Center does. This last summer, thanks to support from Garry Rayant we were able to offer another year of our very successful summer school program for graduate students in Jewish Studies, undertaken in partnership with the Hebrew University. This year's focus was on the supernatural in Jewish culture, a topic that reached from ancient magic to contemporary superheroes. We are also looking forward to collaborations with a number of other partners, including CLAL: the National Center for Jewish Leadership and Learning (a relationship facilitated by Thomas Katz, a long-time leader of our Board of Overseers); Penn's Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies; and the Israel Institute which has made it possible for one of our fellows this year to offer courses on campus about Israel in its Middle Eastern context—not to mention campus partners like Penn's Jewish Studies program and the Middle Eastern Studies program.

The Katz Center owes its ability to advance scholarship to the support of generous-hearted donors. As we look to the future, we are on the look-out for new people open to supporting our mission, both to sustain the important work we do now and to help us move in new directions. If you are interested in advancing new research, building our precious



Judaica library, promoting the stellar work of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* as the flagship journal of Jewish Studies, or building bridges between scholars in North America, Israel and the rest of the world, please feel most welcome to contact me at [wsteve@upenn.edu](mailto:wsteve@upenn.edu); and I would be grateful for the chance to explore the possibilities with you.

With appreciation,

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 2018

JWST026 - Jews and China: Two Perspectives  
 JWST031 - Beginning Yiddish I  
 JWST041 - Israel in the Middle East  
 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  
 JWST132 - History of God  
 JWST150 - Introduction to the Bible  
 JWST151 - Lifecycle in the Talmud  
 JWST154 - Autobiography  
 JWST157 - Jewish Civilization II  
 JWST171 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew I  
 JWST173 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I  
 JWST201 - Messianic Impulse  
 JWST216 - Jews and the City  
 JWST231 - Studies in Ladino  
 JWST255 - Book of Kings  
 JWST259 - The Holocaust in Israeli Literature  
 JWST260 - Jewish Folklore  
 JWST523 - Medieval Jewish Cultural in Lands of Islam  
 PSCI398 - International Politics & Arab Israeli Conflict

## Spring 2019

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 - Life in Mandatory Palestine Before 1948  
 JWST151 - The Power of Speech in Talmud  
 JWST154 - Haifa: Literature, Architecture, Film  
 JWST158 - History of Jewish Civilization III  
 JWST172 - Elementary Biblical Hebrew II  
 JWST174 - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II  
 JWST213 - The Religious Other  
 JWST231 - Studies in Ladino  
 JWST238 - Bible in Movies  
 JWST254 - Women in the Bible  
 JWST270 - Middle Eastern Jews in Bible  
 JWST277 - Jewish American Literature  
 JWST303 - Power and Peril  
 JWST359 - Giants of Hebrew Literature  
 JWST523 - Medieval Jewish Culture  
 JWST537 - Translating Literature: Theory and Practice  
 JWST620 - Readings in Modern Jewish History  
 JWST657 - Becoming Modern: German-Jewish Experience

## 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.

**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. **Kathryn Hellerstein**, director, and lecturer, **Alexander Botwinik**, integrate cultural materials, including songs, literature, journalism, film, theater, and web-based digital resources 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. Yiddish language study is supplemented by undergraduate and graduate courses that include Yiddish literature and culture in translation, such as Jewish American Literature, Women and Jewish Literature, Jewish Films and Literature, and Translating Cultures. The 2018 Workmen's Circle/ Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies at Penn was awarded to Gabriel Shai Ben-Jakov. Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes went to Justin R. Greenman, Hope Jones, and Claudia R. Silvers.

**Biblical Hebrew** Penn offers a four-semester sequence of Biblical Hebrew, taught by **Michael Carasik**. The first two courses, Elementary Biblical Hebrew 1 and 2, in the first year guide students through a textbook that teaches the fundamentals; the next two, Intermediate Biblical Hebrew 1 and 2, change the focus to literature. In this second year, students learn grammatical and other skills by immersion in actual biblical texts, prose in the fall semester and poetry in the spring semester.

### Ladino

For the last seven 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

## Bassini Internships in Jewish Studies

Under the guidance of Director **Kathryn Hellerstein**, Undergraduate Director **Ronit Engel**, and especially graduate student coordinator, **Adam Sax** (Comparative Literature), students initiated and organized the following Bassini Internship events in 2017-2018:

**Elena Prieto and Brooke Krancer** hosted a tour of the National Museum of American Jewish History with a discussion afterwards by Professor Beth Wenger (University of Pennsylvania).



Professor Beth Wenger (center) with a group of students visiting the National Museum of American Jewish History.

**Madeleine Lamon and Matthew Palczynski** organized an event with Professor Liliane Weissberg (University of Pennsylvania) on, "A Prusso-Jewish Spy in Napoleonic Europe: The Research Proceedings of the B.V. Ephraim Collective."



l to r: Prof. Ronit Engel, Prof. Liliane Weissberg, Madeleine Lamon, C'19, and Matthew Palczynski, C'18.

**Kyra Schulman** presented her research on attempts to memorialize the Holocaust in France and explore the future of memorialization and monument building through digital mediums, "Memorializing the Holocaust on Physical and Digital Topographies."



l to r: Prof. Joseph Benatov, Kyra Schulman, C'18, Prof. Ronit Engel, and Adam Sax, Graduate Student Coordinator.

**Elizabeth Raab, Amanda Rosenstein, and Celeste Marcus** organized an event with Ira Forman, Senior Fellow at Georgetown University, on the matter of rising anti-Semitism in the U.S. and globally. Mr. Forman served on the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism from 2013 until 2017.

*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:**  
**Sophia Kruger**

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

**Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies:** **Gabriel Shai Ben-Jakov**

**Winner, Samuel & Esther Goldin Endowment Award:**  
**Alisa Feldman**

**Honorable Mention, Samuel & Esther Goldin Endowment Award:** **Rebecca Heilweil and Kyra Schulman**

**Charlotte Yiddish Institute Book Prizes:** **Justin R. Greenman, Hope Jones, and Claudia R. Silvers**

## Undergraduate Student Research

On April 18, 2018, students and faculty attended an event to learn about—and celebrate—original research in Jewish Studies produced by four College seniors.

**Alisa Feldman** (HSOC) — faculty directors, Adam H. Mohr and Frances K. Barg  
“Be Fruitful and Medicalize: IVF Risk Communication and the Politics of Assisted Reproduction in Israel”

**Rebecca Heilweil** (HIST) — faculty director, Brendan O’Leary  
“The Search for Solidarity Beyond Bloom: Jewish Advocacy in Ireland, 1933-1958”

**Corey Loftus** (ARTH) — faculty director, David Brownlee  
“Prayers in Thread: Anni Albers and the Jewish Commissions (1957-1965)”

**Kyra Schulman** (HIST) — faculty director, Beth Wenger  
“The Dreyfus Affair in Vichy France: An Afterlife”



*l to r:* Corey Loftus, C’18, Rebecca Heilweil, C’18, Kyra Schulman, C’18, Alisa Feldman, C’18, before their student research presentations, April 18.

## 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.)

**Jordan Dewar**, undergraduate major in Economics, traveled to archives in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

**Celeste Marcus**, undergraduate major in History funded her research trips to England and Washington, D.C. for her senior thesis.

**Julia Dasbach**, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, traveled to conferences in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and Tampa, to present on her dissertation, “Lyric Witness: Intergenerational Representation of the Holocaust in America.”

**Josef Nothmann**, doctoral candidate in History, used the funds for research in Hamburg and London.

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

**Corey Loftus**, undergraduate major in Art History, funded her research in synagogues in Texas and Rhode island, and a

museum in Spain, in preparation for her thesis “Prayers in Thread: Anni Albers and the Jewish Commissions (1957-1965).”

**Qingyang Zhou**, undergraduate double-major in Germanic Languages and Literatures and Cinema Studies, traveled in China to research the Shanghai Jewish Refugees.

**Adam Sax**, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, advanced his skills in Yiddish language study at the YIVO Uriel Weinreich Yiddish Summer Program.

**Abigail Rapport**, doctoral candidate in Art History, funded her dissertation research in Prague.

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

**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,” and to travel to New York to interview poet, Sam Sax.

# 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 graduate students who work 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.



Ben Notis, Falk Fellow

Continuing Falk Fellows in the Jewish Studies Program are eighth-year student **Ari M. Gordon** (NELC); seventh-year students **David Zvi Kalman** (NELC), and **Tom Tearney** (Germanic Languages and Literatures); fifth-year students **Jordan Paul** (NELC) and **Ariel Resnikoff** (COML).

We were pleased to welcome five new Falk Fellows to Penn in Fall 2018:

**Shachar Levanon**, first year doctoral student in Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, is studying modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature.

**Ben Notis** is a first-year doctoral student in Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations. He hopes to explore topics in medieval Jewish history with a special emphasis on Judeo-Arabic culture.



Laura Eckstein, Falk Fellow

**Laura Newman Eckstein** is a first-year doctoral student in History. Her studies focus on Jews in the early Atlantic world (17th-19th centuries) with specific interests in trade networks, material culture, and digital humanities methodologies.

**Itay Blumenzweig**, first year doctoral student in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, is studying poetry and modernism, in both Spanish and Hebrew.

**Noa Nikolsky** is a first-year doctoral student in English, who studies the later middle ages in England, with particular emphasis on medieval scientific and medical texts.



Noa Nikolsky, Falk Fellow

## Graduate Student News

**Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach** holds an MFA in Poetry from the University of Oregon and is a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature, focusing on poetry about the Holocaust. During 2017-2018 school year, she earned fellowships from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute as well as the Jewish Studies Program, and won the William Carlos Williams University Prize for poetry from the Academy of American Poets. Dasbach organized two events at the Kelly Writers House featuring poet and scholar Jehanne Dubrow — one was a poetry reading and the other a conversation about “Writing the Holocaust in the Age of Trump.” She presented her work at ASEES, ACLA, NeMLA, and CUNY's graduate student conference, “Jewish Memory and

Culture: 1945-Present.” Her poems appeared in *Best New Poets*, *American Poetry Review*, *TriQuarterly*, and *Nashville Review*, among others.

**Ari M. Gordon**, PhD candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, is completing his dissertation in Arabic and Islamic studies entitled “Sacred Orientation: The *Qibla* as Ritual, Metaphor, and Identity Marker in Early Islam.” His research explores ritual, sacred geography, and interreligious relations as windows into the formation of collective identity in Late Antiquity and in the Medieval Islamic world. In the 2017-18 academic year, he presented his papers on his work at the annual meetings of the

American Academy of Religion and at the International Qur'anic Studies Association. In the fall he began working as the Director of U.S. Muslim-Jewish Relations at American Jewish Committee (AJC).

**Alex Moshkin**, PhD candidate in the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, presented his dissertation research in Princeton, University of Toronto, and at the Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies convention in Chicago. In addition, he was awarded an Association for Jewish Studies dissertation completion fellowship (declined) and a two-year SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto. After defending his dissertation last summer, Moshkin has joined the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto as a postdoctoral fellow.

**Ariel Resnikoff** is a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. This past year was at work on his dissertation, entitled "Home Tongue Earthquake: Radical Afterlives of Yiddishland." He has been writing and translating for that work, as well as traveling to present pieces of it at various conferences. He presented at NYU, for the National Association of Professors of Hebrew annual conference, and at UC Irvine, for the Comparative Literature Graduate Studies conference on "Translating the Unbearable." In July, he presented research at the Paris 8 Universite for the European Institute of Hebrew Studies annual assembly. He also completed a working draft of a poetry manuscript, entitled Unnatural Bird Migrator, and has been giving readings from this work throughout the US and abroad. Resnikoff was a teaching assistant for Al Freire's Representations of the Holocaust course; and he

advised an undergraduate Creative Writing Honor's thesis. He taught a summer course entitled "Writing Toward Diaspora," which asked the question: what is the relationship between language art and exile?

**Adam Sax** is a third-year PhD student in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. He is currently forming a committee for his dissertation, which will address questions surrounding the poetics of loss and mourning. One chapter will examine said poetics as they function within and are illuminated by the work of the European poet of Jewish *traditsia*, Paul Celan. Sax is grateful to the Jewish Studies Program for granting him a Goldfein Research Award, which allowed him to attend the YIVO Summer School for Yiddish this past summer. In addition to working towards his dissertation, he serves as the Jewish Studies Meltzer Internship Program graduate coordinator, as an instructor of German, and as a conference organizer for the "New Disability Poetics Conference" held October 2018.

**Jillian Stinchcomb** finished her doctoral exams and is currently ABD. She had the opportunity to be a TA for Women and Religion in the fall, participated in a digital Festschrift for Ben Wright in the winter, helped to organize the Race, Rights, Religion conference in April as the Boardman Fellow, and presented at the Regional Seminar for Ancient Judaism at Princeton. Stinchcomb is currently working on her dissertation on the reception history of the Queen of Sheba in the first millennium in Jewish, Islamic, and Christian literature.

**Tom Tearney** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. He spent 2017-2018 as a Fulbright grantee in Austria, and will remain in Vienna this year to complete his dissertation. His dissertation, "Wege der Verheißung: Jewish and Catholic Thought in Franz Werfel's Work," examines Werfel's literary experiments with history in relation to his portrayals of Judaism and Catholicism in dramas and novels.

**Didem Uca** is completing a dissertation titled "Coming of Age on the Move: Young Travelers, Migrants, and Refugees in 20th and 21st Century Literature in German," which features analyses of texts by Franz Kafka, Elias Canetti, and Vladimir Vertlib, among other religious and ethnic minorities in German-speaking countries. In her spring undergraduate literature seminar in German, Didem taught her students how to read *Kurrentschrift*, which she learned by taking a course at the Moravian Archives, generously supported by a Brenner Research Award. She looks forward to guest teaching two sessions on literary responses to trauma and exile in Dr. Jennifer Rodgers' Nazi Germany and Holocaust course this semester.



"Village Cobbler." 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. Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.



## Alumni News

**David Shyovitz** (PhD, History, 2011) is Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University. He spent the 2017-18 year as an Affiliated Fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at Penn, and presented research drawn from his book in progress on perceptions of Jews and/as animals in the Middle Ages. In September, he began a term as Director of Northwestern's Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies.

**Kerry Wallach** (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2011) is Associate Professor and Chair of German Studies at Gettysburg College. She recently published a short essay on "Jews and Gender" in the forum "Feminism in German Studies" in *The German Quarterly* 91.2. In the spring, she taught a new course on "European Jews: History, Holocaust, Future," and did an event with Noah Isenberg at the Leo Baeck Institute New York tying her book, *Passing Illusions: Jewish Visibility in Weimar Germany* (University of Michigan Press, 2017), to the television series *Babylon Berlin*.

**Cornelia Aust** (PhD, History, 2010), is a Research Associate at the Leibniz-Institute of European History in Mainz, Germany. Her first book, *The Jewish Economic Elite: Making Modern Europe*, was just published by Indiana University Press in the series *German Jewish Cultures*. She is currently working on a new research project on Jewish dress and appearances and their perceptions by Jews and Christians in seventeenth to nineteenth century central and east central Europe. She is also teaching at the universities in Mainz, in the History Department, and Frankfurt am Main, in Judaic Studies. She is currently preparing a special issue of *Central Europe* on the Jewish body and another special issue with two co-editors for the *European History Yearbook* on dress and cultural difference in early modern Europe.

**Sonia Gollance** (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2017) is a Moritz Stern Fellow in Modern Jewish Studies at Lichtenberg-Kolleg, the Göttingen Institute for the Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (Germany). In the spring, she taught a history seminar on German Jewish memoirs. She is the Managing Editor of *Plotting Yiddish Drama*, an initiative of the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project which launched in February. Her article reconsidering the career of modernist Yiddish writer Fradel Shtok appeared in *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* and she published a book review in *Jewish History*. This past academic year, she gave talks at the Association for Jewish Studies, Polish Jewish Studies Workshop, Yiddish Studies colloquium at Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, and European Association for Jewish Studies. She is currently participating in the Paula E. Hyman Mentoring Program and the National Yiddish Book Center's Yiddish Pedagogy Program.



Sonia Gollance (PhD, Germanic Languages and Literatures, 2017)

**Marc Herman** (PhD, Religious Studies, 2016) served as the Rabin-Shvidler post-doctoral fellow in Jewish Studies at Columbia University and Fordham University in the 2017-18 academic year. In that capacity, he offered two public lectures. The first lecture offered a precis of his forthcoming monograph, titled *Imagining Revelation: The Oral Torah in an Islamic Key*, which places medieval Jewish perspectives on the Oral Torah in dialogue with contemporaneous ideas within Islamic jurisprudence. The second lecture previewed his second project, which will provide a systematic look at how Maimonidean manuscripts can further scholarly understanding of the developments of Maimonides' thought. Herman also published articles in *Jewish History* and the *University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought*, and has essays forthcoming in the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. This year, he is a fellow at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

**Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg** (PhD, History, 2018) defended her dissertation, titled "The Organization of Halakhic Knowledge in Early Modern Europe: The Transformation of a Scholarly Culture," and graduated in May 2018. She is a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows for 2018-2021.

# Faculty

## News

**Joseph Benatov** is Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the Modern Hebrew Language Program. He teaches Hebrew courses of all levels. Benatov was the recipient of the Fred and Ellen Lewis Join Distribution Committee archives research fellowship. He presented at the international conference, “The Jews of Portugal and the Luso-Spanish Diaspora” at the University of Lisbon, Portugal. He also lectured at the Center for Jewish History in New York. In March, Benatov spoke at the United Nations at an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the survival of the Bulgarian Jewish community. He presented his research at the Gershman Y; Temple Adath Israel in Merion, PA; the Adath Shalom Synagogue in Michigan; and to students in the Kivunim gap-year program. 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.

**Ari Bergmann**, Lecturer in Hebrew & Jewish Studies, presented “Peshat and Derash: Two Dimensions of Perception,” at the National Council of Synagogue Youth Annual Retreat in Stamford, CT, in December. He presented papers at two conferences last year: “Diversifying Your Learning Portfolio: The Use of Multiple Methodologies for Effective Torah Study,” at the Orthodox Union in Queens, NY; and “Bridging Public and Private Collections,” at the Association of Jewish Libraries in New York, NY. Bergmann gave the following community lectures: “Cryptocurrencies in Light of Talmudic Monetary Theory,” at Congregation Shaaray Tefilah in Lawrence, NY; and at Young Israel in Woodmere, NY, he gave “The Mystical Journey from the Patriarchs to the Exodus from Egypt II: A Ten-Part Seminar Series,” and “The Five Components of the Soul: A Five-Part Seminar Series.”

**Alexander (Sender) Botwinik** is a Yiddish lecturer. He also teaches music, choir and Hebrew at Har Zion Temple and coordinates an annual choral youth *Zimria* (song festival). Following the release of the CD entitled “From Holocaust to Life – Yiddish Art Songs,” which comprises 15 songs by his father, composer David Botwinik, Alexander is continuing to work on a second CD of his father’s music. This one is devoted to children’s songs, featuring both children and adult singers.

**Michael Carasik**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, joined Penn’s Faculty Working Group on Recovered Language Pedagogies. He published a reviewed of Marvin Sweeney’s *The Pentateuch in Hebrew Higher Education*. Carasik published the Genesis volume of the *Commentators’ Bible* (Jewish Publication Society/ University of Nebraska Press). He also published a video course, “Biblical Hebrew: Learning a Sacred Language,” with *The Great Courses*.

**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. Cranz presented at the annual SBL-meeting in Boston, at the Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, at the Columbia Bible Seminar and at the European Association of Biblical Studies in Helsinki. She has produced three articles. The first article: “The Rhetoric of Prohibitions” has been published in *Semitica*; the second article called: “Naaman’s Healing and Gehazi’s Affliction: The Magical Background of 2 Kgs 5,” is forthcoming in *Vetus Testamentum*. The third article is called “The Motif of Uzziah’s צרעת in the Deuteronomistic History, Chronicles and Beyond,” and will be published in *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*.

**Natalie B. Dohrmann**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, is also Associate Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and coeditor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. Recent and forthcoming publications include “Not There: Empire, Intertextuality, and Absence,” in *Literature and Culture in the Roman Empire, 96–235 ce: Cross-Cultural Interactions*, edited by A. König, et al. (Cambridge); “Jewish Books and Roman Readers: Censorship, Authorship, and the Rabbinic Library,” in *Regarding Roman Power: Imperial Rule in the Eyes of Greeks and Romans, Jews and Christians, and Others*, edited by K. Berthelot (Paris); and an introduction to a reissue of Boaz Cohen’s *Jewish and Roman Law: A Comparative Study* (1966). In June she delivered a talk, “*Ad similitudinem arbitrorum*: On the Uses of Commensurability & Comparison in Ancient and Modern Sources” at Aix-Marseille University. She serves as an area editor for the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* and the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*.

**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 is an active member of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) and chaired a session on Instructional Technology in language teaching at the organization’s June conference in Amsterdam. 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. She delivered a lecture on minority literatures written in majority languages, at Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) in October 2018. The lecture draws both on her knowledge of literature written in Hebrew by Palestinian Arabs and on her experience as a reviewer of Hebrew translations of the novels of Philip Roth.

**Talya Fishman**, Associate Professor of Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History of the Medieval and Early Modern Periods, published “The *Our Talmud* Tradition and the Predilection for Works of Applied Law in Early Sephardic Rabbinic Culture,” in *Regional Identities and Cultures of Medieval Jews*, (Littman Library, Oxford, 2018), as well as the Introduction to that volume of essays. In Dec., 2017, she spoke about “Illuminated Hebrew Bibles & Jewish Contemplative Practice in Medieval Catalonia” at the AJS Annual Conference, and in July, she presented a lecture, in Cracow, at the Congress of the European Association for



Jewish Studies faculty with Dr. Eric Kandel on April 17, 2018. *l to r*: Ronit Engel, Steven Weitzman, Talya Fishman, Eric Kandel, Kathryn Hellerstein, and Liliane Weissberg.

Jewish Studies, entitled, “On the Relative Inconspicuousness of Custom in Sefarad & Provence.” As a Senior Fellow at the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies at the University of Hamburg, this past summer, Fishman pursued her research and writing pertaining to the topic, “Discordant Sources of Tradition and the Resolution of Epistemological Uncertainty in Medieval Jewish Subcultures.” She serves on the Advisory Board of the *Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization*, and, at Penn, is co-director of the Lehmann Memorial Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, a member of the Middle East Center Advisory Board, and a member of the Program Planning Committee for the 2019 Medieval Academy of America Conference.

**Nili R. Gold** is Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature. She was promoted to full professor in 2018. A native of the city of Haifa, last fall she published *Haifa: City of Steps* (UPNE), on its architecture, literature and memory. Hebrew versions of both *Haifa* and her 2008 poetic biography *Yehuda Amichai: The Making of Israel's National Poet* will be published in Israel later this year. At the annual conference of AJS this past December, she presented a

paper on “The Seamline that Passes through Haifa,” and published an article on “Yoel Hoffmann’s Curriculum Vitae and Japanese Death Poems as Keys to his Work,” in the Japanese journal *CISMOR*. Currently, she is engaged in a book tour, speaking at Brandeis, Harvard, Georgetown and Colby. She was thrilled that her course, “Haifa: Literature and Architecture” was chosen to be a Penn Global Seminar, with a class trip to Haifa.

**Kathryn Hellerstein**, is Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Ruth Meltzer Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In the spring, Hellerstein was the Stroock Fellow at the Center for Jewish History at Harvard University, while continuing to direct Penn’s Jewish Studies Program. At Harvard, she presented two lectures drawn from her book in progress, *China Through Yiddish Eyes: Cultural Translation in the Twentieth Century*, on “Melech Ravitch’s Travel Poems and Journals,” at the Starr Seminar, and on “Yiddish Chinoiserie: China in Modernist Yiddish Translation,” at the “Re-thinking Translation Seminar.” In June, with support from the Penn China Research and Engagement Fund and the Jewish Studies Program, she co-hosted a major conference, “China and Ashkenazic Jewry: Transnational Encounters,” at the Diane and Guilford Glazer Institute of Jewish and Israel Studies, Nanjing University, where she presented a paper on “China in Yiddish through German: Moyshe Leyb Halpern’s 1925 Play, *Der krayz-krayde*.” Her article, “A Poet-Translator Writes a Reader’s Report: What Chana Bloch Taught Me,”

appeared in *Shofar*; a short essay on Kadya Molodowsky appeared in Italian translation, and a longer essay, “China in Yiddish Modernism,” appeared in Chinese translation. Hellerstein participated in a roundtable, “New pedagogies on the Teaching of American Jews,” at the 2018 Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History, in Philadelphia. In Montreal, she presented a lecture on China and Yiddish at the Jewish Public Library, and in Cleveland, she participated, with her five siblings, in a program on “A Family of Doctors: Roots and Branches of Six Generations,” at the Maltz Museum of Jewish History.

**Arthur Kiron** is the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, head of the Library at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Director of Judaica DH at the Penn Libraries, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History. In the past year, he organized the 19th annual Katz Center—Library on-line exhibition “Science and Transformation in Jewish Culture,” co-directed the 18th annual Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, coordinated the third annual SIMS-Katz Fellowship in Hebrew manuscript studies, coordinated the Jewish Counterculture Oral History Project,

published a review of Heidi A. Campbell, (ed.) *Digital Judaism: Jewish Negotiations with Digital Media and Culture* (Routledge, 2015) and a tribute to Zachary Baker, the distinguished editor, in *Judaica Librarianship* (vol. 20, 2017). He delivered lectures in Portugal about Jewish book history and curation at the University of Coimbra and the University of Aveiro, in Philadelphia at the American Philosophical Society, “On the Margins: Christian Rabbinic Scholarship in 18th-Century America,” and was a panel speaker at the Association of Jewish Libraries 53rd Annual Conference, Boston, MA, in June on *Judaica Digital Humanities*. He continues to serve on the editorial board of *Judaica Librarianship* and on numerous other professional, academic, and communal advisory boards.

**Ian Lustick** is the Bess W. Heyman Chair in Political Science. His attention this year was focused mainly on his book in progress, on the implications for Israel of the end of the two state solution. His paper on the Balfour Declaration as “accidentally relevant” a century after it was issued was published in *Middle East Policy*. He delivered invited lectures on the topic at Brandies University, UCLA, and Brown University. In June he will present a paper at the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, entitled: “The Israel Lobby and Israel’s Fate: American Foreign Policy, Perverse Incentives, and the Trajectory of Israeli Politics.” This fall Lustick offered a new advanced undergraduate seminar, *International Politics and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*.

**Ibrahim Miari** Lecturer in Foreign Languages, participated in the Hebrew Pedagogy Seminar at Denver University in October in a seminar entitled, “Maximizing Acquisition and Culture-Based Pedagogy.” In June, he led a Pedagogy Hebrew workshop, “Hebrew Through Theater,” at The National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) that took place at Amsterdam University, Netherlands.

**Benjamin Nathans**, Associate Professor of History, taught for the first time in Penn’s Integrated Studies Program, an interdisciplinary curriculum for freshmen accepted into the Benjamin Franklin Scholars program. He gave invited talks on his current research at the University of Turin (Italy), Stanford University, Columbia University, the City College of New York, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and Penn’s own Perry World House, where he also took part in a public dialog with Ambassador Dennis Ross. Nathans’ published multiple essays in the *New York Review of Books* and *The Economist*, which were translated into Spanish, Polish, Russian, and Bulgarian. He also completed work on a co-edited volume, *From Europe’s East to the Middle East: Zionist and Other Entanglements*.

**David B. Ruderman** Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History, held a senior fellowship at the Maimonides Center of Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Hamburg in February-March. He also spent his third year in residency at Goethe University in Frankfurt supported by a Humboldt Research Award during May-June. He was the keynote speaker at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Jewish Studies Department at University College London in February, and also organized and spoke at a conference on Jews and Jesuits at the University of Antwerp. He gave the Joseph Meyerhoff Lecture at Penn in October, 2017, reflecting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of a book he published on Jewish thought and science. He also spoke at the University of Hamburg, the University of Düsseldorf, and at a conference on Religion and Modernity in Eighteenth Century Jewish Culture, Adenauer Stiftung Foundation, Villa La Collina, Lake Como, Italy. He edited and contributed an essay to *Converts of Conviction: Faith and Skepticism in Nineteenth-Century European Jewish Society* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2017), and also wrote several new articles in press.

In the 2017-18 academic year, **Heather Sharkey**, Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, chaired the faculty steering committee for the speaker series of the Andrea



Film Screening of *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities*. l to r: Claire Lisker, C’18 (Penn Black and Jewish Dialogues), Chrissy Walsh (Jewish Studies Program), John Jordan (Pennsylvania State NAACP), Rabbi Arthur Waskow (The Shalom Center), Aviva Kemper (film director), Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein (Jewish Studies Program), Prof. Herman Beaver, and Shantala Thompson (Center for Africana Studies) on November 15, 2017.

Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy (formerly the Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism Program), on the theme of “States of Religious Freedom.” She gave talks on her new book – *A History of Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) – at UCLA, Princeton, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Community College of Philadelphia. She spoke at conferences on the “Balfour Declaration in Jewish History” at Harvard; on “From Tharwat 1919 to the Arab Spring: A Century of Egyptian History Reconsidered,” at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University; and on “The Making of (Trans)National Jewish and Christian Identities: Language,

Religion, and Community in and out of the Middle East (1850-1950)" at Leiden University. She gave keynote lectures at conferences on "Religious Dynamics in Contemporary Egypt", sponsored by the Institut français d'archéologie orientale in Cairo, and on "In Partibus Fidelium: Missions du Levant et connaissance de l'Orient chrétien, XIXe-XXIe siècles," sponsored by the École Française de Rome.

**Larry Silver**, officially retired as Farquhar Professor of Art History at Penn in July, 2017. He published an article, "Jewish Art and Modernity," in *Ars Judaica* 13 (2017), pp. 49-64. He participated in a summer conference at Bar-Ilan University on "Art Patronage and Jewish Culture," with a paper, "The French Connection: Jewish Collectors, Dealers, and Artists in Paris, 1905-1929."

**Liliane Weissberg**, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science, spent the summer 2017 as a Voltaire-RECS Fellow in Berlin. She has been working on the life and work of a Prussian-Jewish spy in Paris during the French Revolution. In the Fall 2017, she has also led a Bassini undergraduate student workshop on this topic. In June, Weissberg published a book, *Münzen, Hände, Finger: Berliner Hoffjuden und die Erfindung einer deutschen Musikkultur* and completed an anthology (with Andreas Kilcher) on the role of Commentary in modern Jewish philosophy. She published articles on Freud, Améry, Kafka, Bendavid, Horkheimer, and Holocaust testimonies; she presented keynote lectures in Jerusalem, Cork (Ireland), and Ann Arbor, and gave talks in Vienna, Graz, Bad Aussee (Austria); in Frankfurt/Oder, Munich, Kamenz, Marbach, Heidelberg and Tübingen (Germany); in St. Louis, New York, and Philadelphia. Weissberg was featured in interviews for the Chemical Heritage Foundation, the Jewish Museum Frankfurt/M, as well as Penn's Writers House. In 2017-18, she has served on the Academic Boards of the German Historical Museum Berlin; the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz; the Leibniz Center for European Jewish History and Culture Simon Dubnow at the University of Leipzig; the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European Jewish Studies at the University of Potsdam; the Research Center Sanssouci, Potsdam; the Munich Center for the History of the Book; the Board of Directors, American Friends of the German Literary Archives, Marbach; and the Leo Baeck Institute, London/Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, Bonn fellowship program in German-Jewish Studies. She has also joined the Research Council in Jewish Studies at the University of Augsburg. Weissberg was elected Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Munich in Spring 2018.

During this last year, **Steven Weitzman**, Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures, had an opportunity to speak at Penn Hillel about his book *The Origin of the Jews: the Quest for Roots in Rootless Age* (Princeton University Press, 2017), which was recently awarded a National Jewish book Award in the Education and Jewish identity category. Weitzman was also the recipient of the Dean's Global Inquiries Award that will support a course/lecture series on how religion is shaping

the global future. The course, to be co-taught by former State department official Marie Harf, will be built around a series of guest lectures from various scholars and government officials who will be addressing religion's impact on international conflict, human rights, the environment and other areas of life bearing on the collective fate of humanity (the guest lecture series component of the course, to be offered in the spring semester of 2019, will be open to the public). In his role as the Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Weitzman is looking forward to an exciting fellowship year focused on Jewish life in modern Islamic contexts that will bring to Penn more than 20 scholars from North America, Israel, Europe, Turkey and India. In May, Weitzman was elected as a fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research, the oldest association of Judaic Studies scholars in North America.

**Beth S. Wenger**, 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 essay, "Peripatetic Journeys," appeared in the 2018 anthology *Conversations with Colleagues: On Becoming an American Jewish Historian* and her article, "Federation Men: The Masculine World of New York Jewish Philanthropy, 1880-1945," was published in the journal *American Jewish History*. She delivered the 2017 Paula Hyman Memorial Lecture at Yale University, gave a paper at Harvard University's conference on the history of the Balfour Declaration, participated in a panel on "Rethinking American Jewish History" at the Association for Jewish Studies conference, in addition to delivering other lectures. Wenger co-organized the 2018 Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History, titled "Fractured Paradigms: Rethinking the Study of American Jews." She continues to work as Academic Director of the Jewish Counterculture Oral History Project, which documents the experiences of founding members of the *Havurah* movement. A founding historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, Wenger continues her role as consultant to the Museum.

**Julia Wilker**, is Associate Professor in the Department of Classical Studies. In 2017/2018, she wrote several articles and book chapters, including pieces on the interrelation of peace and religion in the Greek and Roman world, Hasmonean foreign policy under Alexander Jannaeus, and the role of women in Roman client kingship. In June-July 2018, Wilker taught a class on the Jewish Diaspora in the Roman Empire as Visiting Professor at the Katholische Universität Eichstätt (Germany). She is teaching "Ancient Mediterranean Empires" and "History of Macedonia" in the fall; and in spring, "Power and Peril: The Paradox of Monarchy among the ancient Jews, Greeks, and Romans" together with Natalie Dohrmann, as well as a graduate seminar on "Provincial Perspectives in the Roman Empire."

# Cultural Programs

## Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

On October 26, 2017, the JSP cosponsored the **Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture** with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and the Department of History. **David Ruderman** (University of Pennsylvania) lectured on “Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern Europe: Twenty-Five Years Later.”



Prof. David Ruderman delivers the Meyerhoff Lecture.

## Silvers Visiting Scholar Program

The Twenty-Second Annual **Silvers Visiting Scholar Program** was a talk on, “From Vienna to New York: Memory of a Life in Two Worlds,” with Nobel Prize winner, **Eric Kandel**, (University Professor and Fred Kavli Professor of Neuroscience at Columbia University, Senior Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Director of the Kavli Institute for Brain Science, and Co-Director of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute). This lecture on April 17, 2018, was made possible by the generosity of Dr. Garry Rayant and Dr. Kathy Fields-Rayant. It was sponsored by David, C’71, and Patricia, CW’72, Silvers, and also cosponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Program, the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Center for Neuroscience & Society, the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, the Department of the History of Art, the Department of Medical Ethics & Health Policy, MindCORE (Mind Center for Outreach, Research, and Education), the Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences, and the Visual Studies Program.

## Joseph Alexander Colloquium

The Thirty-Second Annual **Joseph Alexander Colloquium** was a lecture entitled, “Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz,” by **Omer Bartov** (John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History at Brown University). The event on November 2, 2017, was sponsored by the Joseph Alexander Foundation and the Mackler Family, and cosponsored with the Jewish Studies Program.



Dr. Eric Kandel, delivers the Silvers Visiting Scholar Program lecture.



Prof. Omer Bartov (second from right) at the Joseph Alexander Colloquium, pictured with (l to r): Mr. Harvey Mackler, W’75, Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein, and Mr. Alexander Snyder-Mackler, C’05.

## Kutchin Seminars

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

“Franz Kafka, Nathan Birnbaum, Americanism, Yiddishism: An Intercultural Exchange,” with **Mark Gelber** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, on September 12, 2017.

Celebration of Professor **Nili Gold**'s New Book: *Haifa: City of Steps*, with Nili Gold (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored with the Middle East Center, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, and Cinema and Media Studies, on October 19, 2017.

Film Screening of *After Auschwitz: The Stories of Six Women*, with Director Jon Kean (C'89), cosponsored with the Department of History, on October 24, 2017.

“Sephardi-Mizrahi Journeys in Middle Eastern Jewish Music and Culture,” with **Samuel Torjman Thomas** (City University of New York), cosponsored with Penn Hillel, on November 1, 2017.



Prof. Sara Horowitz (York University in Toronto) and Prof. Kathryn Hellerstein on November 9, 2017.

In commemoration of Kristallnacht: “Belated Encounter: The Recovered Literary Legacy of H. G. Adler,” with **Sara Horowitz** (York University in Toronto), cosponsored with the

Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, on November 9, 2017.

“A Lost Queen of the Sun? Tel Beth Shemesh, the Age of Amarna, and the Mysterious ‘Mistress of the Lions,’” with **Zvi Lederman** (Director of the Tel Beth Shemesh Excavation, Israel), cosponsored with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Center for Ancient Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Department of Anthropology, Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World Graduate Program; and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, on November 13, 2017.

The Josephine Cohen Memorial Lecture: “No God but Spinoza’s: Spiritual and Philosophical Influences on Einstein’s Thought,” with **Rebecca Goldstein** (philosopher and novelist), cosponsored with Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Department of Philosophy, on November 14, 2017.

Film Screening of *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities*, followed by a Q&A with Director, **Aviva Kemper**, and special guests, Rabbi Arthur Waskow (Founder and Director of The Shalom Center), and Mr. John Jordan (Community Relations Chairperson of the Pennsylvania State NAACP), cosponsored with the Department of Africana Studies, Center for

Africana Studies, and PB&J (Penn Black and Jewish Dialogues), along with Penn Hillel, Penn NAACP, Penn Black Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, The David Project,



Prof. Nili Gold talks about her new book, *Haifa: City of Steps*, on October 19, 2017.

Tzedek Social Justice, and Cinema and Media Studies, on November 15, 2017.

Film Screening of *Brave Miss World*, followed by a discussion with Editor and Producer, **Inbal Lessner**, cosponsored with Cinema and Media Studies, and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, on November 27, 2017.

“Maimonides and the Merchants: Jewish Law and Society in the Islamic Middle Ages,” with **Mark R. Cohen** (Princeton University), cosponsored with the Department of History, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Department of Religious Studies, Middle East Center, and Global Medieval Studies, on January 18, 2018.

The Caroline Zelaznik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Lectures in Talmudic Civil Law: “Divine Law: A Tale of Two Concepts (and Three Responses),” with **Christine Hayes** (Yale University), cosponsored with the Penn Law School, on January 30, 2018.

Film Screening of *Sacred Mountains: Abrahamic Religions and Musical Practices in the Mediterranean Area*, with ethnomusicologist **Nicola**

**Scaldaferrì** (University of Milan), cosponsored with the Center for Italian Studies, Music Department, and Cinema and Media Studies Program, on February 9, 2018.

The Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies: “No Longer Alien Residents: Italian Jewish Texts in the Late Renaissance,” with **Alessandro Guetta** (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales, Paris), cosponsored with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, on February 27, 2018.

Celebration of Steven Weitzman’s New Book: *The Origin of the Jews*, with **Steve Weitzman** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Department of Religious Studies, on March 22, 2018.



Professors Kathryn Hellerstein, Mark Gelber (Ben Gurion University), and Catriona Macleod, on September 12, 2017.

Middle East Film Festival 2018: “New Middle East Cinema,” recently released feature films from Middle Eastern societies and cultures introduced by a presenter with special knowledge of the country, culture, and issues addressed in the film, cosponsored with the Middle East Center, Cinema and Media Studies Program, and Department of

The Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies: “Genizah Scribes at Work,” with **Judith Olszow-Schlanger** (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sciences Historiques et Philologiques), cosponsored with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, on April 25, 2018.

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from March 19-23, 2018.

“The Gesture of The Canonical: Walter Benjamin & Modern Scripture,” with **Daniel Weidner** (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Center for Literary and Cultural Studies in Berlin, and Yale University), cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, on April 9, 2018.

## Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History

The 2018 Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History, “Fractured Paradigms: Rethinking the Study of American Jews,” was held at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, on June 17-19, 2018. A three-day conference presenting new research on the state of the field of American Jewish history, featuring plenary sessions on “identity” and “exceptionalism” as key categories in American and Jewish life. Jewish Studies is a cosponsor, along with the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society, American Jewish Archives and National Museum of American Jewish History, Knapp Family Foundation, Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Temple University’s Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, and the University of Pennsylvania’s History Department, Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, and School of Arts and Sciences.

## International Conference on China and Jews

The international conference, “China and Ashkenazic Jewry: Transnational Encounters,” took place at Nanjing University, on June 4-5, 2018. It was cosponsored by the Penn China Research and Engagement Fund (PennCREF), along with Nanjing University’s Glazer Institute of Jewish and Israel Studies, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, the Institute of Advanced Studies, and Penn’s Jewish Studies Program. This conference was the first to focus on the transnational cultural exchange specifically between Ashkenazic Jewry and China and highlighted roles played by contact between Jews from Central and Eastern Europe and Chinese people in China during the mid-twentieth century. Twenty-eight scholars from a range of disciplines (literature and translation, history, sociology, religious studies, digital humanities, art history), coming from China, North America, Europe, and Israel, participated in the cross-disciplinary dialogue.



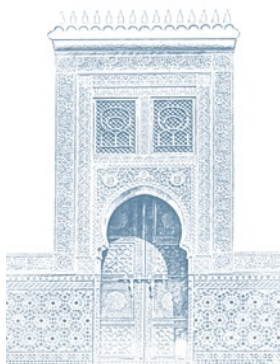
Conference participants in “China and Ashkenazic Jewry,” at Nanjing University in June 2018.



# 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](http://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 has served as a model for similar institutions since its inception. Intellectual camaraderie is the essence of the experience for fellows at all stages of their academic careers. During the course of the year the fellows work on their individual projects alongside scholars with diverse but focused interests, draw on our deep library collections and the expertise of our librarians, and meet to discuss their ongoing research.

Penn faculty and graduate students are always welcome at the weekly Ruth Meltzer seminars, which take place at the Katz Center, and fellows have ample opportunity to get involved with the academic life on Penn's campus. The Center's Meyerhoff Lecture brings a notable speaker to campus in partnership with the History Department and the JSP each year. Fellows and other invited scholars present the findings of the year's research and open new avenues of inquiry at two colloquia: a December Symposium and the Gruss Colloquium, both open to the wider academic community.

Editors chosen from among the fellows edit a volume that is published by Penn Press as part of the

Jewish Culture and Contexts series.

## 2018–2019: Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts

This fellowship year, scholars at the Katz Center are exploring 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 are questioning the meaning of modernity beyond the more familiar European, American, and Israeli contexts, particularly from the sixteenth century onward. Collectively, they are working to bridge linguistic, geographic, social, and methodological boundaries, to connect the study of the intellectual with the study of the everyday, and to encourage attention to new sources and approaches. [For a full list of 2018–2019 fellows, see page 18.]

## Looking Ahead: The Jewish Home: Dwelling on the Domestic, the Familial, and the Lived-In

In 2019–2020, the fellowship will support scholarship on Jewish homes, the most formative and intimate of contexts for Jewish life. Fellows will examine the home across many different thresholds/entryways, connecting what happens inside this landscape to life outside of it.

## 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.

In the spring of 2017, coeditor Elliott Horowitz died unexpectedly. He loved the journal and made it his intellectual home for more than a decade and a half. He was naturally and restlessly curious, wickedly learned, demanding, and ever open to innovation—a combination that made him an ideal leader of this venerable journal. *JQR* has marked his passing with a necrology and published his final piece last year in issue 107.2 and 107.3. This year,



Natalie Zemon Davis, Stuart Schoffman, Javier Castaño, and Francesca Bregoli came together in *JQR* 108.3 (Summer 2018) to reflect on Elliott's intellectual legacy.

Volume 108 (2018) also features a range of lively and hard-hitting essays. In the fall issue (108.4), Rebecca Jefferson challenges the very idea of the "Cairo Geniza" in her revisionist history; Jonathan Klawans and Matan Orian in different ways ask us to think about how ancient historians should manage the idea of "forgery" in a world of pseudepigraphy and literary license, now filtered through the era of fake news.

Yohanan Petrovsky-Stern and David Starr uncover a set of hilariously dark parodies of Hasidism written by a young Solomon Schechter, and David Myers convenes a provocative roundtable on the history of Israel through a series of historically significant milestones whose years end in 7. And this list just scratches the surface. Come and read.

## Fellows: 2018-2019

### Jewish Life in Modern Islamic Contexts

#### Esra Almas

Istanbul Sehir University  
Albert J. Wood Fellowship  
*Beyond the Muslim/Jewish Divide: Confluence, Conversion, and Conviviality in Interwar Istanbul*

#### Nancy E. Berg

Washington University in St. Louis  
Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship  
*We Remember Babylon*

#### Chen Bram | FALL

Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship  
*Intergroup Intimacy and Its Limits: Jewish-Muslim Relations, Modernity, and Cultural Exchange in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Caucasus*

#### Dina Danon

Binghamton University  
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship  
*Negotiating Modernity: The Marketplace of Matchmaking, Marriage, and Divorce in the Ottoman Sephardi World*

#### Keren Dotan | SPRING

Open University of Israel  
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship  
*Late Ottoman Mizrahi Writing: Questions on Modernism, Secularism, and Literary Form*

#### Yuval Evri | FALL

SOAS University of London  
Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship  
*Between Partitions and Translations: Arab-Jewish Cultural Visions at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*

#### Hadar Feldman Samet

Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jody Ellant and Howard Reiter Family Fellowship  
*Between Tradition and Revolution: Sabbatian Cultural Expressions of Ottoman Modernity*

#### Annie Greene

University of Chicago  
*Diasporic Citizens: Ottoman-Iraqi Jews and Extra/Imperial Identity*

#### Alma Rachel Heckman | FALL

University of California, Santa Cruz  
Professor Samuel Z. Klausner and Professor Roberta G. Sands Fellowship  
*Radical Roads Not Taken: Moroccan Jewish Trajectories, 1925–1975*

#### Kerstin Hünefeld

Free University of Berlin  
Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship  
*Synagogues as Contested and Symbolically Charged Cultural, Social, and Political Arenas in Twentieth-Century Muslim Societies*

#### Sarah Frances Levin | SPRING

University of California, Berkeley  
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship  
*Moroccan Jewish-Muslim Relations Remembered through Berber Oral Traditions*

#### Yoram Meital

Ben Gurion University of the Negev  
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship  
*Gate of Heaven: Jewish Life in Cairo, Past and Present*

#### Aviad Moreno

Ben Gurion University of the Negev  
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship  
*Early Roots, Intertwined Routes: Jewish and Muslim Migrations in the Moroccan Context*

#### Yigal S. Nizri | SPRING

University of Toronto  
Professor Samuel Z. Klausner and Professor Roberta G. Sands Fellowship  
*Sharifan Subjects, Rabbinic Texts: Moroccan Halakhic Writing*

#### Joseph Sassoon | FALL

Georgetown University  
Primo Levi Fellowship  
*Minority Merchants and Global Trade: The Rise and Decline of the Sassoons*

#### Edwin Seroussi | SPRING

Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Primo Levi Fellowship  
*A Spark of King David: Rabbi Israel Najara, Past and Present*

#### Reuven Snir | SPRING

University of Haifa  
Ivan and Nina Ross Family Fellowship  
*“Prophecies of a Madman in a Cursed City”: The Birth and Demise of Arab-Jewish Literature*

#### Alon Tam

University of Pennsylvania  
Israel Institute Visiting Faculty  
*The Way It Mattered: Jewishness as Social Identity in Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Egypt*

#### Alan Verskin

University of Rhode Island  
Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship  
*The Judeo-Arabic Newspapers of the Maghrib*

#### Mark Wagner

Louisiana State University  
Ruth Meltzer Fellowship  
*Ethnic Comedy in Yemeni Literature*

#### Affiliated Scholars

#### Joseph Alpar

Temple University

#### Orit Bashkin

University of Chicago

#### Haggai Ben-Shammai

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

#### Julia Phillips Cohen

Vanderbilt University

#### Noah Gerber

Tel Aviv University

#### John Ghazvinian

University of Pennsylvania

#### Ari Gordon

University of Pennsylvania

#### Benjamin Hary

New York University

#### Sifra Lentini

Gateway House, Indian Council on Global Relations

#### Lital Levy

Princeton University



## Highlights from 2017–2018

During the 2017–2018 fellowship year, the Katz Center focused on the nature, medicine, and technology from the perspective of Jewish culture. Scholars worked in fields across the entirety of Jewish history, and researched the history and anthropology of science, philosophy, philology, environmental studies, and much more.

### 2017–2018 Fellows List

**Julia Watts Belser** | Georgetown University  
**Eyal Ben-Eliyahu** | University of Haifa  
**Julie Chajes** | Tel Aviv University  
**J. H. (Yossi) Chajes** | Tel Aviv University  
**Yulia Egorova** | Durham University  
**Yitzhaq Feder** | University of Haifa  
**Gad Freudenthal** | French National Center for Scientific Research (Emeritus)  
**Debra Glasberg Gail** | Katz Center  
**Sofiya Grachova** | POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews  
**Christine Hayes** | Yale University

**Daniel Langton** | University of Manchester  
**Lennart Lehmhaus** | Free University of Berlin  
**Anat Mooreville** | Katz Center  
**Agata Paluch** | Free University of Berlin  
**Zalman Rothschild** | Harvard University  
**Adelheid (Heidi) Voskuhl** | University of Pennsylvania  
**Christian Wiese** | Goethe University

In addition, short-term and adjunct fellows included: Natalia Aleksion, Iris Idelson-Shein, Robert Jütte, Amos Morris-Reich, Projit Bihari Mukharji, Y. Tzvi Langermann, Tamar Rabinowitz, Annette Yoshiko Reed, David B. Ruderman, Shlomo Sela, David Shyovitz, Pavel Sládek, Sacha Stern, and Mira Beth Wasserman.

### 21st Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture

David B. Ruderman (University of Pennsylvania) delivered the annual the Meyerhoff Lecture titled “Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern Europe: Twenty-Five Years Later.” He revisited his seminal text, expanding the scope of his monograph’s pertinence and charting the field’s growth since he began working on the project in the 90s. Ruderman is the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History at Penn and the past Ella Darivoff Director of the Katz Center.



A panel from December Symposium, left to right: Sacha Stern, Yulia Egorova, Lennart Lehmhaus, and Daniel Langton.

### December Symposium

The Katz Center’s annual December Symposium, “Jews and the Natural World: Bodies, Animals, Evolution” explored the interconnected discourses with which Judaism both invents and interacts with nature. In addition to fellows’ work we heard from Beth Berkowitz, Gwynn Kessler, and Donovan Schaeffer.

### 24th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

The fellowship year culminated in a two-day, fellow-conceived colloquium titled “Science and Transformation in Jewish Culture,” in which fellows and invited scholars presented research on the ways that science and Judaism have long been mutual catalysts of change, exploration, and self-reflection. Beyond the fellows the conversation was enriched by invited scholars David Barnes, Andrew Berns, Tal Golan, Maud Kozodoy, Gianna Pomata, Josefina Rodríguez-Arribas, Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, and Assaf Tamari. David Shyovitz will edit a volume showcasing some of the best work produced during the 2017–2018 academic year.



### Outreach and Education

#### For the Local Community

Katz Center fellows speak, teach, and write widely beyond the boundaries of academia, and the Center organizes outreach programs focused on responses to nature and science in Jewish culture across many geographical and chronological areas.

Speakers in 2017–2018 included fellows and affiliated scholars: Julia Watts Belser (Georgetown University), J. H. (Yossi) Chajes (University of Haifa), Yitzhaq Feder (University of Haifa), Debra Glasberg Gail (Katz Center), Arthur Kiron (Penn Libraries), David Shyovitz (Northwestern University), Mira Beth Wasserman (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College), and Steven Weitzman (Katz Center). Guest speakers included MacArthur fellow and National Humanities Medal-winning Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, Nobel Prize-winning neuroscientist Eric Kandel, and Women’s Studies Research Center scholar Pnina Abir-Am.

We gratefully acknowledge the support for this programming provided by the Klatt family, the Harry Stern Family Foundation, and a grant from the Josephine Cohen Memorial Foundation.



Rebecca Newberger Goldstein leads a lecture about Spinoza.

For Religious Leaders

A group of rabbis drawn from diverse American Jewish communities came to the Katz Center three times over the course of the year to learn from fellows under the auspices of the LEAP program, a collaborative effort with Clal, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. Now in its third year, LEAP enlists influential voices in the Jewish world in the effort to translate and disseminate Jewish studies scholarship beyond the academy. This year, topics ranged from the historical to the urgently contemporary, and conversations catalyzed productive insights into the place of nature and science in modern Jewish life.



Mira Beth Wasserman speaks to a group of rabbis as part of the LEAP program.

For Graduate Students

Every summer, the Katz Center works collaboratively 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. The 2018 theme was the supernatural in Jewish history and culture and was devoted to the magical, the miraculous, and the monstrous. Two dozen graduate students from across the globe participated.

The 2019 program will take place in Jerusalem, with date and topic to be announced in December 2018. We thank Dr. Garry Rayant and Dr. Kathy Fields-Rayant for their generous support of the summer school.



**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, that 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: Professor Y. Tzvi Langermann (Bar-Ilan University)

Manuscript: A 15th c. Sicilian medical miscellany (UPenn MS Codex 1649)

MOOC: Go to EdX.org to learn from Professor Langermann about the circulation of 13th c. medicine by reading the wide variety of clues left in this amazing manuscript: The History of Medieval Medicine through Jewish Manuscripts.

architectural past. Guetta's mini-course is called The Tabernacle in Word & Image: An Italian Jewish Manuscript Revealed.

2017–2018: Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris // Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies)

Manuscript: A variety of Geniza fragments from Penn's collection

MOOC: Stay tuned for a masterclass in Hebrew paleography – no one makes deciphering handwriting more riveting than Professor Olszowy-Schlanger, who consulted with Parisian police handwriting experts to hone her craft.

2016–2017: Professor Alessandro Guetta (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales, Paris)

Manuscripts: Malkiel Ashkenazi's Tavnit ha-mishkan and Hanukat ha-bayit (CAJS Rar Ms 460), 17th c. Mantua

MOOC: Go to EdX.org to learn from Professor Guetta how Jews in Renaissance Italy found ways to both participate in the revolution in Italian architecture and recover suppressed Talmudic traditions through one man's production of a heavily illustrated exploration of Jews' own lost



2018–2019: Professor Dr. Elisabeth Hollender (Seminar für Judaistik, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität)

Manuscript: Maḥazor minhag Ashkenaz le-Yamim ha-nora'im ule-Sukot (LKCAJS Rar Ms 382), late 13th - or early 14th c. Ashkenaz.

**Online**

In addition to the MOOCs (see above for more information), 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 in a community of researchers.

# 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 more than 600 public service contacts, paged and shelved close to 3,500 circulating volumes, administered the consultation of over 700 rare items, delivered dozens of tours of the rare book room at Library at the Katz Center, and filled hundreds of Faculty Express, Inter-Campus, Borrow-Direct and Inter-Library Loan (ILL) transactions.

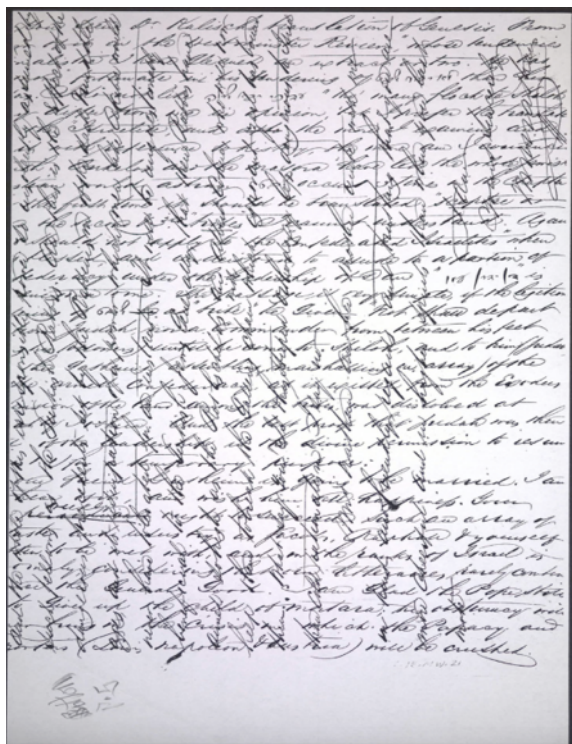
## New Judaica Collection Gifts

The Penn Libraries received an unusual number of exceptionally important Judaica gifts this past year:

We are delighted to announce the gift by **Laurence Salzmänn** and **Ayşe Gursan Salzmänn** of the Laurence Salzmänn Collection. Consisting of over twenty discrete projects, the Salzmänn photographic corpus, which spans over fifty years and four continents, is both fine art and unique anthropological field-work. Laurence Salzmänn's interdisciplinary oeuvre covers a range of human experiences and geographical locales, from documenting indigenous people in Mexico, Cuba, and Peru, to the last surviving members of Jewish communities in Rumania and Turkey, to Black-Jewish relationships in the United States, to Philadelphia local history. A website, symposium, exhibition, and catalogue are now in preparation.



Photograph of an elderly man walking in the snow next to a horse-drawn Jewish funeral carriage affixed on top with a Star of David, Rădăuți, Romania, ca. 1975, photographed by Laurence Salzmänn and published in his *The Last Jews of Rădăuți* (Tel-Aviv: Bet ha-tefutsot, 739, 1978). Gift of Laurence Salzmänn and Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmänn.



Moses N. Nathan, of Kingston, Jamaica to Isaac Leeser, Philadelphia, PA, dated 20 December 1858. 9 pp. Jesselson Leeser Collection, LSTCAT 150, University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

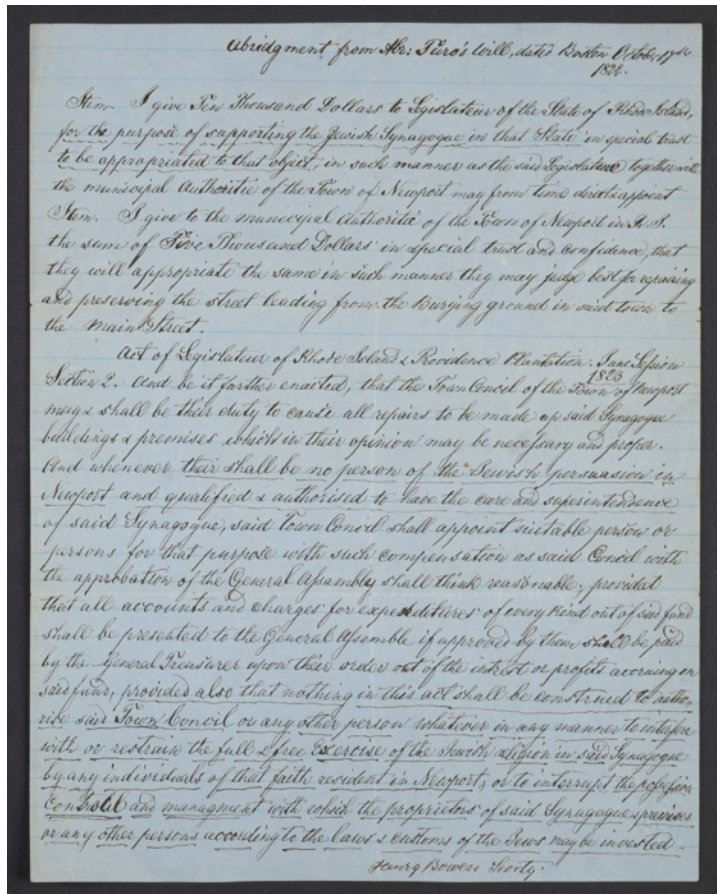
Penn's Judaica Collections received an extraordinary gift of 201 manuscript letters written to or in the hand of **Isaac Leeser**. Leeser is widely regarded as the most important 19th century antebellum American Jewish communal leader and publisher. His correspondence is the single most important, unpublished primary source of information about the growth of Jewish life in the Atlantic world in the 19th century. These letters have been transcribed and are available for viewing online at: <http://leeser.library.upenn.edu/>.

**Joseph and Susan Moldovan, C'76**, have made yet another gift of an exceptional diverse and important range of Judaica materials, including dozens of rare and antiquarian books, nine Hebrew manuscripts, antique textiles, a collection of hundreds of rare postcards, dozens of works of fine art and historical graphics, fifty works of paper Ephemera, and other miscellaneous primary sources. This most recent gift complements and builds upon previous Moldovan Family Judaica collections, including the Moldovan Family Digital Holy Land Map Collection, the Moldovan Family French Judaica Collection, the Moldovan Family Collection of Rare Books, Haggadot, and Graphic Arts. A website providing access to and featuring the entirety of the Moldovan Family Collection of Judaica at the University of Pennsylvania is now under construction.

**Arnold and Deanne Kaplan** continue to build the Kaplan Collection of early American Judaica at a remarkable pace. In the past year, they donated hundreds of additional items, including financial, legal, and economic documents, such as billheads, receipts, receipt books, printed books, pamphlets, broadsides, government reports, sheet music, maps, newspapers, manuscript correspondence, photographs, trade cards, medals and three-dimensional objects. Among the noteworthy acquisitions is a handwritten abstract of the will of Abraham Touro, the son of Isaac Touro and brother of Judah Touro, prominent early American Jewish communal leaders and philanthropists. Written on one side of a leaf of paper in Boston in 1822, the year of his death, it documents Touro's famous bequest of ten thousand dollars to the Yeshuat Israel synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, where his father had served at the time of its founding as the Hazan, and five thousand dollars to renovate the street next to it. The bequest ultimately led to the renaming of the synagogue as the Touro Synagogue, famous today as the oldest surviving synagogue building from colonial America.

### Tamar Shadur

has donated the personal papers of her parents Joseph and Yehudit Shadur to the Penn Libraries. Joseph and Yehudit Shadur were pioneers of Jewish folk art who also researched Middle Eastern studies and environmental conservation in the State of Israel. Their collection includes two series, one of the writings, correspondence, book reviews, and research by Joseph Shadur, and the other, published works by or about Yehudit Shadur, or containing images of her paper-cuts. These documents date from 1894 to 2002, with the majority of the documents produced from 1960 to 2002. A finding aid of the collection was completed by Hope Jones, a Bryn Mawr College 2018 summer intern placed at Penn



Handwritten abstract of the will of Abraham Touro, the son of Isaac Touro and brother of Judah Touro, prominent early American Jewish communal leaders and philanthropists, October 1822. Gift of Arnold and Deanne Kaplan. The Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

by the National Museum of American Jewish History, working under the supervision of Holly Mengel, the Archivist at the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and is available online at: <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/cocoon/dla/ead/>

We are indebted to **Zachary Grayson** for his gift to the Penn Libraries of two types of very special donations. The first is the return of two long-lost works of Judaica, bearing Penn Libraries bookplates, including an 1875 Warsaw printing of the *Mikraot Gedolot* bearing the Ex libris of the Biblical scholar Ephraim Speiser, one of the founders of

Oriental Studies at Penn. The other is a group of personal papers, dating from the 1970s and 1980s, which belonged to Rabbi **Adin Steinsaltz**. These papers, successfully bid upon at an auction in Israel and then donated to Penn, consist of hundred of pages of printed and handwritten scholarly correspondence with Rabbi Steinsaltz, the world-famous scholar and translator of the Talmud, as well as his own handwritten comments on his letterhead.

We are tremendously grateful to **Joanna Rose, Daniel Rose**, and to the **Rose family** for the gift of a facsimile copy of the illuminated Rose Haggadah. Produced in a limited edition of 100 copies, it is an exquisite family heirloom, commissioned by the family and executed by the artist, **Barbara Wolf**. Accompanying its production was a film documenting the exacting craftsmanship, historical thought, religious knowledge, and aesthetic considerations devoted to the making of this ritual work.

**Rifat Bali**, the distinguished author, publisher, and bookseller based in Istanbul, has donated a collection of forty-five rare Ottoman and Turkish Jewish imprints in Hebrew and Ladino. Though in varying condition, these books have unique ownership “footprints” and cover a gamut of subjects including liturgy, Bible,

Books of Psalms, mysticism, hagadot,

piyutim, and instructional works.

**Alice Dustin** has donated a collection of exceptional personal significance: Rare German Judaica imprints kept in her family for generations. They trace her family's travels from the German port city of Hamburg and the publications mirror how the movement for German Jewish reform made its way across the Atlantic.

**Louis Kaplan**, who received his Ph.D. at Dropsie College where he wrote his dissertation about Horace Kallen, the American Jewish philosopher and theorist of cultural pluralism, donated a collection of books by or about Kallen.

Special Acquisitions (selected highlights):



The first edition of *Oktober 43. Oplevelser og Tilstande under Jødeforfølgelsen i Danmark* ["Experiences and Conditions during the Jewish Persecution in Denmark."]. This copy, published in Jutland, Denmark in 1952, is inscribed and signed by the author, Aage Bertelsen, to the Hereditary Prince of Denmark, H.R.H. Prince Knud and Princess Caroline-Mathilde. Acquired thanks to the Mark Zucker Judaica Endowment.

In addition to these exceptional gifts, we were able to acquire, thanks to the support of our Judaica endowments many unique primary sources for teaching and research. Thanks to the support of the **Mark S. Zucker Judaica Endowment** we were able to purchase at the Kestenbaum and Company auction a unique copy of the first edition of *Oktober 43: Oplevelser og Tilstande under Jødeforfølgelsen i Danmark* ["Experiences and Conditions during the Jewish Persecution in Denmark."]. This copy, published in Jutland, Denmark in 1952, is inscribed and signed by the author, Aage Bertelsen, to the Hereditary Prince of Denmark, H.R.H. Prince Knud and Princess Caroline-Mathilde. Aage and Gerda Bertelson were leaders of the Lyngby Group, the underground resistance to German occupation, which smuggled Jews by boat to safety in neutral Sweden in October of 1943.

With the support of the **Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment for Sephardic Studies**, the Kislak Center was able to purchase at Sotheby's auction an early modern alphabetically-arranged pharmacological manuscript in Judeo-Arabic written in the Middle East. The work amounts to a comprehensive Arabic-language pharmacopoeia, or handbook of medical material, written in Hebrew characters. It lists and describes pharmacological simples and compounds of vegetable, animal, and mineral origin in alphabetical sequence according to the Arabic alphabet, setting out the properties of each and giving detailed instructions for their preparation and use in the treatment of various illnesses and disorders. This work relates to the topic of this past year's Katz Fellowship on Jews, Science and Nature, and specifically to studies of the organization of medical knowledge.

In anticipation of this year's (FY19) research theme at the Katz Center on Jews in Islamic contexts and the following year (FY20) focused on Jews and domesticity, we purchased ten handwritten ketubot (Jewish wedding contracts), produced for use at weddings in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. These documents feature elaborate decorative design motifs typical of

the communities in which they originated. Among the places in which the contracts were signed were Aleppo, Ancona, Bukhara, Bulgaria, Fez, Gibraltar, Izmir, Tangier, Tiberias, and Tetuan. We were able to bid successfully on these ketubot at Sotheby's thanks again to the **Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment for Sephardic Studies**.

Another joint purchase made by the Kislak Center and Penn's Judaica collection program was a unique copy of Elijah Levita's *Meturgeman* (Aramaic Dictionary), published by Paulus Fagius in Isny in 1541. This copy, successfully bid upon at a Sotheby's auction, features on its title page a rhymed dedication handwritten in Hebrew by Fagius, a famous Christian Hebraist and publisher, to his teacher, the renowned German humanist Wolfgang Fabricisou Capito. The subject of early modern Christian study of Rabbinic literature has been an ongoing theme at the Katz Center and the subject of two fellowship years.

Thanks to the Rare Judaica acquisitions fund we were able to purchase at auction a unique Hebrew and Italian printed edition of **Arba'ah ve-esrim** (24 books of the Hebrew Bible), issued in Venice between 1739 and 1741. This edition contains four engraved plates by Francesco Grisellini, the noted Italian botanist, engraver, and illustrator, including an elaborate frontispiece depicting the Binding of Isaac. Notably, the 18th century Italian Jewish scholar, Simha Calimani, provides translations and explanations in Italian of obscure passages. This edition is noteworthy and unique as well for handwritten genealogical notes in Hebrew and Italian about the Corcos family.



Early modern alphabetically-arranged Arabic-language pharmacopoeia, or handbook of medical material, written in Hebrew characters. Acquired thanks to the Elis and Ruth Douer Endowment for Sephardic Studies.

## Digital Judaica at the Penn Libraries

### Penn Judaica Digital Humanities Program:

<https://judaicadh.github.io/>

The **Gershwind-Bennett family** start-up gift to create a Judaica Digital Humanities program has already borne many fruits. Our Judaica Digital Humanities Coordinator, **Laura Newman Eckstein**, successfully built a project website, created a social media presence, and launched with **Laurie Allen**, the Director of Digital Scholarship at the Penn Libraries, and in partnership with the Kislak Center, five Judaica DH projects. The website also provides access to Penn's legacy Judaica DH projects and a history of Judaica DH at the Penn Libraries. Notably, one project in particular, "Scribes of the Cairo Geniza," has received a great deal of media attention and publicity. The project is a crowd-sourced effort in partnership with Zooniverse and an international team of scholars and institutions to sort and transcribe the contents of the Cairo Genizah. Another noteworthy project which has received much scholarly interest is the "Bibliotheca Hebraica Atlantica," a database of Hebraica, Rabbinica, and Oriental studies works found in institutional and private library collections in the Colonial Atlantic World: <https://judaicadh.github.io/projects#portfolioModal5>.

### The Jewish Counter Culture Oral History Project:

<https://repository.upenn.edu/jcchp/>

In partnership with **Beth Wenger**, chair of the History department, Penn's Jewish Studies Program, and Rabbi **Michael Strassfeld**, and thanks to the labors of oral historian, Jayne Guberman and videographer, Noam Osband, we have completed interviewing twenty-five founding members of *Havurat Shalom*, a pioneering institution of the Jewish Counterculture movement, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary this year (1968-2018). **Kenneth Whitebloom** at Penn's Scholarly Commons has implemented a long-term storage solution for housing these videographies and transcriptions, which will provide free, open access to the interviews via the Penn Libraries' YouTube channel and to the transcriptions of the interviews, as well as related photographs and other materials the narrators choose to send us.

### SIMS-Katz Fellowship:

<https://schoenberginstitute.org/sims-herbert-d-katz-center-distinguished-fellow-in-jewish-manuscript-studies/>

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. Professor **Judith Olszowy-Schlanger**, a professor of medieval Hebrew paleography at the Sorbonne, the President of the European Association of Jewish Studies, and the President of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew Studies, visited Penn for ten days in April 2018. She studied Penn's Cairo Genizah fragments, delivered a public lecture entitled "Genizah Scribes at Work," and also created a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), which will soon be available on-line. Prof. **Elisabeth Hollender**, Professor of Judaistik in the Seminar for Judaistik of the Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt, a specialist in medieval Jewish liturgical poetry (Piyut), will be our fourth annual SIMS-KATZ fellow. She will be studying (LKCAJS) Rare ms. 382. The first two SIMS-Katz MOOCs which are now available for enrollment online: Prof. **Tzvi Langermann**, teaching "The History of Medieval Medicine Through Jewish Manuscripts," and Prof. **Alessandro Guetta**, teaching "The Tabernacle in Word and Image: A Hebrew Manuscript Revealed."

### 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, continues to make major contributions as an archival processor, having created finding aids for the Boonin Family Collection, the David Goldenberg Presidential Papers (Goldenberg was the former president of Dropsie College); the Binswanger/Solis-Cohen Family Papers; and the Albert J. Wood Papers. Thanks to the hiring of **Elisheva Epstein**, we are now moving ahead, under the supervision of Kislak Center chief archivist Holly Mengel, with the accessioning and processing of new Kaplan gifts to the Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica.

### Post-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 began planning, in partnership with the National Library of Israel, and the KTIV international Hebrew manuscripts digitization project, the cataloging and scanning of Penn's post-1601 CE Hebrew manuscripts.



## Public Programs and Exhibitions

### Katz Penn Libraries Web Exhibition

The Penn Libraries partnered with the Katz Center fellows to produce a virtual exhibit “Between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and Nature.” To view this current exhibit, go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows18/>

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



Participants in the 18th annual Lehmann Workshop on the History of the Jewish Book.

Eighteen years ago, the Jewish Studies Program established the annual 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, along with grants from Mr. Albert Friedberg, a group of about thirty scholars, librarians, and graduate students from America, Canada, and Israel gathered at the Katz Center on June 3-4, 2018, for the intensive two-day workshop on “The Use of Medieval Manuscript and Masoretic Comments to Determine the Accurate Text of the Bible and of its Commentaries,” led by Dr. **Joseph Ofer** of Bar Ilan University.

## A Milestone Reached

After thirty years of service to the cause of Judaica Librarianship, **Judith Leifer** has retired from her position as ILL and Bibliographical Specialist at the Penn Libraries. Judith first began working at the Library of the Annenberg Research Institute in September of 1988. During her career there and after the ARI merged with Penn to become the Center for Judaic Studies, which is today the Katz Center, Judith helped hundreds of scholars and students from around the world. Many of whom have acknowledged her assistance in their publications. She also made extraordinary contributions to the processing of the historic Dropsie College library. We wish Judith the very best as she begins the next chapter of her life.

## Congratulations and thanks!

**Laura Newman Eckstein**, our Judaica Digital Humanities Coordinator, has been accepted into the doctoral program in Penn’s History department. She also has received a Falk Fellowship from Penn’s Jewish Studies Program. Laura’s work at the Penn Libraries was truly path-breaking. We are deeply grateful to Laura for her tireless work, congratulate her on this next step in her career, and wish her continued success as she steps down from that position to pursue her graduate studies.

## 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.]*



1854 Map of New York City depicting colonial house of worship, including the first Jewish synagogue building. Gift of Arnold and Deanne Kaplan. The Arnold and Deanne Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

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July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

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Illuminated and decorated Rose Family Haggadah, executed by the artist Barbara Wolff, and produced in facsimile in a lavish, limited edition. Wolff, Barbara, and Paul Vogel. *The Joanna S. & Daniel Rose Illuminated Haggadah = Hagadah Shel Pesah* (New York: Morgan Library & Museum, [2014]). Gift of Joanna and Daniel Rose and the Rose Family.

**We thank you for your  
 ongoing generosity to  
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[ \* indicates the donor is a former  
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# Kedma Revival

## From Kedma's Editor



Miriam Minsk

I am a Penn undergraduate studying bioengineering and potentially minoring in Modern Middle East Studies. I am from Rockville, Md. where I attended the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School for 13 years. I also spent the spring of 2017 with my grade in Israel. My Jewish education made me passionate about Israel, and when I got to Penn I enrolled in an Middle East studies class to learn more

about the region as a whole. After completing the course, my professor, Heather Sharkey, reached out to me about reviving *Kedma*. *Kedma* was founded on Penn's campus in Fall, 2005, and published its last issue in Spring, 2013. I saw this journal as an opportunity to create a space in which people could freely share their opinions pertaining to Jewish and Israeli culture, a space I believe to be necessary on Penn's campus.

**By: Miriam Minsk, SEAS'21**

*Kedma* is Penn's undergraduate journal on Jewish thought, Jewish culture, and Israel. *Kedma* provides a forum for Penn students to discuss, debate, and challenge ideas of intellectual and social significance.

We accept academic articles (between 2,500 and 5,000 words); reviews of books, restaurants, films, museum exhibits, and other productions; and creative pieces, such as poetry, short stories, photography, and other works of art.

Please submit your work here:  
[kedmajournal@gmail.com](mailto:kedmajournal@gmail.com)

We look forward to reading your submissions!



For thousands of years Jews all over the world have faced eastward during prayer, towards Israel and the rising sun. At the same time, the Jewish people have envisioned themselves as dynamic and forward-moving, engaging daily in challenges of survival and growth in the modern world. “Kedma” (lit. Eastward) comes from the Hebrew root *kedem*, which means both “east” and “forward” – and indeed, the journal aims to embody this progressive and creative thinking. *Kedma* is a forum for innovative thinking about Jewish culture and arts, and diverse Jewish communities and trends in the United States, Israel, and around the world. Based in the vibrant community of the University of Pennsylvania, *Kedma* hopes to encourage intellectually rigorous and varied conversation on campus and beyond.

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