

Jewish Studies @ PENN

THE JEWISH STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005

Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

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



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Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies Program

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

It is with great excitement that I assume the directorship of the Jewish Studies Program at Penn. I want to thank David Stern, the outgoing director, for his wonderful work and dedicated service over the past seven years. I look forward to guiding this vibrant and diverse program in the years to come. The Jewish Studies program at Penn remains committed to supporting the outstanding scholarship of our faculty, nurturing a lively community of undergraduate and graduate students, and sponsoring a vast array of programs throughout the university and the community.

It is difficult for me to believe that more than ten years have passed since I joined the faculty at Penn. When I first arrived, this university already had a well-deserved reputation for outstanding scholarship and impressive collections in Jewish Studies. But the program that we have created today has grown by leaps and bounds. We have a larger and more diverse faculty. We offer a greater selection of courses, in areas never before taught at Penn, with a growing number of students each year. Both inside and outside the classroom, the Jewish Studies program has developed unprecedented strength and vibrancy, enriching the campus and the Philadelphia community. It is my privilege to guide this program as it continues to grow ever stronger.

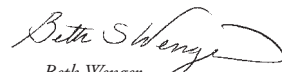
Last year alone, our program sponsored two of the most exciting and successful conferences in our history, reflecting our new strengths in modern Hebrew literature and American Jewish history. In October 2004, a group of almost thirty scholars gathered at Penn for an international conference that explored the work of Amos Oz, Israel's most renowned living writer. Amos Oz attended the conference sessions and delivered a fascinating lecture about his work to a standing room-only audience of faculty, students, and community members. In March 2005, our program spearheaded a citywide conference on "Jews and the American Republic" that took place at Philadelphia's National Constitution Center. With a keynote address from distinguished scholar Nathan Glazer and presentations by leading experts in both American and Jewish history, the conference offered fresh perspectives on the nationwide celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States.

The conference concluded with a performance by musician and author Jack Gottlieb, who explored the Yiddish roots of popular Broadway and Hollywood melodies.

By joining with the National Constitution Center for the "Jews and the American Republic" conference, we underscored our commitment to building bridges between the Jewish Studies Program and Philadelphia's leading cultural institutions. Inside this newsletter, you will read more about our cooperative endeavors with the National Museum of American Jewish History, soon to reopen on Independence Mall. Our aim is to utilize the intellectual resources of the Penn Jewish Studies Program and bring them to bear on the growth of Jewish cultural and educational efforts in Philadelphia and beyond.

Even as we expand our reach and extend outward to the larger community, we keep our priorities rooted in the fundamental mission to educate our students in the vast corpus of Jewish knowledge and to become an integral part of general education in the humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. We take as much pride in the daily classroom exchanges between students and faculty and our regularly sponsored presentations of student research in Jewish Studies as we do in hosting large conferences and welcoming internationally renowned scholars to campus.

The Jewish Studies Program draws its strength from the synergy of our efforts—from the scholars who come to Center for Advanced Judaic Studies each year, to the individualized research opportunities we offer our students, from the energy of our faculty and their enthusiasm for teaching, to the lectures, discussions and conferences that take place outside the classroom walls. As always, the vitality of the Jewish Studies Program depends on the generosity of our dedicated supporters. I hope you will join our community and I welcome you to contact me and to become a part of our program in the coming year.



Beth Wenger
Katz Family Chair in American Jewish
History
Associate Professor of History
Director, Jewish Studies Program



The Jewish Studies @ Penn newsletter is produced annually by the Jewish Studies Program at Penn.

Editor: Christine Walsh

Assistant Editor: Beth Wenger

We are grateful to Michelle and Peter, C'81/WG'85, Roth for their ongoing sponsorship of this newsletter.

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies



GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

This past semester I had the privilege of teaching in Penn's exchange program with the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium and offering a series of lectures at the *Ecoles des hautes études en sciences sociales* in Paris, France. The opportunity allowed me to finish a new book, to teach fascinating students in Belgium who were very different from my own students back home, and to travel extensively around Europe visiting academic programs in Judaic Studies in the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and Germany. Many of my contacts were scholars who had previously been fellows at the Center.

The experience was exhilarating, enhancing both my personal contact with European scholars and their students but also strengthening the Center's ties with former and potentially new fellows. However we assess the future of Europe and its new Jewish communities, one is struck by how widely and deeply Jewish academic learning has penetrated throughout the European continent from England and France to Poland and Russia. While some of the colleagues I met were Jews, most were not. Nevertheless, they spoke Hebrew with me, were accomplished in their Judaic disciplines, and were as fascinated by the artifacts of the Jewish past in their regions as I was.

Perhaps one of the most memorable experiences of this trip was a pilgrimage to the medieval Jewish communities of Speyers and Worms along the Rhine River in Germany, with Dr. Lucia Raspe, a fellow at the Center two years ago and now a professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Frankfurt. We visited the remnants of the synagogue and mikvah in Speyers, the synagogue and public Jewish museum in Worms (the Rashischule), and finally the unbelievable Jewish cemetery of the city which included graves from the 11th through 20th centuries. Having studied these gravestones in her research, she was an invaluable guide for me and made this visit a truly memorable one.

I feel a particularly close bond with young scholars such as Dr. Raspe who were educated in Europe and in Israel and who have established meaningful ties with their American counterparts through CAJS. Being away from the Center for this extended period allowed me to appreciate from a new perspective its significant place in the larger universe of Judaic Studies and to gauge its powerful impact everywhere I went. Throughout my visits, I publicized our programs and recruited new scholars to apply. It was so gratifying to know how well-recognized we are in Europe and how meaningful a role we have begun to play throughout the world.

We greet this fall a new group of twenty scholars here, to investigate the history of the Jewish book from antiquity to the present, and we do this in collaboration with Penn's famous seminar on the history of the book and its prominent scholars. Our journal, the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, our book series, and our public programs continue to flourish as we begin the fall semester. If you would like to learn more about our outreach programs and our scholarly community, please contact me or Dr. Elsie Stern, our director for public programs. I wish all of you a bright and peaceful new year.

It is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Beth Wenger as the director of the Jewish Studies program. I and the CAJS look forward to working closely with her in her new role.

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

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

NEW WEBSITE

The Jewish Studies Program at Penn has redesigned its web site! Please visit us at <http://ccat/sas/upenn.edu/jwst/>

Recent Gifts

The Jewish Studies Program would like to thank the following alumni and friends for their generosity during the 2004-05 academic year:

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If you would like to support Jewish Studies at Penn, please contact the School of Arts and Sciences Office of External Affairs at (215) 898-5262.

Jewish Studies Program News

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

In 2003, the Jewish Studies program and the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) embarked on exciting collaborative endeavor, creating a Postdoctoral Fellowship to be cosponsored by Penn and the Museum. The joint project has been an enormous success, benefiting both institutions and strengthening ties between them.

Dr. **Josh Perelman**, recently named the Jewish Studies-NMAJH postdoctoral fellow for 2005-2007, also assumes the title of historian at the Museum. Perelman, who completed his Ph.D. in American Jewish history at New York University and formerly served as Associate Executive Director of the American Jewish Historical Society, succeeds Dr. Ari Kelman, who held the fellowship the previous two years. This is an especially important time to foster a strong connection between the Museum and Penn's Jewish Studies program, as the Museum launches plans for a new building and new exhibitions at its location on Independence Mall. During his tenure, Perelman will lead research projects for the Museum's new core exhibition, teach a course each year in the Jewish Studies program, and supervise Penn undergraduates who enroll in internships at the Museum for course credit. "Linking the University of Pennsylvania with the National Museum of American Jewish History expands the possibilities for historical scholarship and creates new opportunities for students to explore the American Jewish experience," said Perelman.

Student internships have been a part of the relationship between Jewish Studies and the Museum for more than ten years, and the addition of the postdoctoral fellowship has allowed more students to participate in the program. The interns study artifacts and conduct library research on topics that will become part of the Museum's new core exhibition, exploring 350 years of American Jewish history. Past research topics include the Persian Jewish community in Los Angeles, the history of the Bar Mitzvah celebration in America, and trends in American synagogue architecture.

The connection between the Museum and the Jewish Studies program also helped facilitate the donation of the Peter H. Schweitzer Collection to the Museum. With an estimated 10,000 objects, it is one of the most important collections of

Jewish Americana. It contains objects of material culture that depict the everyday experiences of American Jews, both in their secular lives as well as in their religious practices. **Beth Wenger**, along with other scholars familiar with the collection, encouraged Peter Schweitzer to donate the collection to Museum.

As the Museum constructs its new building and new exhibitions in Philadelphia, the Jewish Studies program plans to sustain and heighten the collaborative relationship between the two institutions.

JEWISH STUDIES INTERNSHIP

In 2004-05, JSP continued its Jewish Studies Internship program. This program, supported by a gift from **Emilio, C'71, and Reina, C'72, Bassini**, is designed to encourage students to explore aspects of Jewish Studies outside the classroom. Under the direction of graduate student coordinator **Tammy Jacobowitz**, a number of students initiated, organized, and produced the following events during the year:

In April 2005, **Sarah Breger** and **Livia Levine** organized a panel discussion on innovations in liturgy by religious women, entitled, "Tradition and Transformation in Women's Prayer: Perspectives from Christianity, Judaism, and Islam." The discussion was led by Chava Weissler (Lehigh University), Barbara von Schlegell (UPenn, Religious Studies), and Reverend Beverly Dale (Executive Director of the Penn Christian Association).

In April 2005, **Brian Cohen** and **Johannah Lebow** organized a screening of the documentary film *Discordia*, concerning the riots that erupted at Concordia University when Benjamin Netanyahu came to speak there, followed by a discussion of free speech with Robert Vitalis (UPenn, Political Science and MEC) and David Stern (UPenn, NELC and JSP).

Also in April 2005, **Diana Claybon** and **Rachel Liebow** organized a kosher cooking demonstration with Israeli chef, Hanni Lipinsky.

All these events were exceedingly well attended. Nearly seventy students attended the panel on Women in Prayer, approximately fifty students ate their way through the Jewish cooking program, and twenty attended the program on Concordia University.

In the 2005-2006 academic year, graduate student **Kerry Wallach** will take over as graduate student coordinator.

In addition to supporting the Jewish Internships, the **Bassini Fund** also continues to fund the Bassini Dinners, our continuing and very successful program to support student-faculty dinners (or lunches) that seeks to extend faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.

STUDENT RESEARCH

Undergraduate student research continues to be one of JSP's priorities. Last year a good number of students in both the Jewish Studies major and in History wrote senior thesis projects on Jewish topics. Thanks to the generous support of **Phillip, C'34, and Robert, C'63, and Raymond and Ruth Brenner, PAR'99/01/05**, JSP annually awards some \$10,000 to support student research projects. Among the theses and projects supported last year were the following:

Reuven Gevaryahu examined English translations of the prayerbook (Siddur) reflecting on the decisions made by various translators about how to create English versions of traditional Hebrew prayers.

Dan Mincer studied Theodor Herzl's diaries and focused on Herzl's diplomatic efforts to create a Jewish homeland, his international diplomacy, and particularly his decision to propose a Jewish settlement in Uganda in 1902.

Zachary Silver completed a senior thesis about the excommunication of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan following the publication of his prayerbook in 1945, reflecting on Orthodox objections to Kaplan, the public burning of the prayerbook, and the greater significance of the excommunication in the formation of 20th century American Judaism. In recognition of his outstanding work, Silver won the President's Award for Undergraduate Research, the James V. Saporito Memorial Prize in Intellectual and Cultural History, and the Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award in Jewish Studies.

Reflection of a 2005 Jewish Studies Graduate in His Own Words:

Zach Silver writes: “For my senior honors thesis, I explored the 1945 excommunication of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, an event that featured the public burning of Kaplan’s prayer book just one month after the Allies declared victory in Europe. I sought to set the event within the larger events in American Jewish history and American culture and proposed in the thesis that the event served as a turning point in American Jewish history, pitting the seclusionist world view of Agudat HaRabbanim (the excommunicating organization) against the pluralistic view of Kaplan. Whereas the denominational and fractured nature of particular segments of the Jewish community were prevalent in the opening decades of the twentieth century, pluralism reigned in post-war America.”

“I became a Jewish Studies major by accident. It occurred partly because I enjoyed the classes being offered. But more so, I continued to take Jewish Studies classes because I found the program to have the most dynamic and engaging professors that I could find at Penn. As a student, the multi-faceted look at the Jewish experience through time was particularly rewarding. In Kaplan’s terms, it provided a look at the entire scope of the Jewish ‘civilization.’”

Zachary Silver’s account of the book burning was published in *The Forward* on June 3, 2005.



Zachary Silver presenting his senior honors thesis to faculty and students.

JEWISH EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The Jewish Studies Program, together with the Graduate School of Education, continues to plan and develop a Master’s in Jewish Education Program. Last October, a special dinner at the Penn Club in New York for supporters of the program was co-hosted by University Trustee George Weiss and Jewish philanthropist **Michael Steinhardt, W’60**, and development for the program continues at an energetic pace.

The new Master’s Program is the culmination of the many initiatives in Jewish education that JSP and GSE have jointly sponsored over the past several years. The two-year program, which will offer a Masters of Science degree in Education (M.S. Ed.), is being developed in response to the increasing demand for prepared teachers in Jewish day schools who are educated in both pedagogy and Jewish studies. The specific focus of the program is to educate teachers with a high degree of Jewish and Hebraic literacy—teachers with the knowledge, skills and preparedness to teach all aspects of Jewish Studies with a deep familiarity of the culture and primary sources, both classical and modern, in their original language as well as in translation. We currently hope to begin recruiting the first class of students in Fall 2006 and to launch the program officially in 2007. With Penn’s unusually rich resources in both Education and Jewish Studies, we hope to attract the best and the brightest students to the field of Jewish education—including our own Penn undergrads!—and in this way to raise the bar for Jewish education throughout America.

OTHER JEWISH EDUCATION UPDATES

In addition to launching the Masters in Jewish Education, JSP continued its commitment to expose undergraduates at Penn to Jewish education. For the fifth time, JSP sponsored last spring its annual course, “Teaching Jewish Texts,” taught again by **Ruth Fagen**, the former head of HaSha’ar, the institute for Jewish education at the Drishah Institute in New York City. The course—which combines both pedagogy and content—focused on the teaching of TaNaKh and was enormously successful with some eight students enrolled. This spring the course will be offered again, and taught by **Dr. Joshua Levisohn**, the chair of the Jewish Studies program at Akiba Hebrew Academy in Merion Station, Pennsylvania. This course in Jewish education has been made possible through the generous gifts of **Jeffrey Schwarz (W’80, MBA’81)** and from the **Lindenbaum Family** (parents of **Abigail, C’97**).

JSP also continued its collaboration with the Akiba Hebrew Academy, which involves sending Penn undergraduates into Akiba classrooms where, for an hour or two every week, they study Judaic subjects—Talmud, Bible, and Jewish Thought—with the high school students. The double purpose of the program is to expose Penn students to the experience of Jewish education, and to expose the Akiba students to the Penn undergraduates as mentors and role models. Last year was the program’s third, and there were four Penn students participating.

In addition, the program expanded last year to include the Stern Hebrew High School, a modern Orthodox institution in Northeast Philadelphia. We plan to continue the program this spring.

Graduate students **Naftali Cohn** and **Tammy Jacobowitz** also continued to serve as mentors for senior research projects at Akiba Hebrew Academy. In addition, **Tammy Jacobowitz** taught a college credit course in Biblical interpretation at Gratz Hebrew High School in Delaware, and she was a scholar in residence for Beth Jacob synagogue in Los Angeles and in several locations in the Philadelphia area. **Shalom Holtz** taught at the Drisha Institute in Manhattan and at Congregation Ahavas Achim in Highland Park, NJ.

John Fishman taught an Introduction to Judaism course this past spring at Temple Emanuel in Westfield, NJ. **Shawn Aster** mentored 12th grade students at the Akiba Hebrew Academy in their study of Babylonian and Biblical creation and flood narratives. **Kevin McGeough** taught European History and Mesoamerican Archaeology at the University of Lethbridge (Canada) last year. **Anne Oravetz** worked as a writing tutor at Philadelphia University. **Naftali Cohn** mentored two Akiba students and taught two courses in Stern College for Women, one entitled Women's Dress and Adornment in the Mishnah, and the other on the Haggadah.

If you are interested in helping us further any of these initiatives in Jewish Education, please contact us at jsp-info@ccat.sas.upenn.edu.

GRUSS VISITING PROFESSOR IN TALMUDIC LAW

In 1987, Mr. Joseph S. Gruss, through a bequest from his wife Caroline's estate, established the **Caroline Zelasnik Gruss and Joseph S. Gruss Chair in Talmudic Civil Law** at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Nearly every year since, the Gruss Chair has brought a distinguished scholar specializing in some area of Jewish law to the Penn Law School. Past chair holders include Professors Hayyim Soloveitchik, Aaron Kirschenbaum, and Moshe Halbertal, and Israel Supreme Court Justices Menahem Elon and Yitzhak Englard.

This past fall, **Dr. Josef Stern**, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago, served as the Gruss Professor for the third consecutive year. Stern taught a course in the Law School on Maimonides and delivered the Gruss Lectures. The lectures this year focused on the subject of "The Torah, Terrorism, and Counter-Terrorism: Maimonides on the Commandments to Eradicate Amaleq," and "Law, Memory, and the War against Idolatry." The lectures were widely attended, both by people interested in the topic and others who came to observe Stern's continued uncanny resemblance to his identical twin brother, outgoing Jewish Studies Director, **Professor David Stern**.

HEBREW

The Modern Hebrew Language Program at Penn once again brought students into contact with some of Israel's outstanding contemporary writers, including **Amos Oz** and **Haim Beer**. These authors visited students in their classes and discussed their work with them in Hebrew.

Students had studied some of the authors' writings before their visits. MHLP students also continued to participate in the development of Penn's innovative Hebrew on the Web program, which has gained widespread recognition.

YIDDISH

Penn continues to offer regular courses in Yiddish language and literature, as well as seminars in "Women and Jewish Literature" and "Translating Cultures." In addition, the Yiddish program conducted two **annual Singalongs (Zingeray)** led by Alexander Botwinik. As they have done in the past, Botwinik and Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish Kathryn Hellerstein assigned their students projects utilizing the **Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Archive at Penn**.

Hellerstein and Botwinik also enriched the classroom experience by introducing students to Yiddish culture through resources in the Philadelphia and New York areas. Thanks to a generous annual gift from the **Charlotte Yiddish Institute**, they took the Yiddish language students to the **Folksbiene** Yiddish theater production in November 2004. Botwinik and other Penn faculty and CAJS fellows participated in the Modern Jewish Poetry Slam, organized by Hellerstein in April 2005, at the Kelly Writers House.

We welcome contributions to the Yiddish program that will provide continued support for Yiddish instruction.

The 2005 Workmens Circle/Arbeter Ring Prize for Excellence in Yiddish Studies at Penn was awarded to **Jonathan Ludmir (CAS, '07)**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We wish to welcome **Maurice Samuels** of Romance Languages to the Jewish Studies Program. Samuels is an Assistant Professor in Romance Languages who has done considerable work on Jews in Modern France. He's currently writing a book on Jewish Identity in 19th century French literature, has written articles on the subject, and has already taught a course here on the same topic. Last spring he was a fellow at CAJS. We think he will make a very strong addition to our growing cluster of faculty in Modern Jewish literature.

We wish a fond farewell to **Millicent Marcus**, Mariano DiVito Professor of Italian Studies and Director of the Center of Italian Studies and Film Studies, who left Penn last spring in order to assume the directorship of graduate Italian studies

at Yale University.

Ari Kelman, formerly the National Museum of American Jewish History Post-Doc, has begun work as a research fellow at the Hebrew Union College, where he's working on a project examining the dynamics of synagogue change. He is also an historian-in-residence at the American Jewish Historical Society. He's completing revisions on his book *Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio*, and is beginning work on a new project about the Jewish counterculture. When he's not working, you can find him playing music, spending time with his wife, Amie, and training for his (next) triathlon.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Four Penn faculty—**Liliane Weissberg** (Germanic Languages and Literatures), **Maurice Samuels** (Romance), **Kathryn Hellerstein** (Germanic Languages and Literatures), and **Nili Gold** (NELC)—were Fellows this past year in the group on Modern Jewish Literatures at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

David Stern received a Fellowship at CAJS to participate in this year's group on The Jewish Book.



Professor Maurice Samuels

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

2004-5: MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE AT CAJS.

Last year was a very exciting year at CAJS. The fellowship brought together a dynamic group of scholars researching the many fascinating fields of Modern Jewish Literatures. Throughout the year, the offices, seminar rooms, and hallways of the Center resounded with conversations about Hebrew, Yiddish, English, and Arabic texts as well as discussions of the relationships between Jewish literature and the national cultures in which it develops. These conversations crystallized in a wide range of venues: the forthcoming publications of our fellows, the weekly seminar at CAJS, public programs in Philadelphia and beyond, graduate and undergraduate classes at Penn, the annual CAJS Board of Overseers study retreat, and the year's culminating Gruss Colloquium.

11TH ANNUAL GRUSS COLLOQUIUM IN JEWISH STUDIES

On May 3-5, 2005 CAJS hosted its culminating conference for the year, Modern Jewish Literatures: Language, Identity and Writing. In a series of stimulating sessions, conference participants explored topics at the forefront of Jewish literary studies, including Gender and Jewish Identity; Language, Culture, and Revolution; and Place and Jewish Literature. A highlight of the conference was a reading and open discussion of Yehuda Amichai's poem "Little Ruth," moderated by CAJS fellow and Penn faculty member **Nili Gold**. 2004-5 CAJS fellows, **Sheila Jelen, Michael Kramer** and **Scott Lerner** are already at work editing a volume of essays derived from papers delivered at the conference. The Gruss Colloquium is made possible through the generous support of **Martin D. Gruss, W'64**.

MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

Anita Shapira, one of the world's leading experts on Zionism and the history of modern Israel, presented the Eighth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History, entitled *People of the Land, People of the Book: The Bible and Israeli Identity*. The program was jointly sponsored by CAJS, JSP and Penn's History department.

The annual Meyerhoff Lecture was established by the **Joseph Meyerhoff Memorial Trusts** in 1997 to honor the appointment of **Herbert D. Katz, W'51**

as chair of the Board of CAJS and honor the generosity and service of **Herbert D. and Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz** to Penn's History Program and CAJS.

Publications:

CAJS continues to publish the most exciting current scholarship in Jewish Studies. In 2005, the Jewish Culture and Contexts Series, published in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Press, introduced four new volumes:

- *The Jews of Eastern Europe, 1772-1881* by Israel Bartal
- *Exclusion and Hierarchy: Orthodoxy, Nonobservance, and the Emergence of Modern Jewish Identity* by Adam S. Ferziger
- *To Build and Be Built: Landscape, Literature, and the Construction of Zionist Identity* by Eric Zakim.

For more information on these books and a full listing of books in the series, please visit <http://www.cjs.upenn.edu/publications/publications.htm>

Jewish Quarterly Review published its eighth issue this fall, marking two full volume years under the editorial team of **David Myers, Elliott Horowitz**, and **Natalie Dohrmann**. It has been a great year at *JQR* – submissions and subscriptions have increased dramatically and the journal continues to publish articles of interest to academics and interested lay people from across the spectrum of Jewish Studies and beyond. Highlights of recent and forthcoming issues include:

- a provocative forum on the body in Jewish Studies (Summer 2005)
- an article on Madonna and Postmodern Kabbalah (Fall 2005)
- a collection of reflections on Sefer Hasidism (Winter 2006), including pieces from Penn's own **Talya Fishman**, and past visiting professor **Ephraim Kanarfogel**.

JQR has also gone online. The journal will be available through Project Muse, beginning with volume 95 (2005) and soon, a century's worth of archived *JQR* will be available and searchable on line through JSTOR.

2005 PUBLIC PROGRAMS: IN PHILADELPHIA AND BEYOND . . .

Last year's series of Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies, entitled *Stories of Our Lives: Modern Jewish Literature and the Modern Jewish Experience*, brought CAJS fellows to

synagogues and community institutions throughout the Philadelphia area, where they lectured on topics ranging from Jewish American literature from the revolutionary era to modern Israeli poetry and contemporary popular Jewish culture. In addition to the Philadelphia area series, CAJS also co-sponsored a three part series at the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El in New York City as well as presentations by fellows in Miami and Los Angeles.

In 2004-5, CAJS also introduced two new programs. Our first public mini-course, *Great Jewish Short Stories*, gave members of the community the chance to participate in a seminar-style class with three members of the CAJS community, fellows **Anita Norich** and **Alan Rosen** and CAJS Asst. Director, **Elsie Stern**. The newly formed *Friends of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies* provided its members with four opportunities to learn from CAJS fellows, **Gidi Nevo, Laurence Roth, Deborah Starr** and **Liliane Weissberg** in intimate and interactive settings.

2005-6 AT CAJS: THE JEWISH BOOK: MATERIAL TEXTS AND COMPARATIVE CONTEXTS

Within the wider field of the Humanities, the history of the book has become a hot topic. However, the subject has not yet been addressed collectively within Jewish Studies. This year's CAJS seminar seeks to remedy this situation by addressing the ways in which the creation, production, and distribution of books have affected Jewish culture. Our 2005-6 fellows specialize in topics ranging from non-biblical Jewish scrolls from antiquity to papal censorship in the middle ages to women's literature and literacy in 19th century Europe. We have already embarked on a year of stimulating research and conversation around these fascinating subjects.

While our fellows are hard at work on their research and writing, they are also generously sharing their knowledge and expertise with Penn students and members of the wider community.

Four CAJS fellows, **Marc Bregman, Joseph Hacker, Joel Hecker** and **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin** are teaching courses at Penn while several other fellows are participating in a modular seminar for graduate students co-sponsored by JSP and CAJS. CAJS fellows are also participating in Penn's highly

Jean Baumgarten (F)
Popular Books, Readers and Readings in 16th-18th Century Ashkenazi Society
Ecole Des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship

Malachi Beit-Arie
A Manual of Hebrew Manuscripts: Medieval Book Production and Design
Hebrew University
Ellie and Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship

Shlomo Berger (S)
Yiddish Book Culture in Amsterdam 1650-1800: A Study of Paratexts
University of Amsterdam
Charles W. and Sally Rothfeld Fellowship

Menahem Blondheim
New Light, Old Letters, New Land: Three Immigrant Hebrew Printers in 19th Century America
Hebrew University
Louis Apfelbaum and Hortense Braunstein Apfelbaum Fellowship

Marc Bregman (F)
Non-Biblical Scrolls: Survey, Description, and Discussion of Manuscripts and Fragments
Hebrew Union College, Israel
Nancy S. and Laurence E. Glick Teaching Fellowship

Francesca Bregoli
Jewish Print Culture in 18th Century Livorno
University of Pennsylvania
Primo Levi Fellowship

Naomi Feuchtwanger-Sarig
Text and Image in the Hebrew Book
Bar-Ilan University
Ella Darivoff Fellowship

Federica Francesconi (F)
From Renaissance to Modernity: Books of the Jews of 17th Century Modena
University of Haifa
Primo Levi Term Fellowship

Mordechai Glatzer (S)
History of Jewish Printing in the 15th and 16th Centuries
Hebrew University
Albert J. Wood Term Fellowship

Joseph Hacker
Readers and Hebrew Books in the Ottoman Empire, 15th-18th Centuries
Hebrew University
Maurice Amado Foundation Fellowship
Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship

Joel Hecker (F)
From Anthology to Amulet: The Case of Sefer Razi'el ha-Malakh
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Erika A. Strauss Teaching Fellowship

Iris Parush (S)
Reading and Modernization in 19th Century Eastern European Jewish Society
Ben-Gurion University
Louis and Bessie Stein Term Fellowship

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (S)
Print, Conversion and the Shaping of Modern Jewish Collectivity
Ben-Gurion University
Martin Gruss Fellowship

Moshe Rosman (S)
The Conundrum of the Hasidic Book: 1780-1815
Bar-Ilan University
Ruth Meltzer Distinguished Fellowship

Adam Shear (F)
Medieval Jewish Thought as an Early Modern Process: Jewish Book Culture in Italy, 1450-1650
University of Pittsburgh
Louis and Bessie Stein Term Fellowship

Stefanie Siegmund (S)
Production of the Bilingual Book by Converted Jews in 16th Century Italy
University of Michigan
Selma Ruben Term Fellowship

Cedric Skalli
Leadership and Printing: Isaac Abravanel's Printed Editions and Manuscripts in 16th Century Italy
Tel Aviv University

David Stern
Babylonian Talmud, Rabbinic Bible, Siddur/Mahzor, and Passover Haggadah
University of Pennsylvania
Moses Aaron Dropsie Fellowship

Chava Turniansky
Texts and Contexts of the Z'ena ur'ena
Hebrew University
Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellowship

Piet Van Boxel (F)
Encyclopedia Judaica for non-Jews: Censorship under Pope Gregory XIII
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
Martin Gruss Fellowship

Joanna Weinberg (F)
Isaac Casaubon: A Christian Hebraist's Encounter with the Jewish Book
Oxford Centre and Leo Baeck College
Ruth Meltzer Distinguished Fellowship

ADJUNCT FELLOWS

Evelyn Cohen
Jewish Theological Seminary, NY

Matt Goldish
Ohio State University

Anthony Grafton
Princeton University

David Kraemer
Jewish Theological Seminary, NY

Vera Moreen
Franklin and Marshall College

Brad Sabin Hill
YIVO Institute

Menahem Schmelzer
Jewish Theological Seminary, NY

successful ongoing workshop on the History of the Book.

The 2006 Penn Lectures in Judaic Studies will run from January to April 2006. In addition, CAJS fellows will present programs in Los Angeles, New York, Miami and other cities around the country. A full schedule of our public programs will be posted on our website at www.cajs.upenn.edu.

The *Friends of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies* opened its second year with a standing room-only lecture by **David Ruderman**, Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and Ella Darivoff Director, CAJS, on the topic, *The People and the Book: The Invention of Printing and the Transformation of Jewish Culture*. The Friends group continues to provide its members with opportunities to learn from CAJS fellows and permanent staff in intimate and interactive settings. It is not too late to join for 2005-6!

This May, CAJS, in conjunction with Penn's Special Programs, will be offering a three-session mini-course on Jewish Book Culture: Material Texts and Historical Contexts, taught by Dr. Arthur Kiron, entitled "Parchment, Paper, Print: A History of Jewish Book Culture." This three-session course will survey the history of Jewish book culture from the origins of Jewish scribal traditions to the emergence of the modern Jewish book trade in the last two hundred years. The course will conclude with a tour of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Rare Book Room, where students will have the opportunity to bring their classroom learning to the primary sources.

For more information about any of these public programs, please contact Dr. Elsie Stern at erstern@sas.upenn.edu or consult our website at: www.cajs.upenn.edu.

FAMILIES MAKE JOINT GIFT FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

Parents **Michael and Linda Jesselson** and former Penn parents **Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein** have joined together to make a four million dollar gift to enhance Jewish studies at Penn by supporting the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS) in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Judaica collections of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

A portion of their gift will support the endowment of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS), the world's only institution devoted exclusively to postdoctoral research on Jewish civilization in all its historical and cultural manifestations. Each year, leading scholars come to CAJS from around the world to conduct research and share their expertise. The center also seeks to enhance intellectual conversation across many disciplines and perspectives through seminars, exhibits, publications, and outreach to audiences in Philadelphia and other cities. In addition, many of the center's fellows teach in the School's undergraduate program in Jewish studies. In recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Jesselson's and Mr. and Mrs. Schottenstein's generosity, CAJS's second-floor reading room will be named the Schottenstein-Jesselson Library.

The remainder of their gift will endow the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curatorship of Jewish Studies in Penn's Library, permanently ensuring that students will have access to professional guidance as they explore one of the world's largest Judaica collections. This gift represents the Library's first endowed curatorship.

2004-2005 SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

MEYERHOFF LECTURE IN JEWISH HISTORY

The Ninth Annual Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture in Jewish History was a lecture entitled, "People of the Land, People of the Book: The Bible and Israeli Identity," with **Anita Shapira** (Tel Aviv University) on December 8. The event was co-sponsored by CAJS and the History Department.

The Meyerhoff Lecture was established in 1997 through the generosity of a gift from the **Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Foundation** to honor the appointment of **Herb Katz**,

W'51, as chair of the Board of CAJS. Herb and Ellie Katz have been among the most devoted supporters of Jewish Studies at Penn. Their gifts include the Joseph Meyerhoff Chair in Modern Jewish History, the Katz Family Term Chair in American Jewish History, and the Herbert D. Katz Distinguished Fellowship at the Center.

SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

On February 22, 2005, Professor **Hasia Diner** (New York University) gave a public lecture entitled "Out of the Kitchen and into History: Food, Judaism, and the Crisis of Modernity." Following the public lecture, Professors **Beth Wenger** (History), **Paul Rozin** (Psychology), **Jeff Tigay** (NELC), and **David Stern** (NELC), addressed small breakout sessions of undergraduates on the topics of "Psychology and Jewish Food," "Boiling Kids in their Mothers' Milk (That Is, Young Goats)," and "Jewish Food in America."

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



Patricia Silvers, CW'72 and Hasia Diner.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLLOQUIUM

On November 9, 2004, Professor **Caroline Walker Bynum** (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton) delivered a lecture on "A Matter of Matter: Two Cases of Blood Cult in Late Medieval Germany." The Joseph Alexander Colloquium, Penn's oldest endowed lectureship in Jewish Studies, is supported through the generosity of the **Joseph Alexander Foundation** and the **Mackler Family**.

KUTCHIN SEMINARS AND OTHER LECTURES IN JEWISH STUDIES

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

"The Torah, Terrorism, and Counter-Terrorism," with

Josef Stern (University of Chicago), giving the Gruss Lecture in Talmudic Civil Law: Maimonides on the Commandments to Eradicate Amaleq, cosponsored with the University of Pennsylvania Law School on October 12, 2004.

"Law, Memory, and the War Against Idolatry," with

Josef Stern (University of Chicago), giving the Gruss Lecture in Talmudic Civil Law: Maimonides on the Commandments to Eradicate Amaleq, cosponsored with the University of Pennsylvania Law School on October 14, 2004.

"Jewish Life in Byzantium," with **Nicholas de Lange** (Cambridge University), cosponsored with Religious Studies on October 14, 2004.

"Akiba's Children, and Other Orphans: A Poetry Reading," with **Geoffrey Hartman** (Yale University), cosponsored with The Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and Kelly Writers House on October 27, 2004.

"Yiddish Sing-along," with **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Hillel on November 4, 2004.

"A New Look at a Medieval Jewish Star: The Poems of Isaac haGorni and MS Munich Cod. Heb. 128," with **Susan Einbinder** (Hebrew Union College), cosponsored with the History of Material Texts Workshop of the Penn Humanities Forum on November 8, 2004.

"People of the Land, People of the Book: The Bible and Israeli Identity," with **Anita Shapira** (Tel Aviv University), cosponsored with the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Lecture, and the History Department on December 8, 2004.



Caroline Walker Bynum (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton) delivering the Alexander Colloquium.

“What’s Jewish about Jewish-French, Jewish-American, Jewish-Anglo, Jewish-Russian, and Jewish Arabic Literature?: A Symposium on the Jewishness of ‘Jewish’ literatures in non-Jewish languages,” with **Maurice Samuels** (University of Pennsylvania), **Michael Kramer** (Bar-Ilan University), **Bryan Chettye** (University of Southampton), **Amelia Glaser** (Stanford), **Deborah Starr** (Cornell), and moderated by Professor **Charles Bernstein** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored with the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies on February 8, 2005.

A reading with **Nurit Zarchi** and **Lisa Katz**, Israeli authors, cosponsored with Kelly Writers House on February 10, 2005.

“Sing-Along: Yiddish-Hebrew-Russian,” with **Alexander Botwinik** (University of Pennsylvania), cosponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Hillel, and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures on March 22, 2005.

“Sholem Asch and the Christian Question,” with **Anita Norich** (University of Michigan), cosponsored with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures on March 28, 2005.

“The Many Tongues of ‘Jewish’ Poetry: A Modern Jewish Poetry Slam,” with **Kathryn Hellerstein** (University of Pennsylvania), **Ronit Engel**, (University of Pennsylvania), **Gideon Nevo** (Ben-Gurion University), **Michael Kramer** (Bar-Ilan University), **Amelia Glaser** (Stanford University), **Marc Caplan** (Indiana University), and **Anita Norich** (University of Michigan), cosponsored with the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and Kelly Writers House on April 5, 2005.

AMOS OZ CONFERENCE

The Amos Oz International Conference at the University of Pennsylvania on the Life and Work of Israeli Author Amos Oz was held on October 17 to 20, 2004. It was organized by Penn Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature, **Nili Gold**, and was a collaborative venture between Penn’s Middle East Center, Jewish Studies Program, Hillel, and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Ben Gurion University of the Negev. According to all accounts it was a great success. It brought together between twenty-five and thirty leading scholars of Jewish and Israeli literature from the Middle East, Europe, and North America. The event and Oz’s participation in it were a rare opportunity for the university and other communities to engage with him with and his oeuvre.

Amos Oz, widely regarded as Israel’s greatest living author and peace advocate, attended all sessions. The climax of the conference was the author’s address, a quasi-confessional monologue entitled “On Love and Darkness” delivered to a

spellbound audience at Bodek Lounge, with aisles filled to capacity.

It seems that the genuine warmth of Penn and of the community of scholars that engulfed him here transformed Oz during the days leading to his lecture. At the conference’s conclusion, this



Amos Oz with Penn professor Nili Gold. Photo credit: Israeli Consulate.

wonderfully articulate man admitted to being speechless upon receiving Penn’s gift to him: the Philadelphia 1892 printing of Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*.

JEWIS AND THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC CONFERENCE

On March 20, 2005, the Jewish Studies Program sponsored a conference on “Jews and the American Republic,” held at Philadelphia’s National Constitution Center. This conference represented an innovative approach to the yearlong celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States. The conference began with a keynote address by distinguished Harvard professor Nathan Glazer who eloquently addressed the key paradoxes of the American Jewish experience. Each remaining conference session paired a specialist in Jewish history with an expert in American history in order to stimulate fresh perspectives about both American and American Jewish culture. **Jon Butler** of Yale University and **Dianne Ashton** of Rowan University spoke about aspects of religious liberty; Penn professors **Beth Wenger** and **Rogers Smith** explored notions of citizenship, and Penn’s **Arthur Kiron** and **David Watt** of Temple University addressed the particular experiences of Philadelphia’s Jewish community. The participation of a large crowd of faculty, students and community members and the striking



atmosphere of Philadelphia’s Constitution Center

Nathan Glazer (Harvard University) delivering keynote address at Jews and the American Republic conference.



UPenn professors **Jonathan Steinberg**, **Beth Wenger**, and **Rogers Smith** in a panel discussion on *Constructing Citizenship at the Jews and the American Republic* conference.

contributed to the remarkable success of this conference.

The conference concluded with the **Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Concert**, featuring a performance by musician and author **Jack Gottlieb**. The program bore the title of Gottlieb’s recent book, *Funny, It Doesn’t Sound Jewish: How Yiddish Songs and Synagogue Melodies Influenced Tin Pan Alley, Broadway and Hollywood*.

Organized by **Professor Beth Wenger**, the conference was a cooperative effort among several co-sponsors, including Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences, the Fox Leadership Program, the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, the Department of History, as well as the National Constitution Center and the National Museum of American Jewish History.

JUDAH GOLDIN GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR

Initiated in January, 2000, by Professor Jeffrey Tigay, and named after late professor of Postbiblical Hebrew literature and long-time faculty member Judah Goldin, the Goldin Seminar is a graduate student seminar in Biblical studies and related fields. Coordinated by the graduate students, the Seminar was chaired last year by Bill Zimmerle and Spencer Allen.

The following papers were delivered at the Seminar last year:

Spencer Allen (Penn, grad. NELC)
“Finding President Clinton in the Bible: A Typological Study of the Book of Samuel.”

Benjamin Porter (Penn, grad. ANTH)
“Learning from Washpots: Production, Authority, and Social Life in the Iron Age I Southern Levant.”

Shawn Aster (Penn, grad. NELC)
“Royal Ideology in Ancient Israel: Psalm 21 in Its Northwest Semitic Context.”

Professor Tzvi Abusch (Brandeis University)
Lecture: “The Wild Man, the Courtesan, and the Hunter in the Epic of Gilgamesh.”
Workshop: Mesopotamian Witchcraft Literature

Library News

JUDAICA AT PENN'S LIBRARIES

The Judaica collections at Penn—located at the Van Pelt Library, the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library, the Fisher Fine Arts Library and the University Museum—continue to grow as an integrated unit within the University library system under the management of the newly endowed **Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica, Arthur Kiron.**



Arthur Kiron, the newly endowed Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica.

The Library staff of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies—**Judith Leifer**, who oversees the Inter-Library Loan program for the Fellows, **Seth Jerchow**, the CAJS Public Services Librarian, and **Josef Gulka**, who supervises circulation—received outstanding reviews from this past year's research Fellows. To mark the conclusion of the 2005 CAJS seminar year, Jerchow, in collaboration with CAJS Fellows, designed, edited and mounted a beautiful virtual exhibit based on the year's research theme, CAJS Fellows' 2004-05 web-exhibit "Modern Jewish Literatures: Language, Identity, Writing," May, 2005.

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows05/>

COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

Through a fortuitous confluence of circumstances, Penn Judaica acquired a unique collection of over 1,000 pre-WWII Judaica (bookseller, auction, and exhibition) catalogs. **Dr. Deborah Karp** donated nearly 500 items from the collections of her late husband **Professor and Rabbi Abraham J. Karp, Mr. Jack Roth**, a Los Angeles Judaica bookseller, donated over 300 items, and another group of nearly 300 items was purchased from Dan Wyman Books, of Springfield, MA. These rare, ephemeral catalogs were acquired with an eye towards the coming CAJS research year (2005-2006) on the "Jewish Book: Material Texts and Historical Contexts."

Most significant and noteworthy has been the additional donation by **Dr. Deborah Karp** from her husband's library of a collection of over 300 rare Hebrew manuscript and print

material. Her donation, now called the "**Abraham J. Karp Collection**" at the University of Pennsylvania, includes Genizah fragments, historical letters and documents, amulets and manuscript writings related to magic and witchcraft, miscellaneous liturgical manuscripts and printed pages, printed broadsides, pamphlets and books from the 17th through the 20th centuries. We are extraordinarily grateful to Dr. Karp for her munificent gift and for the trust she has placed in us to ensure the proper care and use of the material.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

This past year's annual **Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Concert** was held at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on March 20, 2005. **Mr. Jack Gottlieb**, the well-known author and performer, delivered a combined lecture/musical program entitled "Funny, It Doesn't Sound Jewish: How Yiddish Songs and Synagogue Melodies Influenced Tin Pan Alley, Broadway, and Hollywood." The program was held in conjunction with a conference, "Jews and the American Republic" organized by **Prof. Beth Wenger**.

The Library teamed up with the Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies to host the fifth annual **Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop** on the history of the Jewish book. This year's topic was Jewish Book Art and Illumination, led by **Hebrew University Professor Sarit Shalev-Eyni**, and held, as usual, at the CAJS.



Graduate students, faculty and librarians at the Lehmann Workshop.

GRANT PROJECTS

The Penn Library submitted a successful grant proposal "Integrating Information Technologies with the Humanistic Study of Religion and Urban Civil Society in the Middle East," to the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS). The Judaica Curator, who wrote the proposal, serves as the coordinator of the project, in conjunction with **Prof. Heather Sharkey**

(NELC); **Ms. Debra Bucher** (Religious Studies Bibliographer) and **Mr. William Kopycki** (Middle East Bibliographer), **Ms. Leslie Vallhonrat** (Computer Systems), and **Greg Bear** (Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image).

Our Genizah project partnership with **Taylor-Schechter Genizah Unit at the Cambridge University Library**, the **Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America** in New York City, **Prof. Ezra Chwat** at the Institute for Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts in Jerusalem, and **Ms. Heidi Lerner** at the Stanford University Library, continued apace. We completed the scanning and cataloging of all of Penn's fragments and received a sample of scans and metadata from the CUL and from the JTSAL to test the project.

SUPPORTERS OF PENN'S JUDAICA COLLECTIONS

Penn's Judaica collections were strengthened by numerous significant gifts and contributions received during the 2004-05 academic year:

- * The position of Curator of Judaica Collections at the Penn Library has been endowed by the **Schottenstein and Jesselson families**;
- * Gift by **Dr. Deborah Karp** of selected historical manuscript material from the **Abraham J. Karp Collection**;

- * Gift by **Mrs. Alma Cohen** of a two Hebrew Esther scrolls, a Purim grogger made of ivory and bone, a silver mezuzah cover, and a silver amulet;
- * Gift by **Mrs. Iris Newman** of a silver-bound Venetian Hebrew prayer book;
- * **Mr. Harry Boonin** donated a handwritten letter by Moses Aaron Dropsie as well as a printed pamphlet related to Dropsie's street car business;

- * **Dr. David G. Cook** donated a newly published critical edition of the Gilgamesh Epic in honor of **Prof. Jeffrey Tigay**;
- * **Mrs. Adele Silver** donated a collection of rare printed books from the library of her late husband, **Rabbi Jeremy Daniel Silver**;
- * **Rabbi Dr. Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah** donated seventy-seven bound volumes of the London Jewish Chronicle, from June of 1952 through December, 1991, eleven unbound packages of LJC issues to 1999, and thirty-seven additional volumes of scholarly Judaica to create the “**The Rabbi Dr. Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah Collection**”;
- * **Mr. Gilbert Mathews, W’70** gave a generous gift for collections development including the purchase of the online database, **Bibliography of the Hebrew Book**;
- * **Mr. Stephen M. Wind, ENG’00 C’00** made a generous gift for collections development;
- * **Penn’s Jewish Studies Program**, with the support of its Friends, continues to contribute money towards special auction purchases.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS ALSO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

Jean S. Adelman; Beki L. Bahar; Adina Bar-El; Miriam and Ben-Zion Barlev; Hakan Bengtsson; Terri Binder and Joseph Koschitzki; Howard A. Blum; Ann Bonn and Helen Weindling; Ruth and Raymond Brenner and the Brenner Family Fund for Jewish Studies in honor of Gregory Brenner, W’99; Adam Brenner, W’01; Jason Brenner, W’05; Petr Charvat; Alma Orlovitz Cohen, FA’44; Boris Cohen, Martin Cohen; Gloria Cohn; David G. Cook; Flora Campos Cornfield; Muhammad A. Dandamayev; Avi Decter; Yvonne Edels; Alfred H. Eidlisz; Michael E. Eigen, C’57; Jeremy-Stuart de Fishberg; Sandra Fifer; Pamela Foa; Megan Foley; John L. Frank; Robert and Molly Freedman; Jack and Naomi Friedman; Annette Freund; Michal Galas; Gilad J. Gevaryahu; Allen and Adele Gottfried; Adele and Bertram Greenspan; Guido Guastalla; Silvia Guastalla; Bruna Herzfeld; Eric Hoffman, GR’78 L’84; Irving Horn; Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.; Seth Jerchow; Jewish Publication Society of America; Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Maxine Kalina; Michael Kaplan; Deborah Karp; Melvin Kates; Murad El-Kodsi; Norman Kransdorf; Judith Korman Langsfeld CW’67; Eric Laupot; Judith Leifer; Marvin Lessen;

Walter A. Levy, G’73; Lenora M. and John E. Link; Jack Lunzer; Eugene Mark; Eleanor Chana Mlotek; Jane Moskowitz Mack; Mona Magnis; Paul David Mandel; Gilbert Mathews, W’70; Ezekiel N. and Margaret Musleah; Selly Mizrahi; Tamara Morgenstern; National Museum of American Jewish History; Iris Newman; Jeffrey I. Pasek, L’76; Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS); Jerry and Ellen Prince, G’74; Rose Rechnic; Frieda Reider; Barry S. Robbins; Lois Satalof; Faye S. Rosenthal, CW’71; Jack Roth; David Ruderman; Shalom Club at Lake Ridge, Toms River, New Jersey; Moshe A. Shaltiel-Gracian; Morris Shelanski; Harvey Sheldon; Adele Silver; Francine and Marvin Silverstein; Flor Siperstein; Eric L. Stern; Harry Stern; Ione Apfelbaum Strauss in honor of Erika A. Strauss; Paul A. Tanker; Selig A. Tauenblatt; Stephen D. Toback; Fortunee Franchetti Treves; Iosif I. Vaisman; Wout Jac. Van Bekkum; Marvin Verman; Saul Viener; Naomi Vogelmann-Goldfeld; Temira Volcanyi; Lewis Wechsler; George H. Weiss; Falk Wiesemann; Ruth Westheimer; Norma R. Weiser; Anita J. Willens; Steven M. Wind, ENG’00 C’00; Gerald Wolpe; Albert J. Wood; Ele Wood; Leonard Wood; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Gilbert Young; Roza Zaks; Joseph Zernik.

The following CAJS Fellows and guests have donated copies of their scholarship to the CAJS Library collection: **Elisheva Baumgarten; Adina Bar-El; Hamutal Bar-Yosef; Israel Bartal; Malachi Beit-Arie; Dan Ben-Amos; Adele Berlin; Stephen Burnett; Alan D. Crown; Aron Dotan; Harold Allen Drake; Jacob Elbaum; David Engel; Shamma Friedman; Seymour Gitin; Sylvie Goldberg; Alessandro Guetta; Joseph Hacker; Orna Has; Galit Hasan-Rokem; Adiel Kadari; Tamar Kadari; Marion Kant; Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett; Samuel Z. Klauzner; Michael Kramer; Daniel Lasker; Sara Japhet; Ruth Kartun-Blum; Fabrizio Lelli; Berahyahu Lifshitz; Ora Limor; Yehiel Limor; Rachel Manekin; Richard Popkin; Riv-Ellen Prell; Stefan Reif; Shalom Sabar; Dalit Rom-Shiloni; Alan Rosen; Moshe Rosman; Tovah Rosen; Gerson Shaked; Jeffrey Shoulson; Daniel Sheerin; Marcos Silber; Mark S. Smith; Haym Soloveitchik; Adam Teller; Smadar Tirosch-Heyd; Israel Yuval; Mordechai Zalkin; Ziony Zevit.**

SPOTLIGHT ON ABRAHAM J. KARP COLLECTION

The University of Pennsylvania Library is proud to announce the acquisition of more than three hundred rare Hebrew manuscript and print materials from the collection of the late Professor and **Rabbi Abraham J. Karp**, generously donated by his wife **Dr. Deborah Karp**. Rabbi Karp was a pioneer in the field of American Jewish history, with a distinguished academic career, serving as a professor at the University of Rochester, Dartmouth College, and the Jewish Theological Seminary. A passionate collector of Judaica, Karp amassed an extensive and varied collection, with items spanning centuries of Jewish life throughout the world. His collection includes Genizah fragments, original manuscripts, letters, artifacts, broadsides, books, and a host of other materials that reflect the totality and breadth of Jewish expression. Penn also received from Rabbi Karp’s collection nearly five hundred bookseller and exhibition catalogs that document the art and business of the Jewish book in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Karp collection represents a stellar addition to Penn’s library and archives in Judaica.

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

Seven students graduated in May 2005 with majors in the different Jewish Studies departmental tracks.

- Three seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program’s Interdisciplinary Major: **Reuven Gevaryahu, Mark Dan Mincer, and Zachary Silver**.
- Four seniors completed the Jewish Studies Program’s Interdisciplinary Minor: **Diana Claybon, Vanessa Friedman, Janna Hoffman, and Dara Feith Tye**.

PRIZES AND HONORS

The **Philip E. Goldfein Scholarship Award in Jewish Studies**, which is supported by a generous gift from **Robert, C’63, and Phillip, C’34, Goldfein**, is awarded to both undergraduates and graduate students to support research projects and unusual academic experiences. This past year’s awards went to undergraduates: **Sarah Breger, Elizabeth Rosado, Zachary Silver, and Jay Solomon**.

The **B’nai Zion Award** for Excellence in Hebrew and Hebraic Studies was awarded to **Andrea M. Brem**. This award of a \$100 United States Savings

About Our Students

Bond is sponsored by the B'nai Zion Foundation.

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeiter Ring Prize in Yiddish Studies is supported by a gift from the Philadelphia Branch of the Workmen's Circle and the United Worker's Educational Organization to reward excellence in Yiddish Studies. This year's prize was awarded to **Jonathan Ludmir**.

The Raymond and Ruth Brenner Grants in Jewish Studies, designated for special opportunities in Judaic Studies, were awarded to graduate students: **Cornelia Aust, Andrew Berns, Rebecca Cutler, Benjamin Fisher, and Uri Horesh**. This award was established through the generosity of **Raymond and Ruth Brenner and their family** (parents of **Jason, W'05, Adam, W'01, and Gregory, W'99, Brenner**).

The Merle Saunders Schaff Memorial Award is awarded annually by the Department of Religious Studies for the best essays written by undergraduate and graduate students on a topic in the history of Judaism or Ancient Israel. Last year's recipient went to graduate student **Douglas Finkbeiner** for his essay on, "The Contribution of References and Citations in the Dead Sea Scrolls for Determining Authoritative Books."

Thanks to a \$10,000 endowment gift last winter by Dr. Rosaline Goldin and Ms. Julia Goldin of Bala Cynwyd, JSP was able to

create **The Samuel Esther Goldin Endowment Award Fund** to benefit an outstanding student majoring or minoring in Jewish studies at the University of Pennsylvania. This year's award went to **Zachary Silver**, a senior Jewish Studies interdisciplinary major.

In addition, JSP has established the **Judah Goldin Memorial Prize for Excellence in Advanced Hebrew Studies**. This year's award, was given to **Daniel Saat, '05**. (The namesakes of the two Goldin Prizes are not related to each other.)

And a special congratulations to our alumni **Shawn Aster** for winning a Kreitman Foundation post-doctoral fellowship at Ben Gurion University, and to **Andrea Weiss** for the publication of her dissertation with the prestigious *Vetus Testamentum Supplement* series. (The previous Penn thesis published in this series was Shalom Paul's 1965 thesis, published as "Studies in the Book of Covenant in the light of cuneiform and Biblical law," *Supplements to Vetus Testamentum*. v. 18, 1970).



Professor Hellerstein enjoying falafel with students.

East, Rabbinics and Biblical Interpretation, Jewish Intellectual History from the Medieval through Modern periods, Early Modern and Modern Jewish History, Modern Jewish Literature, and American Jewish History. The Jewish Studies Program itself does not run graduate programs—these continue to be located in graduate groups run through departments, like History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Religious Studies—but JSP sponsors an on going student-run graduate student seminar. It also awards research stipends to every entering graduate student as well as special-needs and research grants to support graduate education and scholarship.

THE FALK FELLOWSHIP

Most importantly, the JSP administers the **Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Fellowship**, the only graduate fellowship "owned" and controlled by Jewish Studies. Because the cost of graduate school has reached virtually astronomic heights, fellowship support has become indispensable, both for supporting graduate students once they enter the program, and for recruiting the very best candidates and persuading them to come to Penn. The Falk Fellowship was endowed by **Edward Falk, W'66**, in memory of his mother, Margaret Schoenfeld Falk, to support a graduate student who works specifically in the area of Jewish Studies. Current Falk Fellows are fourth-year grad student **Naftali Cohn** (NELC), second-year student **Kerry Wallach** (Germanic Languages), and first-year **David Shyovitz** (HIST); Naftali is studying Rabbinic literature, Kerry modern German-Jewish and Hebrew literatures, and David is studying early modern Jewish history.

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

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

COMING ATTRACTIONS

THE 10TH ANNUAL SILVERS VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Professor Jeffrey Gurock on "American Judaism's Scorecard: Sports and American Jewish Culture"

Wednesday, February 22, 5:00 pm
2nd Floor Auditorium
Penn Hillel (Steinhardt Hall)
215 S. 39th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Through the metaphor of Judaism's encounter with American sports, Professor Gurock will explore the dynamics of 20th century immigrant adjustment to the United States and assess the contemporary state of Jewish life in this country.

Jeffrey S. Gurock is Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University.

SPECIAL FEATURE: GRADUATE STUDIES IN JEWISH STUDIES AT PENN

Thirty years ago, Jewish Studies at Penn was mainly geared towards training graduate students for doctorates, with a heavy focus upon the Ancient Near East, the Bible, and early Post-Biblical literature and Rabbinics. Since then, Jewish Studies—along with the university in general—has changed radically, with a massive shift towards undergraduate education. In the meantime, Penn's Jewish Studies faculty and programs have become as strong in the modern period as in the ancient and medieval, and our courses and students have changed in corresponding ways as well.

Our graduate programs, though small and highly selective, nonetheless remain among the strongest in America in our various fields of specialization: Bible and the Ancient Near

scholars and teachers of tomorrow. As the following portraits of our graduate students will tell you, the Falk fellowship has been a major boon for Jewish Studies at Penn. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Ed Falk for his generosity!

LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL

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

Rachel Anisfeld received her Ph.D. from the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in the field of Midrash in the spring of 2004. She is currently a Research Associate at the Center for Jewish Studies of the University at Albany. She is at work turning her dissertation into a book about the historical development of amoraic homiletical midrash. She also wrote a parashah commentary for the URJ Press Women’s Torah Commentary. She has begun a new research project on the Siddur, and has been teaching Midrash, Talmud and Siddur classes in community adult education programs in the Albany area. This winter she will be presenting a paper at the AJS conference on the relationship between the rhetoric of homiletical midrash and that of contemporary Christian sermons.

Shawn Zelig Aster spent the 2004-5 academic year teaching Bible and Talmud at the Stern Hebrew High School in Philadelphia, while he completed his dissertation. He expects to defend his dissertation, on “Literary Portrayals of Divine and Human Radiance in Mesopotamia and Biblical Israel” this fall. He also mentored 12th grade students at the Akiba Hebrew Academy in their study of Babylonian and Biblical creation and flood narratives, and delivered a talk at the 2004 AJS on “Are Isaiah’s Conceptions of God as a Universal Ruler Related to Neo-Assyrian Imperial Propaganda?” During the 2005-6 year, Shawn expects to be a Kreitman Postdoctoral Fellow at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, in Beer-sheba Israel. There, he will research and write a monograph on political thought in the Biblical prophets. The monograph will demonstrate how the Biblical prophets were aware of the royal propaganda of the Assyrian and Babylonian empires, and how subtly satirized and challenged this propaganda in their writings.

Idana Goldberg received her doctorate in May 2005. She is currently working at the Jewish Funders Network in New York City, where she is

experiencing the modern version of the 19th century American Jewish philanthropy she analyzed in her dissertation. Idana is continuing to pursue her academic interests independently and is editing a collection of essays on Orthodox Feminism to be published by Rutgers University Press.

After graduating in December 2003, **Debra Kaplan** was awarded the Rose and Morris Danzig Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies at Queens College. She has lectured in Leipzig, New York and Augsburg, and will be speaking in Berlin and Minnesota this spring. Debra is currently a tenure track assistant professor at Yeshiva College.

Rebecca Kobrin, a former Wexner Fellow, completed her doctorate in Modern Jewish History in Spring 2002. Since then, she has held a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Yale in Judaic Studies, and is currently the American Academy of Jewish Research post-doctoral fellow at New York University. Kobrin’s forthcoming book, titled *Bialystok’s Exile: Migration and the New Jewish Diaspora on Four Continents*, has been awarded the Koret Foundation Jewish Studies Publication Grant. She recently published “Visiting Vanished Worlds: American Jewish Heritage Tourism in Poland and the Lower East Side” in *The Other Promised Land: Vacationing, Identity and the Jewish-American Dream* (Baltimore, 2005). Kobrin is also the author of two forthcoming articles: “Rewriting the Diaspora: Images of Eastern Europe in the Inter-war Yiddish Landsmanshaft Press, 1921-1932,” in *Jewish Social Studies* 12:3, and “Contested Contributions: Émigré Philanthropy and Polish-Jewish Relations in Inter-War Poland, 1919-1929,” in *Gal-Ed: A Journal of Polish Jewish History* 19:1.

Susan Marks, Religious Studies 2003 Ph.D., begins her third year as the Klingenstein Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies at New College, the Honors College of Florida. At the Association of Jewish Studies annual meeting in Chicago in December she presented a paper entitled “Weddings at the End of Days,” which explored evidence for Jewish Weddings in early rabbinic literature. At New College Susan teaches courses in Judaism, scriptural interpretation, Women and Religion, and Ritual Theory.

Adam Shear received his Ph.D. from the History department in 2003. His dissertation was a study of the reception and influence of Judah Halevi’s twelfth-century Jewish apologetic, the Book of the Kuzari, from the 12th century to the 19th century. Since 2001 he has taught at the University of Pittsburgh, where he is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. For the fall semester of 2005, he is back in Philadelphia as a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies working on a project on the transmission of medieval philosophical texts in Renaissance Italy and the impact of print.

Moshe Simon-Shoshan graduated with his doctorate in Near Eastern and Judaic studies this past spring. His dissertation, supervised by David Stern was entitled “Halacha l’maseh: Narrative and Legal Discourse in the Mishna.” He currently resides in Israel, where he is a Golda Meir Fellow at the Hebrew University.

Andrea Weiss, Assistant Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Union College-Institute of Religion in New York, is serving as the Chair of the Curriculum Committee and the Worship Working Group. She is Assistant Editor of *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*, which will be published by URJ Press, and is awaiting the publication of her revised dissertation by Brill Academic Publishers, entitled “Figurative Language in Biblical Prose Narrative: Metaphor in the Book of Samuel.” Weiss is currently writing an entry on “Biblical Poetry” for the second edition of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, and is giving two papers at the Society of Biblical Literature meeting in November, one on “Teaching the Preaching of Isaiah” and the other responding to a paper by Barbara Wheeler entitled “Signs of the Times—Present and Future Theological Faculty.” Most importantly, she is the mother to two terrific kids, Rebecca (7), and Ilan (20 months).

Michael James Williams received his Ph.D. from AMES in 1999 with a dissertation entitled “Deception in Genesis—Not Trying to Fool You,” that explored the significance, interrelatedness, and implications of the frequent accounts of deception in the narratives of Genesis. Since graduating, Michael has been appointed Professor of Old Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI, where he teaches courses on ancient Near Eastern and biblical languages and texts. He has also lectured in Kenya, Ukraine, and Poland, and published two books, *Deception in Genesis: An Investigation into the Morality of a Unique Biblical Phenomenon* and *The Prophet and His Message: Reading Old Testament Prophecy Today*.

PENN ALUMNUS ELECTED TO THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Professor **Jacob Klein**, who received his Ph.D. in Assyriology from the Department of Oriental Studies (the predecessor of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) in 1968, has been elected to membership in The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Klein is Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and of Bible at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, and is a founder, former director, and now Senior Research Fellow, of Bar Ilan’s Samuel Noah Kramer Institute of Assyriology and Ancient Near Eastern

About Our Students

Studies (named for Penn's long-time Professor of Sumerian).

Klein now joins Professor **Mordechai Akiva Friedman** as the second Penn Oriental Studies alumnus to be elected to the Israel Academy. Friedman, who wrote his dissertation on "Jewish Marriage Contracts in the Palestinian Tradition Documents from the Cairo Geniza" in 1969, is Professor of Talmud at the Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies of Tel Aviv University. He was elected in 2001.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Conny Aust, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow, completed her first year of coursework in the History department, specializing in Jewish History in Central and Eastern Europe. This past summer, she received a Brenner Award from the Jewish Studies program to do research on her dissertation topic (Networks of Jewish Merchants in Warsaw in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century) in the Prussian State Archives in Berlin.

Andrew Berns, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow, recently finished his first year of coursework in the History department, specializing in early modern Jewish and European history, with a focused interest in 16th and 17th century medicine. A recipient of the Brenner Award, he traveled to Gargnano, Italy, where he studied Italian intensively this past summer.

Francesca Bregoli, a former Benjamin Franklin Fellow in History, continues to work on her dissertation on Jewish culture and Jewish-Christian relations in 18th Century Livorno. Over the summer she researched Livornese editions in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary. This year she is a fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Pennsylvania. She presented two papers last year, one at the University of Pisa and one at the meeting of the American Society for 18th Century Studies.

Naftali Cohn, a Falk Jewish Studies Fellow, passed his comprehensive exams and is now working on his dissertation in Rabbinic Literature. Naftali continues to teach at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University where he is teaching a course entitled "Women in the Mishnah." In addition, Naftali now serves as an instructor for Meah in NYC, an adult education program run by Hebrew College. Naftali and his wife Zehava recently had their second daughter, Raya Tzipora ("Raya" means "beloved" in Hebrew).

Rebecca Cutler, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow, completed her second year of coursework in the History Department focusing on American Jewish history, Zionism, and the

history of medicine. Last year she was a teaching assistant for courses on the history of the modern Middle East and American History 1865-Present. She is currently in Israel studying at the Hebrew University and doing research at the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem.

Yaacob Dweck, a Wexner Graduate Fellow and Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed his second year of coursework in the History department, specializing in Early Modern Jewish History. Last year he served as a teaching assistant for Medieval European History as well as Medieval Jewish History. Last summer he participated in the Shalom Spiegel Institute for Medieval Hebrew Poetry at the Jewish Theological Seminary and received a FLAS fellowship to study Arabic at the Hebrew University.

Ben Fisher, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow, completed his first year of course work in the History Department focusing on early modern European Jewish history. Over the summer he studied Spanish at Penn and spent time with Goldie Kurtz in Toronto preparing for their wedding.

John Fishman spent the summer completing papers from the past semester and looks forward to finishing his course work this coming year. John and his wife, Rabbi Jennifer Clayman, live in Westfield, NJ, where John taught an Introduction to Judaism class last winter at Temple Emanu-El.

Shalom Holtz, a former William Penn Fellow, Ellis and University Dissertation Fellow, was named a 2005 Dean's Scholar. He is working on completing his dissertation on Neo-Babylonian legal proceedings, and is beginning to look for post-doctoral employment. He read a paper on Royal Judges in Achaemenid Babylonia in the conference "The World of Achaemenid Persia" at the British Museum. The conference was held in conjunction with the exhibit "Forgotten Empire: The World of the Persian Empire." He will be teaching for Hebrew College's Meah Program in Princeton, NJ.

Tammy Jacobowitz has completed her comprehensive exams in Rabbinic Literature and Medieval Jewish History and Culture. This year, she is doing research for her dissertation on six sections of Leviticus Rabbah, all of which deal with sexuality, the body and disease. She is interested in exploring the construction of gender in these chapters, and the ways in which the rabbis make sense of the body through their interpretation of biblical verses. Last year, Tammy continued to mentor JSP interns and Akiba seniors as well as teach various classes in Midrash at the Drisha Institute in New York. In addition, she was a scholar-in-residence in Los Angeles at the Beth Jacob

synagogue. This year, she is teaching Bible and Midrash to Drisha's full-time students and Rabbinics for Me'ah NYC. In July, Tammy, Ronnie and Reyna joyfully welcomed Abraham Shahrar to the family.

Tamar Kaplan, a former Falk Fellow in the Department of History, continues to research and write her dissertation on the crown rabbinate in Late Imperial Russia. She sat on a panel about rabbis in Russia at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem this past summer. This fall, she will present a seminar at the Center for Jewish History in New York on the research she has conducted there as a CJH Fellow. Tamar continues to teach, both in Jewish adult education and high school settings.

Julie Lieber is working on her dissertation, "Jewish Women and Gender in fin de siecle Vienna" with the help of a National Foundation for Jewish Culture fellowship and a Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture fellowship. She also got married this past summer and is living in Denver.

Kevin McGeough successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Exchange Relationships at Ugarit: A Study of the Ugaritic Economic Texts" in May 2005. His first book, "The Romans: New Perspectives" was released prior to this, in November of 2004. Kevin has begun work as an editor for two volumes of a twenty-one volume encyclopedia of world history; his volumes will cover world history from 4000 to 1000 BCE. He continues to teach archaeology at the University of Lethbridge in Western Canada. Kevin would like to thank the Jewish Studies Faculty and Friends for their support during his time at Penn.

Anne Oravetz, a former Benjamin Franklin Fellow in the History department, is spending the 2005-2006 academic year in Amsterdam, completing her dissertation research on political thought among 17th century ex-conversos. To support this research she has been granted a fellowship from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, as well as grants from the American Association for University Women, and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. Last year, while continuing to work on her dissertation, she also taught a course called "Philosophers, Messiahs and Mystics: Early Modern Judaism" at Swarthmore College and worked as a writing tutor at Philadelphia University.

Alexandra Rothstein, a William Penn Fellow (and former Jacob Javits and honorary Mellon fellow) continued her studies in Rabbinic literature and Islam. During the year, she also taught several seminars on women and Jewish law at Stern Hebrew High School in North Philadelphia. She published (together with Shawn Zelig Aster) an article in the Jewish education journal *Ten Daat* on "Teaching

Rabban Gamliel: Using Academic Jewish Studies in the High School Classroom.” The article deals with the contest between Rabban Gamliel and Rabbi Joshua for the position of patriarch, and shows how to integrate academic research into the high school classroom.

Matthew Rutz, a former William Penn Fellow and current Louis J. Kolb fellow, continues to focus on his dissertation, a study of the intellectual and socio-political roles of the diviner in Late Bronze Age Syria. In the past year he has presented papers at the annual meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research (San Antonio) and the Society of Biblical Literature (San Antonio). Matthew also played a small role in the International Conference on Amos Oz by leading a tour of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Ellie Schainker is a fourth year Benjamin Franklin Fellow and Jacob Javits Fellow in the Department of History. She will be taking her comprehensive exams this Fall, and will then start work on her dissertation “Imperial Hybrids: Russian-Jewish Converts in the Nineteenth Century.” This past year, Ellie was a teaching assistant for undergraduate courses on modern Jewish history and the Soviet Century.

Yehuda Seif, a William Penn Fellow, completed his second year of coursework in the Religious Studies department, specializing in medieval Ashkenazic Jewry. Last year, he was a teaching assistant for courses on Intro to Islam and Religions of the West. Over the summer, he studied German at Penn, and he is currently completing his coursework and studying for his qualifying exams. He is currently serving as a teaching assistant to Professor Michael Dyson’s course, Religion and Secular Values: Hip-Hop Culture. Additionally, Yehuda serves as the Jewish Learning Initiative educator at the Penn Hillel, serving as a rabbinic mentor to its students and teaching classes in Talmud, Jewish Law, and Bible.



Spencer Allen (NELC), Karen Sonik (AAMW), Nick Harris '04, & William Babcock '07

Kerry Wallach, a Max Kade Fellow, Falk Fellow, and currently a Benjamin Franklin fellow, completed her first year of coursework in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, focusing on German-Jewish literature. She presented a paper last April at the UIUC Jewish Studies Graduate Student Colloquium, and she received a DAAD Alumni Association Scholarship to study at the Humboldt University in Berlin this past summer.

Susan Zeelander (NELC) completed her comprehensive exams and has begun working on her dissertation. She teaches Adult Education courses at synagogues in the area. This year one of the courses she will be teaching is “Twice Told Tales in the Torah: an Investigation of Key Bible Stories” at Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, PA.

ABOUT OUR FACULTY

Dan Ben-Amos delivered a paper at the 14th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR) in July in Tartu, Estonia, entitled “Narratives: What Are They Good for and Why Do We Keep Telling Them?” in the first “Plenary Session” of the congress. He also gave a paper in

the 14th World Congress for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem where he participated in a session devoted to the fifty-year celebration of the Israel Folktale Archives. His paper was on “Folktales in Historical Perspectives.” Also his essay “On Demons” was published in a Festschrift honoring Professor Joseph Dan on his 70th birthday.

Michael Carasik, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew, added “Introduction to Judaism” (in the Religion department) to his Penn teaching this past year, and also taught a course on “Biblical Poetry through the Haftorot” at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He has published a book on biblical thought, *Theologies of the Mind in Biblical Israel* (Peter Lang), with thanks to David Stern and the JSP for financial assistance with the publication. His new translation of the Miqra’ot Gedolot, *The Commentators’ Bible* (Jewish Publication Society) has just begun to appear, starting with the Exodus volume, with thanks to David Ruderman for providing space for two years at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, which greatly facilitated this work. In addition to book reviews, he has also published an article on “Syntactic Double Translation in the Targumim” in the volume *Aramaic Studies in Judaism and Early Christianity* (Eisenbrauns). Carasik is the current president of the Center City Kehillah, the center for organized Jewish life in Center City Philadelphia.

Natalie B. Dohrmann, Executive Editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, is ensconced at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. She is currently co-editing with David Stern, the volume *Jewish Biblical Interpretation in a Comparative Context*, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, in which she also has an article, “Manumission and Transformation in Jewish and Roman Law.” She is chair of the Law, Religion, and Culture Group at the AAR, and on the steering committee of the History and Literature of Rabbinic Judaism section at the SBL. She recently gave a paper at Harvard Law School’s Annual Conference on Jewish Law, entitled “History, Hairdos, and Halakhah.”

Barry L. Eichler, who is an Associate Professor of Assyriology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Curator-in-Charge of the Babylonian Tablet Collection of the University Museum, served as the acting undergraduate chair of Jewish Studies for the Spring 2005 term. Eichler co-edited, “An Experienced Scribe Who Neglects Nothing,” in *Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Honor of Jacob Klein* (CDL Press, 2005) and has submitted an article, “Law and Morality in Ancient Near Eastern Thought,” to be published in *Ethics: An Interdisciplinary Examination* edited by J. Ciprut. He also continues to lecture on Biblical and ancient Near Eastern literatures at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. His major research interests focus on cultural inter-relationships between biblical and ancient Near Eastern civilizations, with primary interest in the field of ancient law. His other major area of interest is Sumerian literature and lexicography, which is related directly to the NEH funded Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary project.

Ronit Engel, coordinator of the Modern Hebrew Language Program, regards her most significant achievement during 2004-2005 as becoming a grandmother to Ariel Shapiro. When she was not enthusiastically showing pictures of the new arrival, she continued to develop Penn’s innovative Hebrew on the web program. She also remained an active participant in the professional organizations of Hebrew language professors in Israel and North America, including chairing a session on New Frontiers in Hebrew Linguistics at the annual meeting of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew at Stanford University and contributing to the ongoing forum in Hebrew language instruction at Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Alan Filreis, Kelly Professor of English, Faculty Director of the Kelly Writers House, and Director of the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing, has finished a new book about the anticommunist attack on modernism in the 1950s which treats, among others, many relatively obscure radical Jewish-American poets. With Professor Penny Marcus, he taught “Representations of the Holocaust in Literature and Film” as part of the College of Arts and

About Our Faculty

Sciences “pilot curriculum,” and has hosted a number of workshops and talks about the Holocaust, including a month-long online discussion group with Penn alumni on Jon Avnet’s film *Uprising*, about the Warsaw Ghetto revolt. One of his interests is Holocaust survival testimony.

Talya Fishman specializes in Jewish intellectual and cultural history of the Medieval and Early Modern periods. She has published articles on the Rhineland Pietists of the 12th century, a collection of forged rabbinic Responsa from the late 18th century, a 15th century kabbalistic dispute focusing on gender-specific commandments, and the attempts of a 17th century Venetian rabbi to change Jewish thinking about Christianity. Fishman is the author of *Shaking the Pillars of Exile: Voice of Fool’s Early Modern Jewish Critique of Rabbinic Culture* (Stanford, 1997), and is currently working on a book entitled *Becoming the People of the Talmud: Transmission and Formation of Rabbinic Culture in Medieval Northern Europe*. She has been the recipient of awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the Stanford Humanities Center. Prior to coming to Penn, Fishman taught at Columbia University, Rice University, University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University.

Nili R. Gold, Assistant Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israel Studies, is returning to Penn after her sabbatical. This summer, she nearly completed the writing of her English language book on the Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai. During her fall 2004 sabbatical, Gold completed the research for the book in Germany, Israel, and the United States. In the same period, she also organized a successful International Scholars Conference on “The Life and Work of Israeli Author Amos Oz,” with Oz in residence, at Penn. In the spring of 2005, while on a partial sabbatical, she was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS) on Jewish Literatures. There, she completed the central chapters in her book. At CAJS’s concluding conference, she chaired the panel dedicated to Amichai’s poetry and presented a paper at the same panel. Her recent publications include, “And the Migration of My Parents Has Not Subsided in Me: Yehuda Amichai” (*Middle Eastern Literatures: Incorporating EdebiYat* Vol 8 # 2 July 2005).

Kathryn Hellerstein, the Ruth Meltzer Senior Lecturer in Yiddish and Jewish Studies, resumed serving as Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program. In Spring 2005, she was on leave as a Fellow at Penn’s CAJS.

Her forthcoming publications include: “Beyond the Purim-Shpil: Reinventing the Scroll of Esther in Modern Yiddish Poetry,” in *Jews and the Creation of Modern Jewish Culture in Eastern Europe*, edited by Gabriella Safran and Ben Nathans (University of Pennsylvania Press) and “Ruth Speaks in Yiddish Poems: Roza Yakubovitch and Itzik Manger,” in *Scrolls of Love: Reading Ruth and the Songs of Songs*, eds. Peter Hawkins and Lesleigh Cushing (Fordham University Press). A number of her encyclopedia articles on Kadya Molodowsky, Malka Heifetz Tussman, Celia Dropkin, Miriam Ulinover, and Yehudis are forthcoming in *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia* (Jerusalem: Shalvi Publishing Ltd.), in *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, ed. Gershon Hundert, and in the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Hellerstein presented many academic lectures, including: “On Yiddish Poetry and Translation of Yiddish Poetry” at a panel on “Secular Jewish Culture/Radical Poetic Practice,” at the Center for Jewish History in New York; and “Anzia Yezierska and the Voice of the Immigrant,” at a symposium on Yezierska at the Eldridge Street Project, New York. She chaired multiple panels and her public readings included A Tale of Love and Darkness, with Amos Oz, at the International Conference on the Life and Work of Amos Oz at Penn. Hellerstein continues to serve as Coordinator of the Yiddish Literature Section for the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies and as poetry editor of *Kerem* and on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues*, as well as on the Jewish Publication Society’s National Council.

Seth Jerchow is Public Services Librarian at Penn’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library. Born in Newark, NJ of august Weequahic stock, he did his undergraduate work at Rutgers College. He received his Doctor of Letters in linguistics from the University of Florence in 1993, with a dissertation (in Italian) on “The Judeo-Italian Manuscript Tradition of the Bible: the Book of Habakkuk.” Currently, he is completing a dissertation for the University of Freiburg, a critical edition of a medieval Judeo-Italian translation of the Prophets. Dr. Jerchow is the webmaster for the CAJS Library, and designs its annual web exhibits. He is also co-curator of two exhibits held at the Van Pelt Library, “The Meaning of Words: Marcus Jastrow and the Making of Rabbinic Dictionaries” (2003) and “Petarch at 700” (2004). He has published articles on Judeo-Italian, on the history of Judaica bibliography, and on developing an online catalog and information exchange system for Penn’s collections of Cairo Genizah fragments.

Arthur Kiron, Curator of Judaica and Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, wrote a successful grant proposal “Integrating Information Technologies with the Humanistic Study of Religion and Urban Civil Society in the Middle East,” to the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS), in conjunction with Prof. Heather Sharkey (NELC), Debra Bucher (Religious Studies Bibliographer), and William Kopycki (Middle East Bibliographer), and continued to coordinate the Penn-Cambridge genizah grant project. In terms of public programs, Kiron partnered with the Jewish Studies Program to host the fifth annual Manfred Lehmann Memorial Workshop, this year on the history of the illustrated Jewish book, led by Sarit Shalev-Eyni; organized the 2004-05 CAJS Fellows’ web-exhibit on the theme of “Modern Jewish Literatures”; delivered two tours of the CAJS rare Judaica collections (on Parents’ weekend and Alumni weekend); he organized the Annual Robert and Molly Freedman Jewish Music Program, Sunday evening, March 20, 2005 featuring Mr. Jack Gottlieb, which was held in conjunction with a conference organized by Professor Beth Wenger on “Jews and the American Republic,” held at the National Constitution Center, where Kiron delivered a paper “Republican Traditions in Jewish Philadelphia”; he served as a respondent to the panel on “American Jewish Narratives” at the CAJS 11th Annual Gruss Colloquium, “Modern Jewish Literatures: Language, Identity, Writing,” May 3-5, 2005; among Kiron’s recent publications are “Mythologizing 1654,” which appeared in the Fall 2004 *Jewish Quarterly Review* and a review of Charles Berlin, *Harvard Judaica: A History and Description of the Judaica Collection in the Harvard College Library* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard College Library, 2004) in *Judaica Librarianship* (forthcoming). Kiron was recently named to the Editorial Board of *Judaica Librarianship* and continues to serve on the CAJS Advisory Board and on the International Advisory Board for Sephardic Studies, based in Livorno Italy.

Samuel Z. Klausner, delivered a paper on “The Function of Rashba’s Torat Habayit for Communal Boundary Maintenance and Cohesion.” He also was respondent to Elihu Katz’s Sklare lecture paper “Two Dilemmas of Religious Identity and Practice Among Israeli Jews.” In May he spoke at a commemoration assembly for Col. David “Mickey” Marcus at the United States Military Academy at West Point. The title of his address was “The Meaning of Memory.” The Fall 2004 issue of *The Reconstructionist* carried his paper “Preserving the Intent of Ancient Law.”

Robert Kraft, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, continued teaching one advanced seminar each term during the past year (Dead Sea Scrolls, Christian “Gnosticism”) while pursuing his long-range projects that include describing and digitizing the University’s papyri collections (as part of the “Advanced Papyrological Information System” project) and creating electronic files for the textual variants in the manuscripts of Greek Jewish scriptures (as part of the “Computer Assisted Tools for Septuagint/Scriptural Studies” project). He also learned that even “semi-retirement” often involves contributing to the celebratory anthologies (“Festschriften”) presented to other retiring (or otherwise honored) colleagues—his recent publications include essays in volumes presented to George Nickelsburg, Emanuel Tov, Albert Pietersma, Eugene Ulrich, and Michael Stone (for details, see <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rs/rak/cv.html#publications>). Some of these essays deal with the project to update and expand on M. R. James’ *Lost Apocrypha of the Old Testament* (1920), a sister project to the updating of the English edition of *Harnack’s Mission and Expansion of Early Christianity* (1908). Bob also managed to attend a small conference on “The Similitudes of Enoch” in the mountains of Tuscany, Italy, last June, and is scheduled to speak on “Wisdom” imagery in that material at the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) meetings in Philadelphia this Fall, as well as to make a presentation there on early Christian dialogues with Jews. He will also preside as SBL president elect for 2006.

Ian S. Lustick, Bess W. Heyman Professor in the Political Science Department, is teaching International Relations of the Middle East in the Spring 2006 semester. At the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies in Tucson he presented the results of his survey of how Israel is taught in American universities. His presentation was in part the focus of a major article on the subject published by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Professor Lustick’s most recent book, edited with Ann M. Lesch, Dean of the Humanities and Social Sciences at the American University in Cairo, is *Exile and Return: Predicaments of Palestinians and Jews*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2005. His article, “Yerushalayim, al-Quds, and the Wizard of Oz: Facing the Problem of Jerusalem after Camp David II and the al-Aqsa Intifada,” appeared in a recent issue of the *Journal of Israeli History*.

Benjamin Nathans, Associate Professor of History, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to co-edit, annotate, and introduce the first English translation of *The Book of Life*, a three-volume memoir by the renowned Russian-Jewish historian Simon Dubnov. Nathans’ first book, *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia* (2002), was awarded the biennial W. Bruce Lincoln Prize by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies for an outstanding first book in Russian history. The Leonid

Nevzlin Research Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is supporting the translation of *Beyond the Pale* into Hebrew. In 2004-5 Nathans delivered scholarly talks on modern Jewish and Russian history at a half-dozen universities in the United States and abroad. His article “A ‘Hebrew Drama’: The Individual, the Collective, and the Problem of Crisis in Russian-Jewish History”, appeared in Oleg Budnitskii, ed., *The History and Culture of Russian and East European Jewry: New Sources, New Approaches* (Moscow, 2005 [in Russian]) and his essay on the late Reginald Zelnik, Nathans’ Ph.D. advisor, appeared in *Zelnik’s Perils of Pankratova: Some Stories from the Annals of Soviet Historiography: A Memorial Volume* (2005).

Joshua Perelman, post-doctoral fellow at the National Museum of American Jewish History and the University of Pennsylvania, teaches American Jewish History. He recently completed his graduate work at New York University, where he wrote a dissertation entitled “Choreographing Identity: Modern Dance and American Jewish History, 1924-1964.”

David B. Ruderman, Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History, began his twelfth year as director of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. He published several new essays during the past year, including four entries in the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. In the spring, 2005, he served as a visiting professor at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium where he taught a course to history and theology students on Modern Jewish Intellectual History. He was also an invited professor at the *Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in April where he delivered a series of four lectures including one at the College de France. He also lectured at an international conference in Madrid, the State University of Binghamton, the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, Tel Aviv University, the University of Antwerp, at both the Early Modern Seminar and the Catholic Theology Seminar of the Free University of Berlin, the University of Potsdam, the University of Dusseldorf, and the University of Munich. He continues to serve as editor of “Jewish Culture and Contexts” of the University of Pennsylvania Press and serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the Mandel Center of the Hebrew University. During his sabbatical he completed a new book tentatively titled *Connecting the Covenants: Judaism and the Search for Christian Identity in 18th Century England*.

Maurice Samuels, Assistant Professor of Romance Languages (French), was the Gruss fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies in the Spring of 2005. He delivered papers from his new book project on nineteenth-century French-Jewish writers at the CAJS seminar and at the Gruss Colloquium. His articles on Ben-Lévi (pseud. Godchaux Weil), one of the first Jews to write fiction in French, will appear in *Judaism and Nineteenth-Century French Studies*. His translation of Ben-Lévi’s “Memoirs of a Jewish

Peddler, Written by Himself,” will appear in *Maggid*. His article on Jewish prostitutes in nineteenth-century French literature will appear in *Romanic Review*. His book, *The Spectacular Past: Popular History and the Novel in Nineteenth-Century France* was published by Cornell University Press in 2004. In 2005, he is teaching a seminar on Jewish Identity and French Culture.

During the last academic year, **Jonathan Steinberg** published “Compensation Cases and the Nazi Past: Deutsche Bank and its Historical Legacy” *Lesson and Legacies: New Currents in Holocaust Research*, Vol. VI ed. Jeffrey M. Diefendorf (Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 2004). “The Third Reich Reflected: German Civil Administration in the Occupied Soviet Union, 1941-1944” in *The World War Two Reader*, ed. Gordon Martel, New York and London: Routledge, 2004, and “Milton Steinberg, American Rabbi – Thoughts on His Centenary,” *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, Vol. 95, No. 3 (Summer 2005) pp 579-600. He was appointed Visiting Scholar at The Manhattan College Holocaust Resource Center and gave Fall Semester Lecture, November 16, 2004: “Two Armies and the Jews: How Italian Soldiers Saved Jews During the Holocaust.” At the Italian Studies Colloquium, on March 18, 2005, he presented a paper entitled “Italian Switzerland: A Model for Europe?” He served as a consultant on the Honors Program at Philadelphia Biblical University together with Dr. Marion Kant and Dr. Todd Williams. The History Department Undergraduate Advisory Board awarded him the Richard S. Dunn Prize for distinguished teaching.

David Stern, Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, stepped down on July 1 as Director of the Jewish Studies Program after serving in the position since 1998. During the 2005-6 academic year, he will be on leave as both a Guggenheim Fellow and a fellow at Penn’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies where he hopes to complete a book on the material history and physical shapes of four Jewish classic books. During the past academic year, Stern’s *The Anthology in Jewish Literature* was published by Oxford University Press; the book’s publication was celebrated at a special session at the Association for Jewish Studies national convention in Chicago in December 2004. In addition, Stern delivered lectures at Amherst College, Smith College, the University of Texas at Austin, and the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. At Penn, he also served as Chair of the University Library Committee, and he continued to serve on several national boards, including the panel on Jewish Thought and Philosophy for the Koret Jewish Book Award and the Academic Advisory Committee of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Jeffrey Tigay, A.M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures continues to serve as the Chair for Graduate Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and

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Civilizations. His essays "T'fillin and M'zuzor" and "Hazak Hazak Venithazek" were recently reprinted in *Etz Hayim Study Companion* (New York: The Rabbinical Assembly and The United Synagogue of America, 2005), and his article "The Priestly Reminder Stones and Ancient Near Eastern Votive Practices" will shortly be published in a festschrift for the Israeli scholar Sara Japhet, being published in Israel. His book *Empirical Models for Biblical Criticism* (1985) will be republished this year. His 1996 commentary on Deuteronomy is being translated into Hebrew for the Israeli commentary series Mikra le-Yisrael. He is currently co-editing a Festschrift in honor of Prof. Shalom Paul (GAS '64) of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, to be published by Eisenbrauns (Winona Lake, Indiana) in 2006. He is also working on two multi-year projects: writing a full-length Hebrew commentary on Exodus for the same Israeli series and editing the first volume (on the Biblical period) of The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization: Anthology of Primary Sources, Documents, Texts, and Artifacts, a ten-volume series being published by Yale University Press.

Liliane Weissberg, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in the School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of German and Comparative Literature, spent summer 2004 as the Maria Sibylla Merian Fellow at the Universitaet Erfurt in Germany. In the fall, she was The Dalck and Rose Feith Family Fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. At Penn, she also served as the Graduate Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and on many committees, including the search committee for the Director of Libraries and

Vice Provost, as well as of the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. In the 2004-2005 academic year, Weissberg lectured at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Toronto, Knox College, the Center for Jewish History in New York, The Johns Hopkins University, UCLA, the Rheinisch-Westfaelische Universitaet Aachen, Universite Charles de Gaulle III Lille, the Hebrew University Jerusalem; she also gave the Charles Phelps Tafts Lecture at the University of Cincinnati and the Fritz Thyssen Lecture at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Her essays on Hannah Arendt, Goethe, Ludwig Robert, Lessing, Freud, the Jewish salon, and the field of German-Jewish Studies appeared both in the United States and in Germany. Weissberg wrote the lead essay for the exhibition catalogue on the German-Jewish family Beer/Meyerbeer (the exhibit took place in the Berlin Museum), and she was interviewed on German-Jewish topics by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and other media. She is scheduled to appear in a radio program on Arendt sponsored by the Modern Language Association of America. In the academic year 2005-2006, Weissberg will be topic co-director of the Penn Humanities Forum ("Word and Image"), and graduate advisor to the PHE. She has been the co-organizer of the international conference on Word and Image that will take place at Penn in September 2005.

Beth S. Wenger, the Katz Family Term Chair and Associate Professor in American Jewish History, has assumed the directorship of the Jewish Studies program and continues to serve as Undergraduate Chair of Penn's history department. Wenger organized and delivered a paper at the "Jews and the American

Republic" conference, held at Philadelphia's National Constitution Center in March 2005. Throughout the year, she participated in several programs, lectures, and conferences surrounding the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States. She lectured at Stanford University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, American University, the Jewish Museum of Maryland, and several other venues. Wenger's forthcoming publications include: "Making American Civilization Jewish: Mordecai Kaplan's Civic Religion" in the journal *Jewish Social Studies*; "Performing Citizenship: Jewish Celebrations of the Nation" in the *Columbia History of Judaism in America*; and "War Stories: Jewish Patriotism on Parade" in the forthcoming anthology *Imagining the American Jewish Community*. Wenger is also collaborating on a PBS documentary project, tentatively titled "Jewish Americans" and continues to work on her book project, "History Lessons: The Invention of American Jewish Heritage," under contract with Princeton University Press. Wenger has been elected to the board of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) and continues to serve as a board member of the Women's Caucus of the AJS. She remains an historical consultant for the National Museum of American Jewish History, scheduled to reopen on Philadelphia's Independence Mall. She also serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish History in New York and on the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Historical Society's Academic Council.

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